

# WCAA/ Trailblazers

## Parent Handbook

Revised July 2014

WCAA/Trailblazers Parent Handbook

### **I. WCAA MISSION STATEMENT**

Western Carolina Athletic Association (WCAA) exists to offer competitive athletic opportunities for home schooled boys and girls who are of middle school or high school age. As an organization, WCAA seeks to honor Christ and to promote such a desire in our athletes. We desire to model exemplary behavior in the community as we conduct ourselves in our sports programs. To this end, we encourage our athletes and our coaches to live Christ-centered lives and to model our devotion to Christ.

### **II. WCAA WEB SITE AND ADDRESS**

Western Carolina Athletic Association maintains a website at <http://www.ashevilletrailblazers.org>. The website provides a calendar of upcoming games for each sport, practice times and locations, directions to games and practice locations, and a myriad of other information. Please frequent the website to watch for continuing updates to WCAA programs.

Email address: [ashevilletrailblazers@gmail.com](mailto:ashevilletrailblazers@gmail.com)

Mailing address for all correspondence: PO Box 1865, Fletcher, NC 28732

### III. MY TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

My Coach's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Coach's contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

My Team Manager's name is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Team Manager's contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

### IV. WCAA/ TRAILBLAZERS BOARD

#### **What are the responsibilities of the WCAA board members?**

Responsibilities include planning and organization for all of the Trailblazers seasons, to include: managing the Trailblazers budget, determining policy, purchasing uniforms and equipment, planning and scheduling practice locations, games, tournaments, athletic facilities and fields, scheduling and payment of referees and umpires, planning fundraising activities, managing concessions, selecting coaching staff, coordinating awards nights and trophies, managing public relations activities, and coordinating Team Managers and their responsibilities. Other responsibilities include: communications; team photography; management of the Trailblazers store; review of legal issues for protection of our athletes and our organization; coordination of membership, medical, and other necessary paperwork; coordination of Trailblazers sponsors and management of the website. The board also maintains our membership in NCHEAC and our relationship with local schools and school boards.

### V. COACHES

#### **Who are the current coaches for each Trailblazers sport?**

Please refer to [www.ashevilletrailblazers.org](http://www.ashevilletrailblazers.org) for a listing of current Trailblazers coaches.

**How are the Trailblazers Coaches selected?**

All WCAA coaches are volunteers, and deserve our thanks for their time and dedication to our organization and to our athletes. WCAA seeks to select coaches who will model Christ-like behavior, and who honor Christ, our organization, and our athletes. Coaches are also selected for their knowledge of particular sports, as well as their availability and willingness to serve.

**Are coaches screened in any way for child safety reasons?**

Yes. All Coach applications are approved by the WCAA board, and all coaches are interviewed by one or more members of the Coaches Committee. In addition, all coaches undergo a criminal background check. The WCAA Coach application also requires three references.

**How may I apply to become a Coach or Assistant Coach for a Trailblazers sport?**

If you are interested in coaching for WCAA sports, please fill out a Coach Application Form (found on the corporate web site/Forms page).

**VI. TEAM MANAGERS****Who is my Team Manager and what are his/her responsibilities?**

Your Team Manager is your communication conduit for most issues on your team. He/she will manage most of the information sharing for your team. Typically your Team Manager will provide you with information concerning: volunteer opportunities, parent jobs during the season (especially home games), planned fundraisers for your team or the Trailblazers organization, uniform distribution and pick-up, practice times and locations not available on the website, changes to game or tournament schedules, team picture day, and changes in directions to games/tournaments. Please use your Team Manager for most communications instead of your Coach. Because coaches are extremely busy with their coaching responsibilities, Team Managers help them focus on games and strategy instead of administrative details. Your Team Manager will also work on the season end awards presentation event.

**What type of communication can I expect from my Team Manager?**

Most information will be communicated via email. If you do not have access to email you are responsible for working out another method to receive the needed information. Please do not expect your Team Manager to call you with every change. On occasion, last minute changes occur and your Team Manager may need to call or text you those changes.

