

# LAKEWOOD PARK

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## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## A Handbook for Athletes, & Parents 2010-2011

Athletic Director: Don Davis  
260.925.1393 x.238  
[ddavis@lakewoodpark.org](mailto:ddavis@lakewoodpark.org)

Part I-Lakewood Park Athletics

## **Lakewood Park Christian School Mission Statement**

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To promote a biblical worldview as the foundation for educational excellence in partnership with the Christian home and church.

*“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:10*

## **Purpose for Athletic Department**

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To support and assist in accomplishing the mission of Lakewood Park church and school.

### **To teach student athletes how to...**

**Love** God and others

**Learn** for a lifetime

**Live** their lives on purpose

**Lead** others to Christ

## **Vision**

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### ***Champions for Life***

We train our student athletes to be champions spiritually, socially and academically, to connect their culture with Christ. Our student athletes are taught to be champions for life both inside and outside the lines of competition as they serve a lifetime in Christ who transforms their hearts, relationships, and careers.

**Commitment** – deciding to invest for a purpose

**Humble & Hungry**- God gave you the ability; it is your job to maximize it

**Attitude of Gratitude** – be thankful in every situation

**Mental toughness** - ability to focus on the job at hand no matter the obstacle

**Passion** - unusual excitement, enthusiasm or compelling emotion that motivates us serve Christ

**Integrity** – living above reproach according to God’s standards

**Ownership** – taking personal responsibility for actions that lead to success or failure

**Never quit** – giving your all to the end

**Servant Leadership** – giving of yourself to others for the purpose of leading them to Christ

## **Our Philosophy of Athletics**

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*The main approach to athletics must stem directly from the school's Christian*

*philosophy of education since it is foundational to every part of the total school program. A brief philosophical statement of athletics is "to develop the athlete spiritually, mentally, and physically so that his spirit, mind, and body are directed and controlled by the Holy Spirit." (I Thessalonians 5:23)*

I Corinthians 10:31 states, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it for the glory of God." Therefore, the Christians athlete ought to strive for excellence because he is motivated by the desire to use his talents for "the glory of God." By using I Corinthians 10:31 as a biblical base, there are three basic facts that constitute the Christian Philosophy of Athletics.

- First, athletics is a ministry. Lakewood Park Christian School seeks to minister to others. There are a number of methods of outreach in which the Panther athletes may be involved. These would include post-game entertainment, prayer, testimonies, one-on-one evangelism, and witnessing. Sportsmanship and appearance are also very important in helping the athletes realize their responsibility "to show forth Christ through sports."
- Second, athletics is a method of achieving goals. Some of these goals should include showing school spirit, promoting LPCS, glorifying Christ, seeking God's best, and developing as a total person.
- Third, athletics is a means to an end. Each individual athlete must desire to excel for the glory of God. By doing so, an athlete will tell the world that a Christian is capable of being competitive in sports as well as being totally dedicated to Christ. Athletics is a great tool to propagate the Gospel of Christ to unbelievers.

Like everything else in the Christian life, athletics must be kept in balance. As Paul reminds us in I Timothy 4:8, "bodily exercise profiteth little." In other words, we must strive to keep athletics at Lakewood Park Christian School in the proper perspective. Athletics are to be fun and helpful in the Christian life, and also to build the character of Christ in each athlete. Jesus Christ is alive! Let's make it known through sports at Lakewood Park Christian School!

## Part II-Parent/Student Participation

### Opportunities for Students

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#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Coed Soccer, Girl's Volleyball, Girl's Basketball, Boys Basketball, Coed Golf

#### **Junior High:**

Coed Soccer, Girl's Volleyball, Girl's Basketball, Boys Basketball, Cheerleading, Coed Golf,

#### **High School:**

Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Cheerleading, Boys Golf, Girls Softball, Boys Baseball

### Opportunities for Parents

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1. Grabill Corn Booth

- a. Coordinator
  - b. Volunteer workers
- 2. 5K ACD race
  - a. Race coordinator
  - b. Sponsor ship coordinator
  - c. Volunteer workers
- 3. Concession Stand
  - a. Coordinator
  - b. Volunteer workers
- 4. Run the clock for home games
- 5. Baseball, softball & soccer field maintenance
- 6. Pep club
- 7. Event promotion-we are always seeking to increase attendance and school sprit at Lakewood park events.
- 8. Team celebration
- 9. College entrance coordinator
- 10. Alumni coordinator

## **Part III-Orientations & Meetings**

### **Parent Meetings**

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Each team will have a parent meeting led by the coach prior to the first game.

