

WCAA/ Trailblazer Parent Handbook

August 2009

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I. WCAA MISSION STATEMENT

Western Carolina Athletic Association exists to offer competitive sports 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, as an organization, to model exemplary behavior to 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 in the community.

II. WCAA website/address:

Western Carolina Athletic Association maintains a website at <http://www.wncaa.org>. Please note that the website domain name is NOT “wcaa” but “wncaa”. At this website, you may access much if not all of the information with which you are being provided in this handbook. 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: wcaa@bellsouth.net

The mailing address for all WCAA correspondence : PO Box 2077 Skyland, NC 28776

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/ TRAILBLAZER BOARD

Who is currently on the WCAA board?

Greg Toney – President/Technology Committee

Brian Davis – Athletic Director/Coach Relations Committee

Ned Gibson – Coach Relations Committee Chair

Julia Gibson –Games Committee

Glenna Toney – Assistant Athletic Director/Games Committee Chair

Mr. Chris Taylor – Treasurer/Financial Committee Chair

Mrs. Chris Taylor – Ingles Scrip Coordinator/Public Relations Committee

Aaron Voigt – Financial Committee

Joy Voigt - Public Relations Committee
Rick Wolfe – WCAA Membership Coordinator /Coach Relations/Technology
Amy Wolfe – Financial Committee
Allen Mullins - Coach Relations Committee
Dari Mullins – Public Relations Committee Chair
Rick Arnette - Equipment Coordinator
Cindy Arnette – Team Manager Coordinator/Games Committee
Tim Whitaker – Coach Relations Committee
Diane Whitaker – Secretary/Games Committee
David Payne – Legal/Technology Committee/ Finance Committee
Kari Payne – Public Relations Committee
Libby Davis – Fundraising Coordinator/ Public Relations Committee
Kathy Kania – Historian/Pubic Relations Committee

What are the responsibilities of the WCAA board members?

Trailblazer board members work hard for your teams. Their work includes planning and organization for all of the Trailblazer seasons, to include: managing the Trailblazer 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 but are not limited to: communications; team photography; management of the Trailblazer store; review of legal issues for protection of our athletes and our organization; coordination of membership, medical, and other necessary paperwork; coordination of Trailblazer sponsors and Ingles Scrip; and management of the <http://www.wncaa.org> website.

How long do board members serve?

Board members typically serve for two years.

V. COACHES

Who are the current coaches for each Trailblazer sport?

Please refer to the www.wncaa.org website for a listing of current Trailblazer coaches.

How are the Trailblazer 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 coaches applications are reviewed by the WCAA board, and all coaches are interviewed (via phone or in person) by one or more members of the Coaches Committee. In addition, all

coaches undergo a criminal background check. The WCAA Coaches Application also requires three references.

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

If you are interested in coaching for WCAA sports, please fill out a Coach Application Form (accessible through the www.wncaa.org website under the “forms” link). These applications go directly to WCAA from the website.

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 many, if not most, of the information sharing for your team. Typically your team manager will provide you with information concerning: volunteer opportunities, planned fundraisers for your team or the Trailblazer 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 tremendously to focus on games and strategy instead of administrative details. Your team manager will also collect any additional funds needed for the team.

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. You should 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 Cindy Arnette or email wcaa@bellsouth.net. Team Managers should be organized people with internet and cell phone access. Coaches will decide on the Team Manager, and Cindy will provide guidance for them. Team Managers are a vital part of the Trailblazer’s success. They provide a link between the parents, coaches, and board members.

VI. COMMUNICATION:

What communication can 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 with athletes their expectations for good sportsmanship within and between teams. Our coaches strive for open communication with all their 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. It is best not to approach them right before or after a game.

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

It depends on what your suggestion/complaint is regarding. If you have a problem with an individual coach WCAA recommends that you set up an appointment with them – (it is best not to 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, fill it out and mail it to the PO Box listed in the first section of the handbook. If your issue is general, then we recommend that you fill out an evaluation form at the end of the season and list your suggestion/complaint. These forms are read by the board and any suggestions for improvements are considered.