**How can I become a Team Manager?**

Anyone interested in becoming a Team Manager should contact Laura Clark [lauradclark@aol.com](mailto:lauradclark@aol.com). Team Managers should be organized people with internet and cell phone access. Coaches will choose a Team Manager, and Laura will provide guidance for them. Team Managers are a vital part of the Trailblazers' success. They provide a link between the parents, coaches, and board members.

**VII. COMMUNICATION**

**What communication may I expect from my Coach?**

After tryouts, Coaches will communicate which athletes have been selected for teams. After tryouts, you may access this information on the WCAA website. Coaches will also communicate their expectations for good sportsmanship within and between teams. Our coaches strive for open communication with all athletes about game strategy, playing time, and opportunities for improvement as an athlete. Coaches are not expected to communicate with parents on a regular basis. Most communication will go through the Team Manager. If you want to speak with your Coach, it is recommended that you email them or set up a convenient time to speak with them. Do not approach them right before or after a game.

**If I have a suggestion or a complaint, what do I do?**

If you have a problem with a coach, WCAA recommends you set up an appointment with him/her – (do not approach them right before or directly after a game) – to discuss the matter. If your issue is not resolved, then you may access the Remarks Form on the website. If your issue is general, we recommend that you fill out an evaluation form at the end of the season. These forms are read by the board and suggestions for improvements are considered.

**VIII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN TRAILBLAZERS SPORTS****How old does my athlete need to be to play on a middle school team?**

The minimum age for participation on any Trailblazers team is 10. Due to league rules, middle school players cannot turn 14 on or before September 1st of the current school year.

**How old does my athlete need to be to play on a Junior Varsity team?**

Due to league rules, Junior Varsity players cannot turn 17 years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

**How old does my athlete need to be to play on a Varsity team?**

Due to league rules, Varsity players cannot turn 19 years of age on or before September 1st of the current school year.

**Is there a Code of Conduct for athletes?**

Yes. All athletes and parents must sign the Code of Conduct form when registering as a Trailblazer athlete.

**If a suspicion of a violation of the athlete's Code of Conduct arises, how should it be handled?**

If a reasonable suspicion arises that a Trailblazer athlete has violated the Code of Conduct, a parent or guardian will be notified immediately by either the Coach or a board member. The player, if warranted, will be temporarily suspended pending a quick but thorough investigation of the athlete's conduct. Confirmations of a violation of the Code of Conduct will result in appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the Coach and the WCAA board. Such action may include, but is not limited to, temporary suspension of playing time, permanent expulsion from a team, or expulsion from further participation in Trailblazers sports.

## **IX. GENERAL INFORMATION/SPORTS**

### **What team sports are currently offered through WCAA?**

#### **Fall**

MS/Var Boys Soccer

MS/JV/Var Girls Volleyball

MS/Var Co-ed Cross Country

#### **Winter**

MS/JV/Var Girls Basketball

Cornerstone Boys Basketball

MS/JV/Var Boys Basketball

Varsity Co-ed Swimming

#### **Spring**

MS/Var Girls Soccer

MS/JV/Var Boys Baseball

MS/Var Girls Softball

### **What are Skills Sessions?**

Skill sessions are offered at various times throughout the year to provide WCAA student athletes the opportunity to learn and improve their individual skills. These are open to all WCAA members and are led by Trailblazers coaches. This is a great opportunity for home school students to try new or different sports. Depending on the sport, there may be a small fee to participate in these sessions. To attend a skill session all athletes should have up to date membership and physical or physical waiver forms on file as well as the concussion paperwork.

### **What is open gym time?**

Open gym time is a relaxed time for fun and fellowship with WCAA members. Usually this time consists of pick-up games divided by age group. There is usually a small fee to participate in open gym. To attend open gym all athletes should have up to date membership and physical or physical waiver forms on file as well as concussion paperwork.

## **X. TRYOUTS/PRACTICE/UNIFORM INFORMATION**

### **When and how are tryouts conducted for each sport?**

The specific tryout schedule will be posted on the website prior to each season. WCAA will also send emails to all current WCAA members notifying them of the specific tryout dates. The months that tryouts are held are listed below:

July/Aug – volleyball, boys soccer, cross country

Oct – basketball

Jan/Feb – baseball, softball, girls soccer, golf

### **Who may try out for the Trailblazers teams?**

WCAA recommends that students be 6th–12th grade to try out for our teams; however, we allow highly skilled 5th graders to try out for the teams. The minimum age is 10 years old.

