

# Lighthouse Christian Athletics

## Youth Protection Policy

Revised July 2024

Lighthouse Christian Chargers has implemented these protocols to ensure the safety and welfare of its participants, parents, organizational staff and volunteers. While these measures are primarily aimed at safeguarding youth participants, they also extend protection to adult coaches, other organizational leaders, and parents.

### **Two-Deep Leadership Policy for Outings:**

Every outing must follow the Two-Deep Leadership requirement. This entails having a minimum of two adult Coach/leaders approved by the Lighthouse Christian Chargers organization present. Alternatively, one approved leader can be accompanied by a participating parent or another adult. These adults must be aged 21 or older.

### **Adult Supervision for Coed Activities:**

For overnight coed trips and outings, the presence of both male and female adult leaders, each aged 21 or older, is mandatory, regardless of parent-child participation. Additionally, one of these leaders must be a board-approved coach/leader of the Lighthouse Christian Chargers.

### **Prohibition of One-on-One Contact:**

For the 14U and younger teams, one-on-one coach-to-player communication in person, via phone, social media, or other digital communication method is prohibited, and Coaches are expected to communicate with the player's parents/guardian. For older teams coach-to-player communication in person, via phone or social media is allowed but must include one other coach, leader, or parent of the individual; additionally, all communications must respect the player's privacy and wishes of the player's parents.

### **Hotels/Camps:**

It is necessary to provide age-appropriate and separate lodging for adults and athletes. Sharing a room or suite with a person of the opposite sex is only permitted if they are the adult's spouse, sibling, or child.

For youth members, sharing a room or suite with an adult or someone of the opposite sex who is not a family member or guardian is not allowed. In addition, avoid assigning youth members who are more than two years apart in age to sleep in the same area unless they are relatives.

### **Shower Facilities:**

Wherever possible, it is recommended to have separate shower and restroom facilities designated for male and female adults as well as male and female youth. If separate facilities are unavailable, scheduling and posting separate shower times should be arranged.

### **Respect for Youth Privacy:**

The privacy of youth must be upheld at all times. Adult leaders and youth alike are obligated to respect each other's privacy, particularly during activities such as changing clothes and showering at camps. Adults should only enter youth changing or showering areas when necessary for health and safety reasons. Likewise, adults should safeguard their own privacy in similar situations.

**Electronic Devices:**

The improper use of smartphones, cameras, imaging, or digital devices is strictly forbidden. While many individuals employ cameras and other imaging devices responsibly, it is simple to inadvertently infringe upon the privacy of others with such tools. It is inappropriate to use any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in or around shower facilities, restrooms, or any other areas where privacy is anticipated.

**Supervision of Youth Leadership:**

The guidance of youth leadership is the responsibility of adult leaders within the organization. They are tasked with monitoring and directing the leadership approaches adopted by youth leaders, always ensuring adherence to policies.

**Dress Code:**

All activities mandate appropriate attire. Participants are required to wear suitable clothing for each activity, and adhere to the rules given forth by the individual sport they are participating in.

**Zero Tolerance for Hazing:**

Hazing and initiations are strictly prohibited and may not be incorporated into any Lighthouse Christian Chargers activity.

**Anti-Bullying Policy:**

Verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are expressly forbidden within the Lighthouse Christian Chargers.

**Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse:**

Anyone associated with Lighthouse Christian Chargers is required to promptly report to local authorities any sincere suspicion or belief of child abuse, including physical or sexual abuse, neglect, exposure to violence or threats, and any form of sexual exploitation, such as possession or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, or the viewing of obscene material. This duty cannot be delegated to another individual.

Immediate notification to the Lighthouse Christian Chargers Board ([board@lcachargers.com](mailto:board@lcachargers.com)) is also mandatory in the event of such reports or violations of the organization's Youth Protection policies. This ensures appropriate actions are taken for the safety of our athletes, including making necessary notifications and cooperating with investigating agencies. State-specific mandatory reporting guidelines can be found at [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov).

**Shared Responsibility and Biblical Principles:**

Both adult leaders and youth members share the responsibility of upholding biblical principles and following the example set by Christ. Our program unequivocally condemns behaviors such as physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, possession of unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rituals, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal abuse, drug and alcohol use, and pornography. Violations of these principles may lead to the revocation of eligibility to participate or lead any team or athletic event.

**Monitoring and Intervention:**

Coaches and leaders within Lighthouse Christian Chargers teams are tasked with monitoring the behavior of youth members and fellow leaders, intervening when necessary. In cases of misbehavior by youth members, parents should be promptly informed and asked for assistance.

**Incidents Requiring Immediate Reporting to the Lighthouse Christian Chargers Board of Directors:**

Any of the following occurrences require prompt reporting to the board for immediate action:

- Any instance involving the threat or use of a weapon, or other act of violence.
- Any reports made to authorities where either the Lighthouse Christian Chargers' Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse policy or your state's mandatory reporting laws for child abuse are applicable.
- Any child abuse incidents meeting state reporting criteria for bullying or harassment.
- Any instances of mentioned or threatened suicide.

In cases where someone is in immediate danger, please dial 911.

### **Everyone's Duties:**

- Immediately stop the policy violation or abusive behavior.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of the youth involved.
- Separate the alleged victim from the alleged perpetrator.
- Call for necessary assistance (911, EMS, additional leaders, etc.).
- Inform the parents of the situation.
- Notify the relevant Lighthouse Christian Chargers Leader/Coach.

This policy has been sanctioned by the Lighthouse Christian Chargers Board. For inquiries or issues, please contact the Board of Directors at ***board@lchargers.com***.