## **Part IV-Parent/Athlete Code of Conduct**

### **Expectations of Conduct**

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The manner in which **athletes** conduct themselves during school and at school-related activities reflects upon them, their team, their school, and their God. Students, by joining a team, accept the responsibility to observe policies established by the school, athletic department and the IHSAA. Failure to observe these policies may result in disciplinary action and/or removal from the team.

**Parents and Fans** are expected to observe the same policies established by the school, athletic department, and IHSAA. Parents failing to observe these policies will be asked to leave the premises or facility immediately. No **athlete** or **parent** may publicly criticize or berate an official, coach, or other athletes prior to, during or following a contest. Under no circumstance will an athlete or parent confront, question, challenge, rebuke or threaten any coach, athlete, or official.

Officials and school administrators are responsible for the control of spectators during an athletic contest. Officials are responsible for the contest itself. Spectators will either be asked to restrain themselves or leave the premises if they interfere with the conduct of a contest or cause an official, coach, or athlete to become distracted through continual, verbal abuse.

## **Coach-Parent Partnership**

Research is clear that when parents and teachers work together a child tends to do better in school. There is no reason to think that it is any different in youth sports. The following are some guidelines for how parents can contribute to a Coach/Parent Partnership that can help the athlete have the best possible experience.

1. **Recognize the Commitment the Coach Has Made:** The coach has made a commitment that involves many, many hours of preparation beyond the hours spent at practices and games. Recognize his commitment and the fact that he is not doing it because of the pay! Try to remember this whenever something goes awry during the season.
2. **Make Early, Positive Contact with the Coach:** As soon as you know who your child's coach is going to be, contact her to introduce yourself and let her know you want to help your child have the best experience she can have this season. To the extent that you can do so, ask if there is any way you can help. By getting to know the coach early and establishing a positive relationship, it will be much easier to talk with her later if a problem arises.
3. **Fill the Coach's Emotional Tank:** When the coach is doing something you like, let him know about it. Coaching is a difficult job and most coaches only hear from parents when they want to complain about something. This will help fill the coach's emotional tank and contribute to his doing a better job. It also makes it easier to raise problems later when you have shown support for the good things he is doing. And just about every coach does a lot of things well. Take the time to look for them.
4. **Don't Put the Player in the Middle:** Imagine a situation around the dinner table, in which a child's parents complain in front of her about how poorly her math teacher is teaching fractions. How would this impact this student's motivation to work hard to learn fractions? How would it affect her love of mathematics? While this may seem farfetched, when we move away from school to youth sports, it is all too common for parents to share their disapproval of a coach with their children. This puts a young athlete in a bind. Divided loyalties do not make it easy for a child to do her best. Conversely, when parents support a coach, it is that much easier for the child to put her wholehearted effort into learning to play well. If you think your child's coach is not handling a situation well, do not tell that to the player. Rather, seek a meeting with the coach in which you can talk with her about it.
5. **Don't Give Instructions During a Game or Practice:** You are not one of the coaches, so do not give your child instructions about how to play. It can be very confusing for a child to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions during a game. As in #4 above, if you have an idea for a tactic, go to the coach and offer it to him. Then let him decide whether he is going to use it or not. If he

- decides not to use it, let it be. Getting to decide those things is one of the privileges he has earned by making the commitment to coach.
6. **Fill Your Child's Emotional Tank:** Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to be there for your child. Competitive sports are stressful to players and the last thing they need is a critic at home. Be a cheerleader for your child. Focus on the positive things she is doing and leave the correcting of mistakes to the coach. Let her know you support her without reservation regardless of how well she plays.
  7. **Fill the Emotional Tanks of the Entire Team:** Cheer for all of the players on the team. Tell each of them when you see them doing something well.
  8. **Encourage Other Parents to Honor the God:** Don't show disrespect for the other team or the officials. But more than that encourage other parents to also Honor God. If a parent of a player on your team begins to berate the official, gently say to them, "Hey, that's not honoring God. That's not the way we do things here."

## **Part V-Athlete/Parent Procedures**

### **Eligibility**

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#### **Academics**

- Grades are figured on the previous or present nine-week grading period, depending on when the season begins. Spring grades will determine fall eligibility for the next school year.
- Students must be enrolled in 6 courses.
- A student must maintain at least a 75% average, with no F in any subject, academic or non-academic to remain eligible.
- A student can become ineligible at the end of any quarter and will remain ineligible until the appropriate improvement has occurred. This is determined at the Midterms of each quarter. If at that time they are meeting the requirements academically, they are able to be reinstated as an eligible player for their team.