With the exception of Cornerstone teams each athlete must tryout with their appropriate age group. All ages are based on the child's age as of Sept 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.

Middle School – 10 to 13 years

JV and Varsity – 14+ years

### **What do I need to do for the tryouts?**

Print the forms and bring them completed to tryouts. If your athlete is unable to attend all tryouts, then you must notify the coach. WCAA is growing every year and it is recommended the athlete attend all tryout sessions to give your athlete every chance to be accurately assessed by the coaches. All players are expected to attend tryouts dressed appropriately and with all needed equipment and shoes.

### **Forms Needed for Tryouts**

An athlete must be a WCAA member (\$5 per year and completed Membership form). Also, before a student is allowed to tryout, he/she must have a completed, current (within past 12 months) physical, or file a Physical Waiver form. These forms can be printed from the website and brought to tryouts. **If these forms are not filled out and brought to the tryout, your child will not be allowed to try out.**

### **Are all athletes who tryout automatically accepted to the team?**

No. Just because a student tries out does not guarantee them a spot on the team. The final determination will be based on skill level as well as the current needs of the team.

### **Is there a limit to the number of athletes who will be accepted on teams?**

Yes. The number of athletes accepted to teams will vary by sport. The final number allowed on a roster will be determined by the Coach.

### **How will my child be notified if they make the team?**

Players will be notified soon after tryouts. The Coach will call, email or post the roster on the website.

### **If my child does not make a team, is there another way for them to be involved with WCAA?**

Yes, there are many ways they can stay involved. Some sports will have developmental teams which may play or scrimmage other teams. This allows some of the less experienced or younger players to improve their skills in preparation for future tryouts. These players are expected to pay the full participation fee. They will be issued a uniform and will have scheduled games. Some teams may have practice teams which do not play or scrimmage other teams but will allow athletes to practice with the team. These practice teams do have a fee for participation (see additional information below). If your athlete does not make a team, they may still participate in the Skill Sessions. We encourage them to attend as many of these as possible in order to acquire the skills necessary for future tryouts. We also encourage them to support WCAA by attending games and volunteering for WCAA activities.

**If my child makes a practice team, what does that mean?**

Practice players pay half of the participation fee, do not receive a uniform and are eligible for practice or scrimmages only – no games. Practice team members must complete all of the same paperwork as regular team members in order to participate. Practice team members are expected to abide by the same procedures as the regular team members. These procedures are listed in the following sections of the Parent Handbook.

**If my child makes a team, what do I need to do?**

It is a requirement for one parent of each athlete to attend the Parent meeting which is scheduled at the beginning of the season. Important information pertaining to that season will be given and questions answered. You must also complete all of the needed paperwork and pay your fees before your athlete will be issued a uniform.

**If my child is selected for a team what additional forms are needed?**

- WCAA Membership form (\$5.00 fee)
- Registration Agreement (registration fee required)
- Release of Medical Information
- Authorization for Medical Treatment
- Physical Form or Waiver Form – If you are waiting for a physical appointment with your child's doctor, this form can be turned in until the physical form can be completed.
- Non-Compete Form
- Jr./Sr. Declaration if applicable
- Concussion Information and Agreement Form

(These forms can be printed from [www.ashevilletrailblazers.org](http://www.ashevilletrailblazers.org) )

If your child is a first-time Trailblazer, you must also turn in a copy of his/her birth certificate and a copy of the home school document (NC Division of Non-Public Education form). Once completed, turn all forms and fees during the appropriate Registration time.

**When and where are practices?**

Practice locations vary by sport. WCAA tries to keep practices in central locations and at convenient times. As a routine, WCAA begins practices no earlier than 2:00 p.m. Occasionally, a practice may have to begin earlier, however; this will be the exception and not the rule. Please keep in mind that practice times and locations will vary from season to season as the WCAA board continues to investigate improved circumstances for our teams. You may view your current practice location for your sport by going to [www.ashevilletrailblazers.org](http://www.ashevilletrailblazers.org). Practice times/locations are subject to change. If this occurs, you should receive an email or phone call from your Team Manager or coach. Game schedules and locations are also available on the website.

