

**Dikaios Defenders
Sports Handbook
2017 - 2018**

Welcome to the Dikaios Christian Educators Association Sports Program. The Dikaios Sports' teams are a part of the California Home School Sports League. Competitive programs in a Christian atmosphere are offered for home school students who want to develop or refine their athletic skills. All athletes must be home schooled, with 51% of their classes taken at home. Athletes should have a desire to learn or enhance their skills, but importantly have a Christ honoring attitude. We pray your family will grow spiritually and physically through this experience.

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Dikaios Sports Athletic Statement and Philosophy

Our Athletic Vision and Goal: Our main vision at Dikaios Sports is to teach life skills from the opportunities that come from competitive sporting competition. We aim to develop Christ-mined and Christ-centered student athletes who will display good Christian character. These include attributes such as; integrity, devotion, self-sacrifice and teamwork in highly competitive sports.

The Bible compares athletic training to developing good Christian workers (see 1 Cor. 9:24-27, 1 Tim. 4:6-12 or Rom. 15:1). In these passages and similar ones, we can learn effective leadership and training goals to build our athletes from the inside out.

Dikaios' Athletic Philosophy is to field teams with the best athletes available who would be able to compete against other teams at a high level. Parents, with that position in mind, our leaders and coaches will have the prerogative to choose the “starters” and distribute playing time during competition based upon the criticality of the game's outcome. The athlete's skills, ability, and knowledge of the game will influence these decisions. We teach our coaches to make decisions with humility and make every effort to include all athletes during competition.

We may not always make the best decisions, but we ask for your patience, understanding and support as we make adjustments if necessary. As parents, please understand that “non-starters” will have an opportunity to learn and improve their skills. Athletes can earn playing time based upon their coaches' determination of their work ethic and progress during team practices and any scrimmages.

Priorities and Practical Goals: Our Athletic Vision and Philosophy may be summarized by the following:

1. To encourage team play and sportsmanship by all athletes, coaches and spectators.
2. To train and improve the development of athletic skills in all participants, through a partnership with our parents.
3. Our physical objectives are to perform conditioning of athletes to enhance their endurance and improve their skills.
4. To play sports in a manner that will honor God, while representing our school in competition.

Parents, by signing the sports application, you are acknowledging that you are in full agreement with the Dikaios Athletic Statement and Philosophy. You are agreeing that you and your athlete(s) will display behavior pleasing to Our Lord Jesus Christ during the athletic events.

Sportsmanship

Dikaios believes that sportsmanship is courtesy to other athletes and respect for the authority of coaches and officials. It is knowledge of and adherence to the rules of the sport. Sportsmanship is being diligent in attaining the skills to help your team win. It is working in cooperation with other team members toward a common goal through sacrifice, selflessness, dedication and

commitment. The disciplines of sports should help prepare you for a possible higher calling in life and wherever God places your hands to work.

Dikaios Sports – Rules

The Bible says “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification...that it may give grace to those who hear...Be kind to one another”

Eph. 4:29 & 32a

- No use of foul language is acceptable.
- Avoid and prevent gossip or slanderous talk about other athletes or opponents.
- Show no disrespect to adult supervision, team members or leaders on or off the court or playing field.
- No insubordinate conduct is acceptable on or off the court or field.
- Roughhousing, horse play, fighting or other similar actions are not acceptable at any sporting practices or events.
- No obnoxious play or disregard for teammates will be acceptable (i.e. using volleyballs/basketballs to throw at or hit people; tripping or pushing others which may cause injury)
- Public Display of Affection (PDA) – as defined by the Dikaios Christian Educators Handbook (Pg.17) is not allowed at practices, games or functions relating to sporting events. This includes parties, dinners or gatherings before or after sporting events.

Dikaios Sports – Dress Code

The Dikaios Sports dress code is designed to keep ALL athletes and ALL sports programs in mind. The DCEA dress code is **separate** from the athletic dress code and should be observed when the athlete is outside the sports environment. Our main purpose at Dikaios Sports is to provide athletic opportunities in a manner that glorifies God. When signing a sports application, you as a parent and your athlete(s) agree to abide by this dress code.

Parents, it is **your responsibility** to enforce this dress code before your child attends any practices, games or sports events. Each sport (due to the type of sport that it is) has different requirements in order to practice or play games.

The sports dress code is as follows:

Boys/Girls: Athletic Shoes must be worn that are appropriate to the individual sport. (i.e. Basketball shoes don't make good track shoes, football cleats or baseball cleats)

Boys: Shirts must be worn at all times and must cover the entire midriff area during any sporting activity. Shirts may not be “Altered or Modified” by cutting off the sleeves, cutting down the sides or some other modification.

No Tank tops are allowed (Shirts without sleeves are allowed but the entire shoulder must be covered and no chest exposure is acceptable).

Shorts must be worn around the waist at all times. (No under garments may be shown/exposed ... sagging shorts below the waist are not acceptable.)

T-Shirts with inappropriate/offensive sayings or pictures are not allowed.

Girls: Proper athletic T-Shirts must be worn during practice or games. Shirts may not be “Altered or Modified” by cutting the shirts or sleeves. Shirts that have no sleeves are allowed but the **entire** shoulder must be covered and undergarments may not be exposed.

