Christian Liberty Academy

Kea‘au, Hawai‘i

Athletics Handbook

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Christian Liberty Academy
Athletics Handbook

Mission Statement

The purpose of athletics at Christian Liberty Academy is to glorify God by providing a competitive, interscholastic sports program that fosters the spiritual and athletic growth of Christian young men and women. Through the guidance and support of coaches, athletes are mentored to become servant-leaders, equipped to meet physical challenges and develop the spiritual disciplines necessary to fulfill the ministry of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). Our student-athletes will be challenged to play with a purpose (John 8:32), with a passion (Philippians 3:13-14), and with patience (I Peter 2:17), demonstrating a consistent testimony of Christ-likeness both on and off the field.

Code of Conduct

In preparing athletes for a life which glorifies God we strive toward a standard of Christ-like behavior. We find a good model for that behavior in 1 Peter 2:17 which says,

> "Honor all men, love the brotherhood, fear the Lord, and honor the king."

The Canefire athlete, coach, parent, and fan seeks to:

1. *Honor all Men* by showing good sportsmanship and proper respect for teammates, coaches, opponents, referees, and fans.
2. *Love the brotherhood (sisterhood)* by working hard and having fun, and by nurturing the bond that grows between teammates when they work together toward a common goal.
3. *Fear the Lord* by acknowledging that all skills, abilities, victories, and achievements come from the Lord.
4. *Honor the King* by having an attitude of servitude and gratitude, always putting others ahead of ourselves and always being grateful for our many blessings.

All members of the Canefire community are called to hold each other accountable in love and respect.

Appearance

All athletes participating in sports at Christian Liberty Academy will adhere to the standards for dress established in the parent/student handbook. In addition, athletes will dress in accordance with the directives of the coach to promote the image of a well-groomed school representative.

Practice Dress Code:

- Due to each sport having different styles of uniforms, the dress code for each sport will be decided upon by the athletic director and the head coach of each team. This will be communicated to players and parents during the pre-season parent meeting.

Game day dress code:

- Team members may wear their jersey or team shirt with jeans or school-approved bottoms.
- Athletes may wear game day attire on Fridays if they have a Saturday competition.
- Any violation of this code will be treated as a standard dress code violation.

Sports Team/Individual Policies

Teams Defined

- Junior Varsity (JV)
    - Freshmen through Juniors are eligible to play.
    - JV teams may be created when there are available athletes, coaches, facilities, and funds.
    - There is no BIIF Championship tournament for JV teams.
- Varsity
    - Freshmen through Seniors are eligible to play.
    - Varsity teams may be created when there are available athletes, coaches, facilities, and funds.

Making the Team

- All students are welcome and encouraged to participate in athletics. Making the team is a privilege and shouldn't be an expectation.
- Coaches have the authority to "cut" a player from a team based on:
    - athlete's continued ineligibility due to poor academic performance
    - athlete's continued inappropriate behavior
        - words and actions that are outside of the student handbook guidelines
        - words and actions that negatively affect the success of the team
    - athlete's excessive absences from practices and games
    - Coaches (or athletic director) will communicate directly with athletes and parents if a player is at risk of being cut due to academic or behavioral issues, offering the chance for improvement before a final decision is made.
        - *in extreme circumstances, players may be dismissed without warning

Dual Sport Athletes

In the event that an athlete would like to participate in two sports during the same season, the athlete must:

1. Not be on Academic Probation (GPA of 2.0 or higher with no failing grades) at any point during the school year.
2. Submit a written request to the head coach and athletic director.
3. Receive written permission from the head coach and athletic director.
4. *Dual sport athletes will not be able to be a team captain during the season(s) they are participating in multiple sports.

If a player receives permission from the athletic director, they will also need to “make the team” per the coach’s approval.

*Dual sport athletes may receive less playing time or may not make the team due to the possibility of consistently missing practices and/or games/matches/meets.

Athletic Requirements:

1. Dual Sport athletes must declare a primary sport.
2. A dual sport athlete will attend their primary sport’s practices a majority of the time.
3. A dual sport athlete will prioritize primary sport games/matches in the event of games/matches falling on the same day.