**What benefits are there for my athlete to participate in Trailblazer sports?**

There are many benefits for students participating in competitive organized sports. Athletes learn perseverance, team work, dedication, time management and many other beneficial character traits which will impact their lives long after the games are over. Organized sports also give the students a chance to form friendships and lasting memories with home schooled students their own age. It also gives the serious athlete wanting to pursue their sport beyond high school the opportunity to develop and display their abilities.

### **Is there a dress code for practices?**

Yes, athletes are expected to wear modest attire with no revealing tank tops or midriff shirts allowed for females. Athletes should also not wear any offensive or vulgar printing on their clothing. Some coaches require practice shirts and these shirts should be worn to all practices. These shirts need to be purchased for your athlete if your coach requires it. They will be available at a minimal cost. Coaches will announce penalty if an athlete attends practice without the required practice attire.

### **What if my athlete is going to miss a practice?**

Athletes should immediately notify the coach via phone or email if they are not going to be able to attend practice. If the coach cannot be reached, the athlete should notify the team manager.

### **Is there a penalty for missing practices?**

Each coach will determine penalties for his/her team, which may include limited playing time for those athletes that miss practices. All athletes should remember that when one member is absent, it affects the entire team. We encourage athletes to treat practices seriously and make every effort to attend all practices.

### **Will my athlete be issued a uniform as part of the WCAA participation fee?**

Yes. Athletes will be issued uniforms for the season. Those uniforms are the property of WCAA and should be taken care of by the athlete. Most of the uniform will be returned at the end of the season. Hats and socks are not returned. Uniforms need to be returned before an otherwise qualifying Varsity player receives a letter at awards night, and before any athlete can participate in another sport.

### **What do I do if my athlete loses or damages their uniform?**

If a uniform is lost or damaged, notify your team manager immediately. The athlete will be expected to pay for repairs and/or a replacement uniform. You should not try to repair a uniform on your own – please bring it to the Team Manager and they will notify the Director of Equipment who will decide if it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced. Uniforms are expensive. Please treat them with utmost care.

### **How do I care for the uniform?**

Trailblazers' uniforms are for games only. Please do not wear these uniforms to any other event or at any other time unless otherwise instructed. Uniforms are the property of WCAA, and will be used by other Trailblazer teams in future seasons. **Do not put them in the dryer** as it will cause damage to the printing and may cause shrinkage. **LINE-DRY ONLY**. Do not cut the tags out of uniforms or alter them in any way. The entire uniform must be worn to all games and should be neat and clean each time. The turn-in date and time for your uniform will be determined at the end of the season. Please plan to return it promptly, clean, and in as close as possible to the original condition. Uniforms need to be returned before an otherwise qualifying Varsity player receives a letter, and before any athlete can participate in another sport. If your team has both home and away uniforms, both should be brought to every game. You also may want to bring a change of clothes for the ride home, especially if athletes get dirty or wet during the game. Socks and hats do not have to be turned in at the end of the season.



**Will there be any other equipment that I need to provide for my athlete?**

Yes. Most sports require additional equipment and Coaches will be the source of this information.

**XI. SEASON EXPECTATIONS**

**How are players chosen to play “up” on a team?**

Sometimes players excel and are strong enough to be moved to the older team, or their skills are needed to fill a position either on a part-time or permanent basis. It will be up to the coaches involved to determine if and when a player is brought up. If the coaches cannot agree on whether to bring a player up, the parties involved will talk with the Coaches Committee and/or the Athletic Director who has the final decision. Parental consent is required. A player cannot be brought “up” permanently to the detriment of the younger team.

**Can my child play “down” on a team if I request it?**

The parents may desire for their athlete to play for a younger or lower level team. The decision to have your athlete play “down” should be discussed with the coaches of both teams and a decision reached by all of the interested parties. The player must be young enough according to NCHEAC rules in order to be considered for play on the younger team.