VII. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN TRAILBLAZER SPORTS

How old does my athlete need to be to play on a middle school team?

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

..to play on a Junior Varsity team?

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

...to play on a Varsity team?

Due to league rules, Varsity players cannot turn 19 years of age 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 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 can include but is not limited to, temporary suspension of playing time, permanent expulsion from a team, or expulsion from further participation in Trailblazer sports.

Section VIII General Information/Sports

What team sports are currently offered through WCAA? *

Fall – Middle School and JV/Varsity Boys Soccer
Middle School, Junior Varsity and Varsity Girls Volleyball

Winter – Middle School Girls and Boys Basketball
(if enough interest there may also be a Middle School Boys developmental team)
Junior Varsity Boys Basketball
Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball

Spring – Middle School and Varsity Girls Soccer
Middle School and JV/Varsity Boys Baseball
Girls Softball (MS,JV,Varsity – one team)

*Additional teams may be added if necessary.

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 Trailblazer Coaches. This is a great opportunity for homeschool students to try new or different sports. Depending on the sport, there may be a small fee to participate in these sessions which covers gym rental fees.

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 which covers gym rental fees.

Section IX – 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:

May (the prior year) – Fall sports: volleyball, boys soccer

Oct – Basketball

Jan/Feb – Baseball, softball, girls soccer

Who may tryout for the Trailblazer teams?

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

What do I need to do for the tryouts?

Print the forms from the website (listed below) and bring them to tryouts. Parents should sign their athlete in and turn in their required forms and membership fee if needed. A waiver form MUST be signed by a parent before your child will be allowed to tryout. If your athlete is unable to attend all tryouts, then you must notify the coach. WCAA is growing every year and it is recommended you 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). In order to be a member, you must pay the fee and fill out the WCAA Membership form.

Also – BEFORE a student is allowed to tryout, they must have a completed current (within a year) 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 FIRST tryout your child will not be allowed to tryout.

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 Trailblazer teams are highly competitive and your athlete should attend all tryout sessions so the coaches can accurately assess their abilities. 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 but it is not the full participation fee. (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?

The biggest requirement is to attend the **Mandatory** Parent meeting which will be scheduled at the beginning of the season. An Informational Sport Sheet will be distributed at this meeting and 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)

Authorization for Release of Medical Information
Physical Form

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.

(These forms can be printed from the WCAA website www.wncaa.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 homeschool document (NC Division of Non-Public Education form).

Once completed, turn all forms in to your Team Manager along with the registration fee.

It is very important to remember that all forms and the registration fee must be turned in before an athlete can be issued a uniform or allowed to play in a game.

Practice information:

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 requires that practices start no earlier than 2:00 pm. Occasionally, a practice may have to begin before 2:00, 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 online to www.wncaa.org and/or referring to the informational sheet passed out at the beginning of the season.

Practice times/locations are subject to change: however, if this does occur, you should receive an email or phone call from your Team Manager or Coach.

During each sports season, you can view the current practice and game schedules by going to www.wncaa.org and clicking on the appropriate link for your sport or the calendar link.

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, teamwork, 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 homeschooled 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 will need to be purchased for your athlete if your coach requires it. They will be available at a minimal cost. Coaches will decide 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 limiting playing time for those athletes that miss practices. All athletes should remember that practice makes better

and when one member is absent it affects the entire team. WCAA realizes things occur and sometimes athletes are unable to attend; however, we encourage athletes to treat practices seriously and make every effort to attend all practices.

Uniforms:

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 but should be kept for possible use by your athlete for next year.

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

If a uniform is lost or damaged you need to 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 Equipment Coordinator who will decide if it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced. Uniforms can be expensive so please treat them with the utmost care.