Shirts must be loose fitting and cover the midriff area when the athletes’ arms are raised in the air.

No Tank tops or low cut v-neck shirts are allowed. Proper coverage is required.

Shorts must have a minimum of 4” inseam or longer even if wearing spandex underneath, keeping in mind that a taller girl may need to wear spandex type shorts in order to keep the short length modest (remember we are aiming to remain modest in our representation of the Lord).

Folding shorts up at the waist to make them “shorter” is not an acceptable practice.

Should any athlete deviate from the Dikaios Sports dress code, the consequences will be as follows:

1st Offense: The athlete will be given a warning and asked to immediately correct the violation by changing their attire to meet the dress code. The parents will be notified of the offense. If the athlete does not have different attire to change into, a shirt or shorts may be issued by sports at the family’s expense.

2nd Offense: The athlete will be sent home and a meeting with the coach, athletic director and parents will be required prior to the athlete returning to the sport.

3rd Offense: The athlete would be removed from the sport and will not be allowed to return that season. In addition parents/athlete would need to meet with the “Dikaios Christian Educators Association” Leadership

**Each offense is only related to the current sport being played at that time. Offenses do not carry over from sport to sport.

**All outstanding fees are still due and payable to Dikaios Sports even if the athlete is dismissed from due to dress code violations. No refunds will be granted.

Note: Parents and siblings who attend games and practices must follow the regular Dikaios dress code found in the “Dikaios Christian Educators Association” Handbook.

Parental Responsibilities and Code of Conduct

As parents and athletes of Dikaios Christian Educators Association, we represent our school to those around us, the home educating community and most importantly our Lord Jesus Christ. In light of that we should behave in a manner consistent with the instruction presented in God's word.

While at any Dikaios Sporting events, it is uncomfortable for the adult in charge of the function to discipline someone else's child. With this in mind we present the following guidelines:

1. All in attendance must have proper respect for authority figures, coaches, directors, referees, score keepers or court authorities. Children 10 and under may not attend sporting events unless one parent/guardian is present. If that is not possible, you may assign another adult over 25 years old to be responsible for your child(ren).
2. Those in attendance must act and speak in a manner worthy of the Lord. Unkind words, profanity, obnoxious actions and poor athletic play/jokes that are unbecoming of a Christian are not acceptable and sports functions. (See Phil 4:8 and Eph. 4:29)

Parental involvement, on and off the court/field, is essential to the success of our program. We ask that you pray with us for a safe and fruitful sports season(s) and that we will glorify God in all we do.

For each **home game** our teams will have the task/responsibility of operating the scoreboard and time clock. In some sports we are required to have a family responsible for keeping a scorebook or other similar statistical tracking method. Parents will be required to sign up for these duties so they are shared by all involved. Each parent will receive training if necessary to understand how to work the scoreboard, track statistics, etc. If the assigned parent is unable to fulfill this duty he/she will be accountable for finding someone (18 years or older) who can do the task.

There may be questions that will arise during the season about league rules, compliancy, team play, or general fairness questions. **Please direct all questions or concerns you may have to your team coach or head coach or the athletic director. We ask that you never approach the other team or question referees concerning fairness issues.** Sports can be very exciting and intense for players and spectators alike. However, please keep in mind that our behavior in the stands reflects our walk with the Lord and can affect our team on the court or field of play. League rules state that the coaches are responsible for the behavior of their respective spectators and can be charged with penalties or technical fouls by a referee for any inappropriate conduct.

Conflict Resolution

As much as we all would not like to admit it, we do not enjoy confrontation. Disagreements, misunderstandings, and the lack of communication are some of the leading causes of conflicts and confrontation in any person's life. As believers, the Bible tells us to honor our Lord by reconciling our differences and be a peacemaker (Rom. 12:18, 1 Cor. 10:31) at any cost so that the Lord will not be dishonored.

When/if conflicts arise between coaches, players, parents, and people in general, please follow these biblical guidelines:

1. *If you have sinned against someone:*

After a time in prayer and asking God to search your own heart (Galatians 6:1) (as soon as possible), go privately to the person(s) whom you have offended with Scriptures and ask them for forgiveness (Matt. 5:23-24). They may or may not realize that you sinned against them. Lord willing, they will acknowledge their forgiveness to you. If they do not, pray for them and leave the matter in the Lord's hands.

2. *If you have witnessed someone sinning:*

Again, after prayer, as soon as possible, go privately to that person(s) and graciously present the offence showing them Scripture verses which apply to their sin (Matt. 18:15-17, Luke 17:3-4). After a short period of time (days, depending on the situation), if they still fail to admit their sin after clear evidence, prayerfully bring a godly person with you and confront the person's sin a second time. Thirdly, if they still fail to admit their sin, bring leadership from Dikaivos to help resolve the issue. If the one still fails to confess their sin to the other person, Dikaivos leadership will have the final say and apply appropriate discipline in the matter. If they ask for forgiveness, we must quickly forgive them (2 Cor. 2:7-11). By not following these basic biblical principles, disunity bitterness, anger, wrath, malice, and slander could be the result of not seeking swift reconciliation.