

FEAST SPORTS HANDBOOK

FEAST SPORTS MISSION STATEMENT

FEAST Sports primary purpose is to provide a positive Christian environment for spiritual growth for homeschooling families through athletics.

FEAST Sports activities are made possible by the volunteer efforts of homeschool parents. Your participation as a family unit is a vital component of the sports ministry objectives.

FEAST Sports provides opportunity to encourage one another through Christian Fellowship.

FEAST is a Christian organization, which requires all coaches to be Christian and to coach from a Christian viewpoint.

FEAST STATEMENT OF FAITH

- We believe the Holy Bible, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of man, and the Divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.
- We believe in one infinite, triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Having lived sinless, He truly died and was resurrected in His own body for our atonement and resurrection.
- We believe that only through His death by the shedding of His blood and His resurrection are we provided justification and salvation.
- We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind; of the believer to an everlasting dwelling with God, of the unbeliever to an everlasting, conscious hell without God.
- We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to convict men of sin, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- We believe in the imminent, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Registration Fee Policy

- Registration fees are due at registration.
- Players may not participate in a sport for which they have not paid their registration fees.
- Registration fees are not refundable in whole or part without the approval of the FEAST Sports Committee.
- No sport-related expenses are reimbursable without prior written permission.
- A uniform deposit may be required at registration. This deposit will be refunded when the uniform is returned at the end of the season. If the uniform is lost or damaged, the deposit will be kept and applied toward the total amount due for the uniform.
- We gratefully accept donations to cover the many expenses not covered by registration fees. All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. If you are able to assist, please make checks payable to FEAST, designated to the sports ministry.

Participation

Participation in FEAST Sports is open to students who are currently homeschooled with at least 50% of their course work done in the home.

Eligibility

Following is a general guide.

- No player 19 years or older may participate in FEAST sports.
- No player who has graduated from high school may participate in FEAST sports.
- All players are limited to 4 years of high school participation.
- No pre-high school player may participate on a high school level team.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at all games and practices is a priority for this family-focused activity. If for some reason parents are not able to be there for the entire practice or game, they should be prompt in picking up their children when the practice or game is over. Athletes may not be left unattended at any FEAST Sports function. Failure to comply with this procedure may result in a disciplinary action.

Supervision

Parents are responsible for their athlete/athletes actions at all times, whether or not you are present.

BEHAVIOR AT SPORTS EVENTS

For the sake of our young people, it is important that we all rise above the typical competitive sports atmosphere that tends to stir up and encourage negative responses toward opponents. Let us all put aside these negative responses and encourage one another in love; may our desire be to build up EVERY person. This applies to the players and coaching staff as well as spectators. The following apply to all athletic events:

- Cheerleading is not allowed—“cheerleading” is defined as a person or persons appearing before the spectators and leading them in an organized cheer or yell.
- No music of any kind is allowed before, during, or after practice or game times.
- Ridicule, manipulative intimidation (e.g. making noises during an opponent’s free throws), boastful chanting, jeering, booing, and belittling, angry or hurtful gestures are not God-honoring and are therefore prohibited.
- Banners, posters, signs, etc. containing positive, encouraging and supportive messages are allowed. Posting such messages, however, requires permission from the FEAST Marketing Committee. Negative or insulting messages in any form are never allowed.

DRESS CODE

As in any large group of people, we have a great diversity of convictions and lifestyles. In an effort to minimize offenses to one another, it seems wisest to let the Lord’s love restrain us in our selection of clothing and conduct. The following dress code applies absolutely to players on all FEAST athletic teams. Players must abide by the dress code when they are at FEAST facilities, during any FEAST or team activity, and on any other occasion when they are representing FEAST. We encourage members of the players’ families to abide by the dress code at these times as well.

- Shorts should be at least mid-thigh length or longer.
- Skirts and dresses should be knee-length or longer. Slits in the dresses or skirts should come no higher than the top of the knee.
- Tank tops and tops or dresses with spaghetti straps may be worn if an opaque shirt or jacket is worn over the top at all times.
- No undergarments of any kind should be visible at any time.

The following are inappropriate:

- Skimpy, sheer, or tight fitting clothing
- Extreme hairstyles—this includes ponytails, mohawks, shaved heads, cornrows, long or dyed hair for boys and men, and unnatural hair colors for girls. The intent of this rule is to encourage an appearance of team unity and to discourage individual attention-getting.
- Beards or moustaches—sideburns must not extend below the middle of the ear
- Tattoos or other permanent or temporary body markings
- Body-piercing jewelry of any kind for men and boys—girls and women may wear one pair of earrings only (one earring per ear) during non-game times
- Clothing or accessories symbolic of gang activity

This dress code is not exhaustive and due to so much variety in clothing styles, the FEAST Board reserves the right to make final determination of what dress is considered unsatisfactory. At all times our dress should reflect godly character by being neat and modest.

UNIFORM

Each team member is responsible for the proper care of his or her game uniform. Uniforms are the property of FEAST, not the players, unless the commissioner of a particular sport has the players purchase their own uniforms. The uniforms are to be worn at games and game-related activities only, not at practice, at home, etc. If a player damages or loses a uniform, that player must pay for a replacement.

- Whenever the uniform is worn, it must be worn in its entirety.
- No undergarments of any kind may be visible at any time.
- Clothing worn during practice times must be as modest as the game uniform.
- Girls and women are required to wear bike shorts under their shorts during games and practices.