Sports and Schedules

Sports Currently Offered:

Fall Season

- Air Riflery
- Cross Country
- Girls Volleyball

Winter Season

- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Swimming

Spring Season

- Boys Volleyball
- Girls Flag Football
- Track and Field

Start dates

Start dates for each season can be found at: sportshigh.com

Player Expectations and Requirements

Academic Eligibility

As a member school of the BIIF, CLA abides by the current BOE/DOE guidelines on academic eligibility requirements for participation in co-curricular activities (BOE 8-10-91[1]).

Students participating in co-curricular activities must have at least an overall 2.0 grade point average (GPA), and may not be failing any class at any time during the current grading period (a failing grade is anything less than 60%). The following procedures will apply:

1. Grade checks will be done for athletes at every low achievement, mid-quarter progress report, and quarter report card during the sport's season to determine eligibility.
2. If an athlete has a grading deficiency at any grade check during the season, they are on academic probation and will not be allowed to practice or play.
    a. As soon as a deficient GPA or grade is raised, the athlete may return to practice.
        i. *A grading deficiency received at the end of a grading period, becoming part of the permanent record, will require the athlete to sit out of practice and games/matches for two weeks. At the end of this time, they will receive another grade check to determine their eligibility. Athletes who do not raise their grade(s) after the two-week period will continue to be on academic probation and are at risk of being cut from the team.

Game Day Eligibility

In order to be able to practice or compete on any particular calendar day, an athlete must arrive at school by 10:30 A.M. and finish the school day.

Athletics Contract

All athletes and parents must sign a contract prior to participating. Player and parent contacts will be distributed by coaches at the player and parent meeting at the beginning of each sports season.

[1] See link for BOE/DOE Academic Requirements

Sports Physical

All athletes must have a sports physical examination on record prior to participating. It must be dated no more than 1 year prior to the first scheduled athletic practice/game. If an athlete does not have a sports physical submitted, they are not able to practice or play in any games. Sports Physical forms can be found on the CLA website: (http://clahawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/physicalexamathletes.pdf)

Sports Fee

All athletes will be charged a sports fee that will go towards covering the costs of: uniforms, equipment, transportation, league fees, and referees.

- **Athletic Fee is $200 per sport**
    - Fee will be charged to student's school account and are non-refundable
    - If a player drops out of the sport or is cut/dismissed from the team prior to the first game of the regular season, the athletic fee will not be charged.
        - If a player is cut/dismissed from the team after the first game of the regular season, they will still be charged an athletic fee.
- In addition to these fees, any athlete qualifying for state championship competition off-island, will be asked to pay an additional fee of up to **$500** to help defray the costs of flights, lodging, rental car, and food.

Off-season participation

Off-season clinics, camps, and open gyms are encouraged to build skills, game knowledge, and experience, but are not required. Additionally, participation in any off-season sports opportunities does not play a factor in who makes a team or game line-up priority.

Traditions

School Song

Our school song is as follows and sung to the tune of “Beulah Land”:

“Hail to Christian Liberty, the Blue and Orange are fighting

On the courts and on the fields, the Canefire make their stand

Fears and doubts and things of earth, in vain to them are calling

Win the deeper vict’ry, Oh C-L-A!

We’re fighting in a battle that the world will never win (*Praise God*!)

We’re Monarchs in the Kingdom; we’re joint heirs to the throne

Oh yes we’re looking to the future, when we’ll wear a golden crown

For now we’re fighting for C-L-A!”

Sports Awards

A. Award Pins
    a. 1 pin per sport to be given to varsity athletes
B. Special Award Pins
    a. Captain Pin to be given to team captains
    b. 1st Team/2nd Team Pin to be given to players that are selected to All-BIIF 1st or 2nd team
    c. Champion Pin to be given to any athlete/team that wins BIIF Championship title
    d. Custom State Champion Patch to be given to any athlete/team that wins HHSAA Championship title
C. Athletic Director's Award
    a. Given as recognition of an exemplary career, to an athlete who embodies all the attributes of purpose, passion, and patience, as stated in the Canefire athletics mission statement.
    b. Given at the discretion of the Canefire athletic department and the CLA administration.
    c. The Athletic Director's Award is an end of career award, and will not be given if it is deemed there are no worthy recipients.
D. Letterman Jackets
    a. Orders can be placed through the athletic director for letterman jackets that are approved to be worn during school hours.

