



## **WA Athletic Parent Handbook**

Dear WA Parents,

Welcome to Westminster Academy Athletics! The purpose of this Parent Packet is to provide each of our families with information pertinent to the upcoming sports season. We share these items with you so that you may familiarize yourself with our Athletic Department expectations, policies and procedures.

WA Athletics operates in conjunction with our school mission and is an active extension of the overall curriculum. It is truly my hope that each parent would be encouraged to know that our coaches and staff will diligently and vigorously pursue a safe, competitive and Christ-like environment for your sons and daughters.

Go Lions!

Tony DeMare  
Director of Athletics

**FHSAA-WA Athletics** will strictly adhere to the policies and regulations set forth in the Florida High School Athletic Association handbook. The FHSAA site can be located at [fhsaa.org](http://fhsaa.org)

**Who participates?** Any WA Student in grades 6 through 12 can participate in one of our 22 sports.

**Academic Eligibility-**Per FHSAA Regulation 9.4.1, a Middle-School student must achieve a minimum or equivalent of a 2.0 grade point average based on a 4.0 scale at the conclusion of each semester. Upon completion of the first semester of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, a High School student must achieve and maintain a minimum or equivalent of a 2.0 grade point average based on a 4.0 un-weighted scale. (The cumulative GPA for high school students is calculated at the completion of each semester.)

**School Attendance-**A Student-Athlete must attend no less than one-half of the school day (regardless of schedule) to be eligible to participate in that day's practice and/or competitions. Part-time students are to attend each class in its entirety.

**Attendance at practices/workouts/competitions-** All student-athletes are expected to be punctual in their daily attendance of in-season practices and contests. Each Head Coach of every respected sport and level is expected to clearly communicate player arrival times. The coaches will subsequently draft guidelines and implement penalties when a student is in violation of their team's attendance policy.

**Sportsmanship-**Many of us experience some sort of emotional or psychological metamorphosis when we attend our children's sporting events. Something seems to be triggered that makes us hyper-sensitive or ultra-vicariates as we view contests. These characteristics have been evident and problematic in athletics for decades.

It is only appropriate that WA Parents are expected to display a Christ-like model of behavior at sporting events. Be encouraged to exercise self-control and refrain from foul language. We especially ask that our parents would not aim any comments toward the officials, as well as the opposing coaching staff. In addition, please do not make comments

toward opposing student-athletes. We do not want others to target our students with disparaging words, therefore it is only right to avoid doing so to others.

**Quitting a WA Sport-** If a student-athlete begins a season with a WA sport (1<sup>st</sup> official date of a sport season) and subsequently quits that sport; that student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in a WA sport during either the sports season that immediately follows or the next sport season in which the student wishes to participate. Failing to meet the FHSAA minimum grade point requirements at the conclusion of a semester and season-ending injuries are exceptions to this policy.

**Overlapping Sport Seasons-**It is the WA Athletic Department policy and expectation that a student-athlete completes an entire schedule for their in-season sport (including the State Series for Varsity athletes) before trying out and/or participating in the next sport season.

**Transportation-** Westminster Academy will provide daily (Mon thru Fri) transportation to the West Campus for practices and contests. In addition, the school will also provide transportation to most contests at opposing schools/venues including Saturdays. The WA School buses and commercial rentals will depart from and return to the Coral Ridge church parking lot area across the street from the school Welcome Center. A WA Coach is required to be present to and from games and contests at opposing schools/venues.

**Severe Weather-** The WA Athletic Department utilizes the Weather Sentry App for all severe weather alerts and updates. In addition to our Athletic Administrators and Athletic Trainers, each Head Coach of every sport and every level will receive text alerts on their phones during practices and events. Lightning alerts will occur when lightning strikes within 10 miles of either East or West campus. Per FHSAA policy, when lightning is within 6 miles of a venue, all outdoor practices and events must immediately be suspended and the student-athletes, coaches and game officials must seek the nearest emergency shelter. Viable shelter areas on the East campus are: the gymnasium, weight-room, locker rooms, bathrooms, etc. West Campus shelter areas are: the softball and baseball clubhouses, the concrete bathroom building and buses and/or cars. When lightning occurs within a 6-mile radius, all practices and

contests will be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes or until an “All-Clear” alert is provided through the Weather Sentry App.

**Uniform Collection-** All Head Coaches of every sport and level will communicate a date, time and location for clean uniforms to be collected. Uniforms are not under any circumstances to be returned to the WA Welcome Center, Athletic Office or the Upper School office. Please arrange for your son/daughter to return the uniforms on the designated date.

**Booster Club-** The Lions Athletic Club is the official Westminster Academy Athletic Booster organization. Please visit the school website at [wa.edu](http://wa.edu) for information on how to support WA Athletics through donations and other resources.

**Player-Coach Communication-**When there are questions regarding playing time or tactical items, it is always best to have the student-athlete communicate with the Coach. We ask that parents allow this discourse as it provides cohesion for the coach/player relationship and is also the most responsible option for the student-athlete. It is also a pre-cursor to the collegiate level where this is the only type of discourse that takes place regarding the aforementioned items.

**Volunteerism-** Assistance is always needed for various sports. Please contact your son/daughters Head Coach or Program Director to learn of ways to offer your services. Examples of needs are: team meals, scorekeeping, concessions, chain crews, scorekeepers, clock operators, announcers, line judges, etc.

**Disqualifications/Ejections-**Student-Athletes and their families are responsible for any FHSAA fines levied when a player is disqualified or ejected from a contest. The same policy applies for all WA head and assistant coaches. There is an appeal process and the WA Athletic Department will reserve the right to determine whether an appeal is appropriate.

**Spirit Wear-** The Upper School office has declared Fridays of each week as “Spirit Days”. Approved WA branded apparel and team uniforms are permitted to be worn on those days, but not Monday through Thursday, unless otherwise designated by the Upper School office.

**National Anthem-** All WA Coaches and student-athletes are required to stand silently at attention during the playing and/or singing of the National Anthem at all home/away events.