How do I care for my uniform?

Trailblazer uniforms are for your 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, so please take care of them. Do not put them in the dryer. It will cause damage to the printing and may also shrink. LINE-DRY ONLY. Please 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. If you would like to purchase practice shirts, contact your Team Manager and he/she will assist you in ordering. 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 as close as possible to the original condition.

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 really dirty or wet during outdoor sports such as softball, baseball, or soccer.

Any time socks or hats are issued to athletes, they do not have to be turned in at the end of the season. Athletes may keep them.

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

Yes. Most sports will require additional equipment. The Informational Sport Sheet which will be handed out at the Parent Meeting will list the needed equipment for your child's sport.

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 have the final decision. Parental Consent will be required.

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 be reached by all of the interested parties. The player MUST be young enough according to NCHE/AC rules in order to be considered for playing on a 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 in the process of securing permanent home game locations for our teams. These locations will be on your individual team sport sheet given out prior to the season.

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; however, many of the teams that play us are a good distance from Asheville. As our program grows, we hope to schedule more of our away games closer to Asheville. WCAA is a member of the NCHE/AC which is our state homeschool athletic conference. This provides our athletes with the opportunity to compete on a state level with other homeschool teams. In order to participate in this conference each team from the western region must play each other twice. Many of these teams are quite a distance away, however we must play these games. WCAA tries to schedule these long distance games on Friday nights, however sometimes they must be played during the week.

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 that they ask the coach what they need to work on in order to gain more playing time. 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. If you are unhappy with your athlete’s amount of playing time we recommend that you set up a time to speak with the coach.

Will my team have any away tournaments?

Most teams will participate in at least the state tournament if NCHE has one. These tournaments usually last 1-3 days and are played somewhere in NC. The dates for these tournaments are known well in advance and players should make EVERY effort to attend these tournaments. Some teams will participate in higher level tournaments such as a National tournament or the Homeschool World Series (for baseball). These dates are also known well in advance and provide the athletes with some great experiences. 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 have your athlete attend. When a player is absent, it affects the entire team’s performance.

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 accommodation arrangements for overnight tournaments and how is this communicated to me?

Parents are responsible for arranging their own accommodations for any overnight tournaments. The Team Manager may coordinate suggested hotels so families can stay together. Those hotels will be communicated via email, but you will have to call and make your own arrangements.

What behavior is expected from spectators at Trailblazer 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 with 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. The referees have a very difficult job, and they will not always make the correct calls. However, it is very important that we show them respect.

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- Have the AD or Assistant AD sign the form – **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. WCAA WILL NOT FILE THE CLAIM FOR YOU.**

What potential WCAA awards are available for my athlete?

A complete listing and description of the awards is listed in Section XVI of this handbook. WCAA gives out several season recognition awards and all participants will receive a participation certificate. Varsity letters are also given to those athletes who play on a varsity team. At the tournaments, additional awards are usually given. Many times, Tournament Directors will name an All-tournament team. These awards vary from a certificate to a plaque – it depends on the tournament. If a team places first in a state or national tournament, then WCAA will purchase individual trophies or plaques for those team members if individual trophies are not awarded by the tournament.

XI. COSTS

How much does it cost to play?

Participation costs for a Trailblazer 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 (Western Carolina Athletic Association). **Payment MUST be received BEFORE your athlete will**

be allowed to participate in his/her first game. The cost for your sport will be listed on the website and on the Informational Sport Sheet given out at the beginning of the season.

Do practice players pay the same amount as players who have made the team?

Practice players pay half of the fee, do not receive a uniform, and are eligible for practice only – no games. They must complete all the paperwork that other athletes complete, in order to participate.

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 associated with playing a sport that are not covered in the season fee?

Trailblazer teams play home games as well as away games. Additional costs will therefore include transportation costs including gas/food money for your athlete. If your athlete carools with another family, share the cost of gas money, and provide your athlete with enough money to provide for his/her own food and snack needs. There will also be additional costs if/when a team attends a tournament.