**What will my athlete’s weekly schedule be for games and practices?**

Again, this will vary by sport and by coach. Practices and games are regularly scheduled on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday and Saturday games and practices are scheduled as needed. Most teams practice 3-4 times per week prior to games starting and then will practice 1-3 times per week once games start. WCAA makes every effort to schedule conference away games on Friday nights due to the travel distance for these games.

**How many home games are there and where are they played?**

The number of home games will vary by sport. WCAA is currently contracted with Xcel Sportsplex for the indoor season 2015 – 2016.

**How many away games are there and where are they played?**

The number of away games will also vary by sport. WCAA tries to schedule games as close to home as possible. WCAA is a member of the NCHEAC which is our state home school athletic conference. This provides our athletes with the opportunity to compete on a state level with other home school teams. In order to participate in this conference, each team from the western region must play the other teams in the region.

**If my child is selected for a team, are they guaranteed a certain amount of playing time?**

No. Players are not guaranteed playing time. The coach will decide who will play and how often. If your student is unhappy with the amount of playing time they receive, we recommend they speak with their coach. Athletes learn valuable lessons by working to earn play time. WCAA tries to select fair, unbiased coaches that will give players as much playing time as possible.

**Will my team have any away tournaments?**

Most teams will participate in the NCHEAC state tournament. These tournaments usually last 1–3 days and are played somewhere in NC. Some teams will participate in higher level tournaments. These dates are also known well in advance and provide the athletes with some great experience. Many times college scouts or media will attend these events giving the athletes a chance to extend their careers beyond high school. If your team is participating in a tournament, please make every effort to attend. When a player is absent, it affects the entire team's performance. There are also mid-season tournaments, local and away, that our teams may participate in.

**My child was asked to play “up” for a tournament, what does that mean?**

Sometimes coaches discover they are short a few players for a tournament and will ask some of the younger players to attend the tournament. If your athlete is asked to attend the tournament, it is an honor. Your student is not guaranteed playing time in the tournament, but should be ready in the event they are needed.

**Who makes overnight accommodations for overnight games or tournaments and how is this communicated to me?**

Parents are responsible for arranging their own accommodations for overnight games or tournaments. The Team Manager may coordinate suggested hotels so families can stay together. Those hotels will be communicated via email.

**What behavior is expected from spectators at Trailblazers sports events?**

Parent and athletes should be on their best behavior at all times during games. Please thank teams and coaches for hosting our teams and for scheduling WCAA. WCAA families should be kind even when things are not going our way. They are expected to show kindness towards the referees, other players, and coaches. They are expected to abide by the conditions enumerated in the Code of Conduct section of the Registration form.

**What is the protocol in the event of an injury?**

If your child is injured at practice or in a game it is very important that you:

1. Notify the Coach and Team Manager as soon as the injury occurs
  2. Get an Insurance Claim Form/Accident Report form from your Team Manager
  3. Fill the form out and make a copy
  4. Obtain the signature of the AD or Assistant AD – YOU MUST GIVE THEM A COPY BEFORE THEY WILL SIGN YOUR COPY.
  5. File the claim with the insurance company
- YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL AND YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING ALL CLAIMS TIMELY.

**XII. COSTS****How much does it cost to play?**

Participation costs for a Trailblazers athlete will be determined by the board for each sport and each season. Payment can be made either by cash or by check made payable to WCAA.

Payment must be received before your athlete will receive a uniform and will be allowed to participate in his/her first game. The cost for your sport will be announced at the time of Registration.

**What do my fees cover?**

The fees cover practice and facility rental, player insurance, referee fees, conference fees, uniform/equipment purchases, awards banquet, printing costs and incidental costs that arise throughout the year.

**Are there extra costs to me not covered in the Registration fee?**

Trailblazer teams play home games as well as away games. Additional costs will include transportation costs including gas/food money for your athlete. There are additional costs if a team attends a tournament. Some sports may have additional costs for personal equipment needed.

**Does WCAA provide any assistance in helping my athlete obtain a scholarship to pay fees?**

No, the athlete is responsible for obtaining any sponsorships or raising the funds to pay for their own fees. WCAA does not offer any scholarships for players at this time. WCAA will allow athletes to make their fee payments in 3 increments.