INTERACTION

We believe that it is possible to have healthy social interaction and mature Christian relationships. For the protection of our families, our Christian fellowship, and our testimony within the community, it is vital that we exercise ourselves with godliness at all times and adhere to moral purity. We are not a forum for dating and carousing activities. Therefore, we ask that in all FEAST Sports activities, the behavior between singles be above reproach by avoiding the appearance of wrong doing. Flirtations or suggestive communications are unacceptable behavior. The FEAST Board reserves the right to make determination of what interaction is not considered satisfactory. Ephesians 4:29-32, Psalm 133:1-3

DISCIPLINE

By virtue of participation in the sports ministry, athletes and their families voluntarily accept the behavioral standards as stated by FEAST Sports. All participants are expected and encouraged to exercise personal self discipline, restraint and genuine kindness toward others. In dealing with any offense that may arise, it is the desire of this ministry that the Biblical approach to discipline be applied as found in Matthew 18:15-17.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES/INCIDENT REPORT

When an individual violates policy or rules, a parent, coach or anyone involved in oversight may submit an incident report. The incident report is used as documentation for disciplinary measures that may need to be carried

out by the administration. Incident reports must be filled out online.

There is a specific policy in which disciplinary measures may be carried out. Please refer to the “Discipline” document that gives specific guidelines for disciplinary issues.

SPECIFIC OFFENSES WHICH MAY LEAD TO DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

This listing is not intended to be all inclusive, as FEAST reserves the right to make final determination of what conduct is considered unsatisfactory. As we consider these matters, may we be mindful of the following verses: *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. . . So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”* Romans 12: 1 & 5

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” I Timothy 4:12

- Theft, dishonesty
- Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity
- The possession of literature, pictures, posters or recordings presenting an indecent or immoral activity or ungodly belief or philosophy
- Immoral conduct, immodesty and conduct implying immorality
- Disorderly or destructive actions
- Gambling
- The on-site use of tobacco, alcohol or narcotic drugs, or the implied use of these
- Unauthorized possession of keys to facilities or the use of those keys
- Defiance of authority
- Any practices which are forbidden in Scripture

SPONSORSHIP

Athletic competition is local, state, and national. Therefore, it may involve some travel away from home. In the event that an athlete’s parents or guardians are unable to accompany him or her on a scheduled trip out of town, it is required that the parents provide an adult sponsor to take their place. The parents are responsible for briefing the sponsor on FEAST Sports policies, insuring that the sponsor will continue the commitment already indicated by the parents and athlete. It is the responsibility of the parents and the designated sponsor to settle issues such as transportation, expenses, medical releases, etc.

FACILITIES, FIELDS, AND PARKING LOTS

Treatment of facilities will be in accordance with their existing rules (e.g. where to sit, where food is allowed, where children may play, etc.).

- Children may not be left unattended at FEAST facilities. Athletes must be picked up promptly after games and practices. While at FEAST facilities, parents must watch over their children at all times.
- Be good stewards of the facilities, fields and parking lots by leaving them in better condition than you found them (e.g. put chairs pack where they belong, put all trash in garbage cans, etc.) Every person needs to take personal responsibility for keeping the buildings and campus clean and orderly. Please assist in the enforcement of this rule by lovingly reminding those around you. Our care of the facility is a reflection on all of us. Let us do everything as unto the Lord.
- Items left at FEAST facilities will be placed in Lost and Found. All items which are not claimed will be donated to charity at the end of each month. Items will not be held over 30 days.
- Horseplay, loitering or “hanging out” is prohibited at FEAST facilities.
- Electronic devices (e.g. iPods, CD players, GameBoys, headphones, etc.) are not allowed.
- Advertising, surveys, or other printed materials may not be distributed or left at any FEAST facility or FEAST sponsored activity, without written permission from the FEAST Facilities Use

Committee.

- To ensure continued availability for everyone, FEAST property may not be taken from the FEAST facility without prior written authorization from the Facilities Use Committee. FEAST property and facilities must be properly secured after use.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:” Hebrews 10:24

PARTICIPATION

Participation in FEAST Sports is open to students who are currently being home schooled in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and are not enrolled or in attendance full-time or private school outside your home. “Full-time” is defined as attending 4 or more classes at a primary or secondary school or earning 12 or more hours on campus at a college, university, trade school, etc. Participating athletes and their families are responsible for knowing the information contained in this Handbook. Registration for a FEAST team indicates that the policies stated in this Handbook have been read and that the registering athletes and their parents agree to adhere to these policies in their entirety.

No person who has graduated from high school or received a high school diploma may participate as an athlete in FEAST Sports.

ELIGIBILITY

The points listed below serve as a general guide. For a more extensive explanation of eligibility rules, please refer to the “Sports Eligibility Rules” document, which is available on the FEAST website, or you may pick up a copy of the rules in the Sports Office.

- No player who is 19 years old or older and no player who has graduated from high school may participate in FEAST Sports.
- A player is allowed 4 years of participation in FEAST high school level athletics.
- No pre-high school player may participate on a high school level team.
- No high school player may participate on a pre-high school level team.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

May we all encourage one another to not only receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior but also to walk in the Spirit, growing up into Christ who is the Head, living out Christ in all aspects of leadership, self-discipline, individual responsibility, personal integrity and good citizenship.

May we with our whole heart actively seek to be filled with the Lord, developing and maintaining an appetite for God’s word, diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit.

May we be one with the Lord to such an extent that we bring into obedience to Christ our dress, appearance, thought life, conversation, attitudes, habits and relationships, glorying in the Lord and not ourselves.

May we walk in humility before God and with one another, submitting to authority and being subject to one another.