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.

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

Family passes will be available for purchase in advance for some sports. These passes will cover the entire season. A family pass only covers home games, and is sold only for basketball and volleyball. The cost of the passes will be determined at the beginning of every season. The season pass does provide a discount compared to the cost of home games without a pass.

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

Parents should expect a gate fee for all games. Although WCAA does not charge a gate fee for soccer, baseball, or softball, some opposing teams do charge. There are gate fees at almost all indoor sports games such as volleyball and basketball.

How may I help defray costs for my athlete?

WCAA participates in the Ingles Scrip program which helps provide money to WCAA as well as its athletes. Please see the WCAA website for more information on how the program works and for a list of Scrip Coordinators. Athletes may also get sponsorships to help offset the cost of playing for a WCAA team. WCAA has several fundraisers throughout the year that athletes are expected to participate in. Details regarding the fundraising events will be discussed at the parent meeting.

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.

XII. TRANSPORTATION

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 traveling to these games or making 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 that student athletes not drive to away games. WCAA is NOT liable for accidents which occur en route to games and/or practices.

Will the teams carpool to away games?

Teams may meet at a central location to travel to away games. The Team Managers will help coordinate the meeting place, but YOU are responsible for making sure your athlete has a ride to the game.

At times, athletes will need to have a ride to a game. Parents are asked to assist in getting these athletes to games. We don't want a child to miss a game or practice because they don't have a ride.

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.

XIII. FUNDRAISERS/VOLUNTEERING/LOGO items

Am I required to participate in fundraiser activities?

At least one representative from every family is expected to participate in the fundraiser for their sport season. Parents are always encouraged to help as much as possible.

Is my athlete required to participate in fundraiser activities?

All athletes are required to participate in the fundraiser that is held during their sport season. The dates for these will be available in advance of the season and athletes should arrange their schedule in order to participate.

What kinds of fundraisers are held by the Trailblazers?

One major fundraiser will be held per sports season. The exact fundraisers will be announced as the season approaches. The fundraisers in the past have included car washes, shoot-a-thons (basketball), yard sales, spring formal dances and selling donuts. The fundraisers for the year will be announced prior to the season. Families may receive a percentage reduction on their sports fees by participating in the fundraiser for their sport.

How many fundraisers will the Trailblazers hold each year?

One major fundraiser per season will be held. Other voluntary fundraisers such as restaurant nights, fun nights may occur throughout the year.

What are “restaurant nights” and how can I participate? Do these nights “count” toward my required fundraiser volunteer hours?

Restaurant nights are fundraisers where a restaurant has agreed to give a set amount of their proceeds to the Trailblazers on a given night. Often times, they give according to the amount of participation by our organization. These are great nights for fellowship & camaraderie but families are not required to participate. These nights **do not** count toward your required fundraiser volunteer hours.

How can I participate in the Trailblazer program as a parent?

There are many opportunities for you as a parent to participate with the Trailblazers. A list of volunteer opportunities is available from any board member. Volunteer areas include: team manager, gate and concessions during games, providing transportation to games, taking pictures and preparing a video for the end of season sports banquet and many more areas of opportunity.

Fundraising is always a key place where we need help. Encourage your athlete to participate and you participate with him/her. Volunteer hours are required by parents during the season(s) their athletes play.

Show your spirit by attending games and by attending other team games

Help make posters and signs in support of the Trailblazers

Make sure and get your athlete’s paperwork and money in on time!

If your family owns a business, see our website for sponsorship information.

Does volunteering for concessions/cleanup/gate, team manger, etc. for a team count as my required fundraiser participation time?

No, you are required to help with this as a part of the team; it is not a part of your fundraiser participation.