**What will my family need to pay for admission to home games?**

Each family (household) will be allowed free entry into home games.

**Will I be expected to pay gate fees at away games?**

Admission fees at away games are at the discretion of the hosting team. You will most likely be required to pay an entry fee.

**How may I help defray costs for my athlete?**

Athletes may get sponsorships to help offset the cost of playing for a WCAA team. WCAA may have occasional fundraisers throughout the year that athletes are expected to participate in.

**If my athlete does not play as much as another player, are my fees still the same?**

Yes. We are a competitive sports league and athletes are not guaranteed playing time.

**XIII. TRAVEL**

**How does my athlete get to away games?**

It is up to the parent to make sure their athlete gets to all away games. This may mean you drive to these games or make sure your athlete has a ride with another parent. We urge you to use all caution when allowing a student to drive to games. WCAA strongly recommends student athletes not drive to away games. WCAA is not liable for accidents which occur en route to games and/or practices.

### **Travel to away games**

Teams may meet at a central location to travel to away games. The Team Managers will coordinate the meeting place, but you are responsible for making sure your athlete has a ride to the game. As a courtesy, you are encouraged to send gas money if your athlete rides with another parent. Your student should also be prepared to eat on the way home with either money or a bag dinner. For teams traveling to tournaments and staying overnight, at least one parent (or grandparent) should be in the room with players. Eighteen year old players may not travel and stay in a hotel room alone or with other players without supervision.

## **XIV. FUNDRAISERS/VOLUNTEERING/LOGO ITEMS**

### **Am I required to participate in fundraiser activities?**

At least one representative from every family is expected to participate in corporate fundraisers when/if they occur. Parents are always encouraged to help as much as possible.

### **What kinds of fundraisers are held by the Trailblazers?**

The exact fundraisers will be announced as the season approaches. The fundraisers in the past have included car washes, shoot-a-thons, yard sales, spring formal dances and selling donuts. Families may receive a percentage reduction on their sports fees by participating in the fundraiser for their sport. Voluntary fundraisers, such as restaurant nights, may occur throughout the year.

### **What are “restaurant nights” and how can I participate?**

Restaurant nights are fundraisers where a restaurant has agreed to give a set amount of the proceeds to the Trailblazers organization on a given night. Often times, they give according to the amount of participation by our organization. These are great nights for fellowship and camaraderie but families are not required to participate.

### **What are the different areas where I can volunteer?**

Volunteering with WCAA is divided into two categories: those jobs that benefit the association as a whole (“general”) and those jobs that are specific to the team (“game jobs”).

#### General.

In an effort to utilize the time and talent of participating families, please advise us of your preferences and abilities for contribution to the organization. The current list of opportunities for involvement include: advertising, set up, clean up, security detail, photography, fund raising, food preparation, hospitality, finance/bookkeeping and awards night.

#### Game jobs.

As a team parent, you are expected to participate in occasionally: keeping of scorebook, working at score table, work the entry gate/concession, team photography and set up/clean up of home games. Be a Team Manager. These assignments are orchestrated by your Team Manager. If you are not able to perform the task on the assigned date, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement and advise your Team Manager of such change. These are the various duties that make the game happen.

**How do I purchase Trailblazers logo items and how much do they cost?**

During your season, you will be notified regarding the ordering of logo items. Logo items are available for purchase online from the website. You may email Michelle Kelly at [michellekelly0568@gmail.com](mailto:michellekelly0568@gmail.com) with further questions.

**Can I use the Trailblazers name and/or logo for a recreation team or other personal endeavor?**

**Any** use of the Trailblazers name or logo must be approved by the board. If you want to use the name or logo, submit your request to the board. You must give the board at least one month notice to approve or deny your request.

**XV. PARENT/PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE END OF SPORT SEASON****What do I do with my athlete's uniform at the end of a season?**

The Team Manager will designate the time and place for turning in the clean, complete uniform, which may include Trailblazers issued practice clothing and equipment. This is handled individually by team. Uniforms need to be returned before an otherwise qualifying Varsity player receives a letter, and before any athlete can participate in another sport. Any missing or damaged pieces will be the financial responsibility of the athlete.