#### **Game Day Attendance**

- A student must be present for 4 of 8 periods to be eligible to participate in extra curricular activities that school day. The same is true for Friday attendance before extra curricular activities on the following Saturday.
- On days with less than 8 periods students must be present for half the time school is in session.
- Absences must be excused as determined by the administration if the student is to participate in the game.
- School mandated absence will be assessed by the administration to determine if athlete can participate in that evenings sporting event after an absence.

#### **Attendance for Practice**

Attendance is required at all practice sessions unless the student is ill or their parents have made a prior request. Students are encouraged to refrain from scheduling any appointments

during practice sessions. The coach will deal with an unexcused absence in a manner that he/she feels is appropriate. The second unexcused absence by the student will constitute dismissal from the team or cheerleading squad. The general guidelines for excusing players from practice and/or games are as follows:

- Illness or death in family is excused
- Emergency doctor dentist visits are excused. Regular appointments are not. Each team has several days off during which these things can be scheduled.
- Jobs, babysitting, parents benching a player, and academic or conduct ineligibility are not excused because of the impact they can have on other team members.
- Expectations to the above rules may be permitted. If a player or family has a legitimate reason why the athletic cannot attend a certain practice, the coach must be notified well in advance of the practice time that will be missed (the day before does not constitute an advance warning.) Ultimately, the coach and administration with administration, having the final say, will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused.

### **Early Dismissals**

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- Because of travel, it is sometimes necessary for teams to leave school prior to normal dismissal times. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to arrange with teachers to make up any missed work.

### **Game day attire**

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- Student/athletes are expected to dress appropriately while traveling to and from athletic events. Each coach will determine appropriate dress for the team in conformity with school policy.

### **Transportation**

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- The head coach is responsible for all transportation arrangements to and from away contest. Please reserve the mini bus well in advance in the athletic office.
- Student/Athletes should travel with the team to games. Player may ride home from games with parents, only if parents receive permission from the coach or sponsor.
- The head coach should communicate to the athletic office early departure times from school for away contests.
- Students are not to be used as drivers to athletic events. Coaches, parents, and adult volunteers shall drive all buses and other vehicles, and must be on the approved driver list.

### **Approved Driver Information for mini bus use**

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To become an approved bus driver you must complete the following steps:

- See administrative assistant in school office  
**Colleen McCarthy**  
260.925.1393 x. 219  
[cmccarthy@lakewoodpark.org](mailto:cmccarthy@lakewoodpark.org)
- Watch a short bus training video
- Sign and return video statement
- Read and keep "Bus Usage Notes"
- Pass a Department of Transportation Physical
- Upon completion of all steps administrative assistant will add driver to approved driver list

### **Uniform**

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- Athletes are responsible to take proper care of uniforms and return them in good condition. Lost or damaged uniforms must be replaced by the athlete. Uniforms are to be worn only for games.
- Lakewood Park uniforms should only be worn for regular season games and contests

## **Conduct**

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- Conduct in and out of the classroom and/or athletic area that is detrimental to the team and/or school will result in disciplinary action. Suspension or removal from a team may be determined by the coach after meeting with the parents and the Athletic Director. Suspension or removal from a team may be determined by the school administration for repeated conduct offenses

## **Anti-Hazing**

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- The Department of Athletics at Lakewood Park Christian School has a "zero tolerance" policy in regard to hazing. As such, the department supports only those activities which are constructive, educational, inspirational, and that contribute to the intellectual and personal development of students. Lakewood Park Athletics unequivocally opposes any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Lakewood Park interprets **hazing** as any act whether physical, mental, emotional, or psychological, which subjects another person, **voluntarily or involuntarily**, to anything that may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harass, or intimidate him/her, or compels another member to participate in any activity which is against university policy or state/federal law.
- Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to, departmental or school probation, suspension from the team and/or the school; expulsion from the team and/or school. In addition, the team may be subject to group discipline that can include, but is not limited to, team probation, cancellation of individual contests, and/or cancellation of the entire season.

## **Varsity level**

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- At the Varsity level, the commitment is to field the best possible teams.
- Playing time at the Varsity level, is determined by coaching decisions made during practice and while contest are in progress.

## **Middle School level**

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- Middle School teams are comprised of 6th – 8th grade students.
- Middle School teams are members of the Tri-County Athletic Conference with tournaments at the end of each season.