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, you will be asked your preferences and abilities for contribution to the organization. The current list of opportunities for involvement include: advertising, programs, parking cars, set up, clean up, security detail, photography, fund raising, food preparation, pep club organization, poster making, hospitality, sewing, secretarial, and light construction.

Game jobs. During the season, all families must volunteer for game jobs. These are the various duties that make the game happen. Below are the specific jobs required for each sport

During the season, ALL families must volunteer for various duties during their athlete’s games.

Below are generally the volunteer duties required for each sport. There are many other areas where parents are asked to volunteer. A complete list will be given out at the Parent Meetings.

Volleyball

- Team Manager
- Scoreclock (home games)
- Scorekeeper (this duty should be shared among at least 3 people)
- Line Judges (at least one per game, possibly two)
- Concession (home games, one to two people)
- Gate (home games)
- Set Up Gym (home games-parents of the first team to play sets up the gym)
- Close Down Gym (home games-parents of the last team to play closes down the gym)
- Hospitality Representative – (someone who meets and greets the opposing team at home games, show them the dressing rooms, etc.)

Boys Soccer

- Team Manager
- Scorekeeper (this duty should be shared among at least 3 people)
- Hospitality Representative – (someone who meets and greets the opposing team at home games)

Basketball

- Team Manager
- Scoreclock (home games)
- Scorekeeper (this duty should be shared among at least 3 people)
- Concession (home games, one to two people)
- Gate (home games)
- Set Up Gym (home games-parents of the first team to play sets up the gym)
- Close Down Gym (home games-parents of the last team to play closes down the gym)
- Hospitality Representative – (someone who meets and greets the opposing team at home games)

Girls Soccer

- Team Manager
- Scorekeeper (this duty should be shared among at least 3 people)
- Hospitality Representative – (someone who meets and greets the opposing team at home games)

Baseball

- Scorekeeper (this duty should be shared among at least 3 people)
- Hospitality Representative - (someone who meets and greets the opposing team at home games)

Softball

- Scorekeeper (this duty should be shared among at least 3 people)

-Hospitality Representative - (someone who meets and greets the opposing team at home games)

How do I order Trailblazer logo items, and how much do they cost?

See Diane Whitaker for complete list of items available and their cost. Tdwhitaker7@aol.com

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

Any use of the Traiblazer name or logo MUST be approved by the WCAA Board. If you are wanting to use the name or logo, submit in writing what you want to use it for and why and email it to wcaa@bellsouth.net. You must give the board at least one month notice to approve or deny your request.

XIV. 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 TB issued practice clothing and equipment. This is handled individually by team. 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). Simply, this is a token of appreciation.

XV. LEGAL INFORMATION/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.

XVI. PHOTOGRAPHY:

Will team pictures be taken? When?

Team pictures may be scheduled. Each Team Manager will take a team picture sometime during the season and email it to the Historian.

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

As a participant in TB athletics, a parent has signed a release authorizing photography to be taken of their athlete. Photographic representations of athletes and spectators is possible and attendance at WCAA events implies permission.

May I "opt out" of any photographs or photographic representations of my athlete?

No, WCAA wants to document the seasons.

XVI. 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 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, 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? How is this determined?

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 and
- c) he/she has played in 1/3 of the Varsity games or
- d) he/she has been awarded a letter by the Varsity Coach at the Coach's discretion.

What if my athlete has already received a letter?

For the first year the varsity athlete receives a letter and a pin in their perspective 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 following, but is not awarded another letter by WCAA. The athlete can purchase another letter for a second sport if he/she so desires.

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 they have received a Varsity Letter. Julia Gibson, jgibson7@charter.net, will have the information about purchasing jackets at the Awards Nights.

XIII. Miscellaneous information

Can I award high school credit on my athlete's transcript if he/she plays a Trailblazer 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 toward these hours. 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 CAN NOT 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?

The selection process for collegiate athletes has drastically changed over the last ten years. Parents and athletes must be very proactive to get noticed by college scouts. 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 then 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.