**Are there other responsibilities for the parent/athlete at the end of a sport season?** Informally and generally, the teams will come together to provide some kind of recognition gift to the coach(es) and team managers. Simply, this is a token of appreciation. Your attendance at awards night is also requested.

**XVI. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS****Why does WCAA have a yearly organizational meeting?**

Pursuant to the NC Non-profit Corp Act and the by-laws of WCAA, WCAA holds an annual corporate meeting as required by the statute.

**XVII. PHOTOGRAPHY****Will team pictures be taken? When?**

Team pictures may be scheduled. Each Team Manager may arrange for a team picture sometime during the season.

**Who is authorized to take photographs of my athlete and how may photos or photographic representations be used by WCAA?**

Photographic representations of athletes and spectators is possible and attendance at WCAA events implies permission.

**XVIII. END OF SEASON AWARDS PROGRAMS****What awards may my athlete be eligible to receive after participation in a sport?**

At the end of the season, athletes will be recognized at Awards Night. Three to four athletes per team will receive an Excellence Award. These awards may encompass MVP, best offense, best defense, most improved, etc. and are based on athletic performance. One Trailblazer Award will be awarded per team. This is given to the player who shows the best attitude, most coachable, most Christ-like, easy to get along with other players, and willing to play any position at any time. The recipient of these awards is chosen by the coach(es) who may take the input of the team members into consideration.

### **Other than recognition, what does my athlete receive?**

The winners of the above mentioned awards will receive plaques. Every full season participant of any sport will receive a Certificate of Participation. Some of our athletes, in the past, have been named to All-Tournament Teams, etc. and have won individual certificates. If the team plays in any other tournament, the awards will be at the discretion of the host organization.

**Who is eligible for receipt of a Varsity Letter?** A player is eligible to receive a Varsity Letter if:

- a) he/she is a member of a Varsity team **and**
- b) he/she has displayed good sportsmanship and team support
- c) he/she has played in one third of the Varsity games.
- d) if he/she is of middle school age (has not turned 14 by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year) and is a member of a varsity team, that athlete will be eligible to receive a Letter if the athlete “starts” on the Varsity team he/she is a member of (if the sport is volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball or softball), or if the athlete has performed on a varsity level as evidenced by consistent time standards (if the sport is cross country or swimming)
- e) he/she must have exhibited good care and return of their uniform in a prompt manner at the end of each season of their participation with the Trailblazers.

### **What if my athlete has already received a letter?**

For the first year, the varsity athlete receives a letter and a pin in their respective sport. For each of the following years that the athlete plays that same sport, he/she receives a bar. If the athlete plays a different varsity sport, he or she receives a pin for that sport the first year, and bars for each year thereafter.

### **Will my athlete receive a Varsity Letter Jacket if he/she receives a Varsity Letter?**

An athlete is eligible to purchase a Varsity Letter Jacket if he/she has received a Varsity Letter. Please contact Michelle Kelly at [michellekelly0568@gmail.com](mailto:michellekelly0568@gmail.com) for information regarding the purchase of jackets.

## **IXX. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

### **Can I award high school credit on my athlete’s transcript if he/she plays a Trailblazers sport?**

The designated high school administrator or principal of your school may determine what high school credits your Varsity athlete may receive on his/her transcript. Generally, a completed high school “course” will include anywhere from 120 to 180 hours of “course work,” as determined by your school. It is reasonable to count participation on a Varsity team toward these hours, including skill session time, team practice time, and game time. Course titles may include such possibilities as “Varsity sport” or “P.E.” High school transcripts can indicate completion of one full credit, or even a half-credit for any particular course.

According to most university policies, please note that if you do grant a credit for sports participation it cannot also be listed in extra-curricular activities. You need to decide the best location for WCAA activities on your child's transcript.

**If my child wants to play his/her sport in college, will WCAA help facilitate the process?** WCAA will help with questions and information but parents and students are responsible for pursuing their own athletic future. If you have an athlete that wants to pursue their sport beyond high school, talk with his/her coach and notify them of this goal. Your coach can offer tips, advice and recommendations on achieving this goal. You can find out more information at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Parents and athletes must be proactive.