## **Awards**

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- Junior High sports will be allowed 2 awards of the coaches' choice and the Panther Award for each team. JV/Varsity sports will be allowed 3 awards of the coaches' choice and the Panther Award for each team.
- Letter winners- Student athletes must be in grades 9 through 12 and have participated in 50% of all halves of the season. The student will be awarded an athletic letter and certificate

# **Part VI - IHSAA Eligibility**

## To Students

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**Your high school years** will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments you will ever experience. Competition in interschool athletics is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which will influence you forever.

**Your participation** in high school athletics is dependent on your eligibility.

**Keep** that eligibility. Read the following summary of Indiana High School Athletic Association rules which govern your participation.

**Review** the rules with your parents/guardians. Ask questions of your principal, athletic director/s and coaches.

## To Parents

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**The value** of participating in athletics has been well documented. Participants earn better grades, have better attendance and have a greater chance for success in later life than non-participants.

**Students must** meet certain standards in order to maintain the privileges of competition.

**Review** the following rules with your son or daughter. Your role in stressing and supporting the value of following these rules cannot be emphasized enough.

### From the IHSAA

The Indiana High School Athletic Association has been the governing body of high school athletics in our state since 1903. Your school is a voluntary member of the IHSAA and has agreed to follow its rules. Both your school and the IHSAA believe in equal competition among schools and the close relationship between academics and athletics. The IHSAA rules listed in this brochure are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. All rules are found in the IHSAA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation publication. Your principal and athletic director/s have copies. An on-line version also is located on our website: [www.ihsaa.org](http://www.ihsaa.org)

## You are ineligible if:

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### Age

- You are 20 years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals tournament in a sport.

### Amateurism

- You play under an assumed name.
- You accept money or merchandise directly or indirectly from athletic participation.
- You sign a professional contract in that sport.

### Awards and Gifts

- You receive in recognition for your athletic ability any award not approved by your high school principal or the IHSAA.
- You use or accept merchandise as an award, prize, gift or loan or purchase such for a token sum.
- You accept awards, medals, recognitions, gifts and honors from colleges/universities or their alumni.

### Conduct and Character

- You conduct yourself in or out of school in a way which reflects discredit on your school or the IHSAA.
- You create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral and educational environment in your school.

### Enrollment

- You did not enroll in school during the first 15 days of a semester.

- You have been enrolled more than four consecutive years, or the equivalent (e.g. 8 semesters or 12 tri-mesters, etc.), beginning with grade 9.
- You have represented a high school in a sport for more than four years.

#### **Illness and Injury**

- You are absent five or more consecutive school days due to illness or injury and do not present to your principal written verification from a physician licensed to practice medicine stating that you may resume participation.

#### **Participation**

##### **During Contest Season**

- You participate in try-outs or demonstrations of athletic ability in that sport as a prospective post-secondary school student athlete.
- You participate in a non-school contest that required participation during school time, without gaining approval by the school principal or his/her designee.
- You participate in a practice with or against players not belonging to your school.
- You participate in a non-school-sponsored contest without an approved waiver.
- You attend a non-school camp.
- You attend and participate in a student-clinic.

##### **During School Year Out-of-Season**

- You participate in a team sport contest as a member of a non-school team where there are more than the following number of students listed below in each sport, including incoming freshmen, who have participated the previous year in a contest as a member of their school team in that sport.  
Basketball - 3 Baseball - 5 Football - 6  
Volleyball - 3 Softball - 5 Soccer - 6
- You receive instruction in team sports from individuals who are members of your high school coaching staff (Exception: open facility).

##### **During Summer**

- You attend a non-school fall sports camp and/or clinic after Monday of Week 4 (See your athletic director for specific dates).
- You attend any other non-school camp and/or clinic after Monday of Week 5 (See your athletic director for specific dates).

##### **Practice**

- You have not completed the required number of separate days of organized practice in your sport under the direct supervision of the high school coaching staff in your sport preceding participation in a contest.

##### **Scholarship**

- You did not pass 70% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student can take in your previous grading period. Semester grades take precedence.
- You are not currently passing 70% of the full credit subjects or the equivalent that a student can take.

##### **Consent and Release Certificate**

- You do not have the completed certificate on file with your principal each school year, between May 1 and your first practice.

#### **Transfer**

- You transfer from one school to another primarily for athletic reasons.