Appendix

School Facts

1. Christian Liberty Academy (CLA) is a privately run, non-denominational Christian school, owned and operated by the Board of Directors of Hawai‘i Christian Liberty Ministries of Hawai‘i.
2. CLA's mission statement is as follows: ***We seek to train and encourage students spiritually, academically, physically, and socially according to principles from the Word of God*** (Luke 2:52, Col. 1:28-29).
3. The target enrollment of Christian Liberty Academy, grades 9-12, is 80 students.
4. Expanded explanations of the school's affiliations, philosophies, aims, and objectives may be found in the school's parent/student handbook.
5. CLA is a member of the Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF). There are currently 24 member schools in the BIIF.
6. Participation in these sports depends on 3 factors: the availability of athletes, coaches, and funds. **No sport will be taken up without a solid commitment to build a lasting program of excellence.**
7. CLA is also a member of the Hawai‘i High School Athletic Association (HHSAA). The HHSAA is the sanctioning body for high school sports in the State of Hawai‘i.

History

Christian Liberty School was established in the fall of 1985 by Mrs. Melinda Ha‘o. She sought to provide a quality alternative to the public school system by teaching seven students in her home. In the fall of 1990 the school was moved to Grace Baptist Church in Hilo to accommodate the increase in enrollment. Christian Liberty School continued to grow into an extensive preschool through 12th grade program. In 1995 property was purchased in Kea‘au Hawai‘i. The school moved into their new facility during the summer of 1999. Christian Liberty School opened its pre-school division in March of 2001 to meet the needs of children ages 3-5. In the spring of 2005,12 acres of property (across the street from the Kea‘au campus) was deeded to the school. This allowed the school to move its Jr. High and High school programs to

an existing building on that property. This entire school is now known as Christian Liberty Academy.

Nickname

Christian Liberty sports teams were first known as the Stallions. When we entered the BIIF in the fall of 1997 the name Monarchs was adopted, signifying our royalty as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ the Son of God. In the fall of 2004, we joined in a merger for sports with Haili Christian School and became known, along with Haili, as the Alliance Christian Academy (ACA) Canefire. In the fall of 2005 Haili Christian High School closed its doors. ACA was dropped and Christian Liberty School grades 7 through 12 became known as the Christian Liberty Academy Canefire. *Canefire* was chosen because of the history of our community, Kea‘au, which at one time was sugar cane country. The cane farmers used to set fire to their fields in order to burn off the impurities so that only the cane stalks remained. In the same way, the Holy Spirit burns in us to remove all impurities, preparing us for a life of service. Cane fire is two words; however, for our purposes, we have combined it into one word, Canefire, to emphasize our unity as one in the Body of Christ. In addition, we leave it in the singular to further emphasize unity. We burn together as one flame and are thereby known as “The Christian Liberty Academy *Canefire*”

Colors

The CLA school colors are Navy Blue and Orange. Blue represents our royalty in Christ. Orange represents the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

Testimonial

“Christian Liberty School has come a very long way since its beginning. Migrating from place to place, from a garage to a house, to a church and finally, its own place to rest, which is a little spot in Kea‘au surrounded by growing industries. Students have come and gone, as well as teachers. But one thing that still remains the same is the sports program.

With a student body of about 110 students (K-12), CLS is nothing close to being a powerhouse. They have no gym, soccer, baseball, or football field. When recruiting players for any sport from volleyball to soccer, most times only one or two players have past experience. So when they take or leave the court or field, humility is no stranger to them.

But as the saying goes, “winning isn’t everything” and this is true for most of them. Playing a sport at CLS is a lot more than just making it to the championship or being cool. It’s about having fun, learning new experiences, and being part of the team, working together. But the

most important factor of playing sports at CLS is a thing called “witnessing”. You might not have noticed this but in the school's name, the big word, “***Christian***”, is right smack in the middle.

Most people or even most players don’t realize this. How many points they score or even if they win are not their main goal. The way they present themselves and the way they keep their attitude is their highest goal. A lot of people never get witnessed to and this team may be the only witness to them. They try to be a good ***example of Jesus*** to the fans and players. Trust me that is hard to do, just ask the coaches.

In summary of words, the CLS sports program is really the CLS ***outreach team,*** using sports to reach the unsaved. So, to that little school down in Kea‘au, in my heart you’re the real champions of this island, win or lose. My God bless you all.”

-David Chai, Class of 2001 (September 11, 2000)