- You were not enrolled in your present high school your last semester or at a junior high school from which your high school receives its students unless —
- You are entering the 9th grade for the first time.
- You are transferring from a school district or territory with a bona fide move by your parents.
- You are a ward of the court.
- You are an orphan.
- You transfer to reside with a parent.
- Your former school closed.
- Your former school is not an IHSAA member school and is not accredited by the state accrediting agency in the state where the school is located.
- Your transfer was pursuant to school board mandate for redistricting.
- You enrolled and/or attended, in error, a wrong school.
- You transferred from a correctional school.
- You are emancipated.
- You did not participate in any contests as a representative of another school during the preceding 365 days.
- You return to an IHSAA member school from a non-member school and reside with the same parent/s or guardian/s.
- You transfer to a member boarding school with a corresponding move from the residence of your parent/s or you transfer
- From a member boarding school with a corresponding move to the residence of your parent/s.
- You are a qualified foreign exchange student attending under an approved CSJET program, who has attended a member
- school for less than one year.

#### **Undue Influence**

- You have been influenced by any person to secure you as a student or one or both parents or guardians as residents.

## **College Choice**

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**Choosing the right level of college or university** for athletic participation for a student athlete is important. The following associations govern most play in college athletics:

#### **NCAA Eligibility**

<http://www.ncaa.org> – Go to Eligibility and Recruiting and you will find all the information concerning NCAA eligibility and recruiting.

#### **NCAA clearinghouse**

<http://eligibilitycenter.org> – every student athlete that wants to compete at the NCAA Division 1 or Division 2 level must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse

The **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)** is a voluntary association of about 1,281 institutions, conferences, organizations and individuals that organizes the athletic programs of many colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. The NCAA is structured in three divisions: I, II, and III. There are subdivisions Division I for football. Under NCAA rules, Division I and Division II schools can offer scholarships to athletes for playing a sport, where athletic scholarships may not be offered at Division III schools.

#### **NAIA Eligibility**

<http://naia.cstv.com>

Freshman Eligibility Requirements

The **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)** is an athletic association of 300 members that organizes athletic programs for smaller colleges and universities in North America. The NAIA sponsors 23 national championships. The NAIA has two divisions, I and II, which differ in the amount of scholarships available: a total of 11 full scholarships in Division I and six in Division II.

### **NCCAA Eligibility**

<http://www.thenccaa.org>

#### **Freshman Eligibility Requirements**

The **National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA)** is an association of Christ-centered collegiate institutions whose mission is to use athletic competition as an integral component of education, evangelism and encouragement. The NCCAA has approximately 100 members in Divisions I and II. Division I schools can offer scholarships to athletes for playing a sport, where athletic scholarships may not be offered at Division II schools.

Colleges and universities may be members of more than one athletic association provided the guidelines for membership are compatible. There are a number of Christian colleges and universities that are members of both the NAIA and NCCAA or the NCAA and the NCCAA.

### **Recruiting Process -**

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1. Fill out the College Choice form and return it to the athletic department.
2. Use the internet to search for colleges that meet your criteria.
  - a. Religious
  - b. Size of school
  - c. Area of the country
  - d. Academics
  - e. Level of athletics
3. Visit the athletic website of school that meet your criteria and fill out the “Athletic Questionnaire”, “Prospect Form”, “Perspective Athlete Form” are all names for the Questionnaire that you are looking for.
4. You can fill out these Questionnaire forms for as many colleges and universities as you wish. These forms get you registered in the athletic departments.
5. Communicate with coaches in a timely and professional manner.
6. Work with your coach to provide college coaches with stats and game film upon request.
7. Take ownership of your college choice

### **College Choice Form –**

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Deciding where you will attend college is one of the biggest decisions of your life and should not be taken lightly. In the United States there are thousands of colleges and universities and looking at all of them can become very overwhelming. There are five criteria that can quickly narrow down your list of potential college choices from overwhelming to manageable. Each student will have different desires and values but each must be taken into consideration and be factored into your college decision.

1. Do you want to attend a religious college or university? \_\_\_\_\_yes            \_\_\_\_\_ no

Do you have a preference of denomination?

2. What area of the country would you like to go to school in?

\_\_\_ 1-2 hours away        \_\_\_ 2-5 hours away        \_\_\_ 5-10 hours away

\_\_\_ In-state                \_\_\_ Out-of-State

3. What size of school do you would like to attend?

Number of Students

\_\_\_ 0-500        \_\_\_ 500-5000        \_\_\_ 5000-10,000        \_\_\_ 10,000+

4. What area of study do you want to pursue?

5. Do you want to play college athletics? Which?

Rank according to importance 1-5, 1 lowest and 5 being the highest.

- \_\_\_ Religious College
- \_\_\_ Area of the country
- \_\_\_ Size of school
- \_\_\_ Academics
- \_\_\_ Athletics