



**The Cushman School's
Athletic Handbook**

**Athletic Director: Kyllene Weiss
Assistant Athletic Director:
Phillip Calloway**

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The Cushman Athletic Department Directory

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Assistant Athletic Director:

Philip Calloway

Phone Number: Cell

(305)926-6706

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pcalloway@cushmanschool.org

Fall Sport Coaching Staff:

Cheerleading:

Marcey Payne

Phone Number:

Cell 704-258-4040

JV Volleyball:

Deirdre Murphy

Phone Number:

Cell 757-570-6767

Varsity Volleyball:

Steven Cousins

Phone Number:

(305)528-5369

Varsity Volleyball:

Kyllene Weiss

Phone Number:

786-251-8813

Cross Country:

Julian Gates

Phone Number:

Cell 786-457-0294

Cross Country:

Phillip Calloway

Phone Number:

Cell 305-926-6706

Swimming:

Eric Bedenbaugh

Phone Number:

Cell 305-358-0680

Swimming:

Bill Davis

Phone Number:

cell 305-904-7511

Winter Sports:

Girls Basketball:

Trisha Stout

305-761-4842

Johan Durango

305-807-0825

JV Basketball:

Rodney Cunningham

305-494-9997

Eric Blue

786-281-9317

Varsity Basketball:

Phillip Calloway

305-926-6706

Girls Soccer:

Christina Baleiro

786-252-7965

Jenny Balseiro

305-904-1452

Eloy Carrizo

908-451-6622

Boys Soccer:

Pedro Hernandez

786-306-1344

Miguel Mesa

786-234-6968

Spring Sports:

Tennis:

Kyllene Weiss

786-251-8813

Howie Orlin

786-402-7984

Baseball:

Julian Gates

786-457-0294

Track & Field: TBA

Sport Seasons

Fall Sports: September 8, 2009 – October 23, 2009

Cheerleading
Boys and Girls Cross Country
Girls Volleyball

Winter Sports: November 2, 2009 – February 5, 2010

Boys and Girls Soccer
Girls Basketball
JV Basketball (5th & 6th graders)
Varsity Basketball (7th & 8th graders)

Spring Sports: February 8, 2010 – April 28, 2010

Boys and Girls Tennis
Baseball
Track & Field

Cushman Athletics Philosophy

The Cushman Athletic Program supports a no-cut policy, based on the belief that all students should have the opportunity to experience and contribute to a team regardless of skill level. The Cushman Athletic Program focuses on skill development, knowledge of the activity, basic strategies, and the rules of the sport with the goal of preparing student-athletes for High School Athletics.

The Cushman Athletic Program is accredited by The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). Cushman Athletics is a member of the South Florida Middle School Conference (SFMSC) which consists of other independent schools in the South Florida area. The SFMSC members are Gulliver, Ransom, Palmer Trinity, Westminster, Miami Country Day, Carrollton, Florida Christian, Dade Christian and Cushman. Participating in the SFMSC allows for each sport to compete in a championship at the end of the sport season.

With the opportunity to participate in the Cushman Athletic Program come responsibilities. Student-athletes are expected to attend all practice sessions and games. In any instance when a student-athlete cannot attend, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate with the coaching staff prior to the student-athlete missing the practice or game. If a student-athlete misses a practice or a game and he/she did not notify the coach prior to missing that game or practice, then he/she will not be able to play in the next game. Unless they have communicated with the coach prior to the game or practice, it is mandatory that all student-athletes attend the practice the day before a game to be eligible to participate in that game. If a student-athlete is not at a practice the day before the game, then he/she will not travel if the game is away but may sit on the bench, dressed in uniform, if the game is at home. Additionally, Cushman's no-cut policy refers to the opportunity to join a team; it does not guarantee the amount of playing time.

Making a commitment and dedicating oneself to a team not only allows the student-athlete to build upon his/her skill level, it also improves his/her knowledge of the game over the season. Joining a team offers countless opportunities for the student-athlete to learn self-discipline, the value of hard work, goal setting, problem solving, and team work. There is much to learn about oneself and others in winning and losing; Cushman hopes that our student-athletes will develop good character as demonstrated in sportsmanship and perseverance.

Cushman Athletics Objectives

The Cushman Athletic Department seeks to teach, enhance and develop the skills of our students. The aim is to encourage all students to do their best and establish a sound foundation, with the importance on team competition, as well as pursuing higher levels of competition. The ways in which the athletic program will accomplish this will be:

- Allow Cushman students in grade 5th through 8th an opportunity to make a commitment to an athletic team sponsored by The Cushman Athletic Department.
- To develop a sound foundation in sport skills and game strategies.
- To enforce the importance of hard work and fair play.
- To establish integrity with winning and losing.
- To introduce the concept of accomplishment through hard work.

Student-Athlete Guidelines

Athletic Package:

No student-athlete will be allowed to compete in any athletic contest until he/she has turned in the athletic package. Forms are available in the main office and on-line on the Cushman web site at www.cushmanschool.org.

Daily Attendance:

To be eligible to participate in an athletic event, academic contest, or extracurricular activity, a student must arrive at school in a timely manner and attend his/her classes. A student-athlete who has an early dismissal due to illness will not be permitted to participate in any after school activities that day. As a student-athlete with The Cushman School, it is expected of you to attend all practices for the sport you are playing. Commitment to a team teaches responsibility which is one of the fundamentals taught here at The Cushman School. If a student-athlete is not going to be at a practice or a game it is his/her responsibility to contact the coach prior to the practice or game in which they will be missing either through email or a phone call. The student-athlete must attend the practice/game the day before a home or away contest in order to play in the next game. The student-athlete must bring a change of clothing to practice in. No school uniforms will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to change their clothes for practice.

Playing Time:

The Cushman Athletic program is a “No Cut” policy program. The policy about playing time is as follows. Every student-athlete will have the opportunity to play but the amount of time that the student athlete plays is under the discretion of the coach. Some factors that could impede the playing time of a player is missing practice, poor behavior and being disrespectful. If there are any concerns about this issue please communicate with the coaching staff. After speaking with the coaches and the problem was not resolved

please feel free to contact the Athletic Director to set up a meeting with the coaching staff.

Uniforms and Equipment:

Student-athletes will be responsible for all uniforms and equipment issued to them. The uniforms must be returned at the end of the sport season for the particular sport. If a student-athlete does not return the uniform after one week at the conclusion of the season, then the parents of the student-athlete will be billed \$50.00 for the uniform. Please note: no report cards, transcripts, and or another uniform will be issued until the uniform is returned or the financial responsibility is met.

Standards of Behavior:

The Cushman Cougars Athletic Department values the importance of sportsmanship for all student-athletes. As a Cushman student-athlete, please keep in mind that you represent not only yourself, your family, and your team, but also the entire Cushman community. Cushman Cougar athletes should conduct themselves with poise and integrity and as a role model for younger students. Any outbursts of profanity or lack of sportsmanship may result in your removal from practice or the game. If this type of behavior is repeated, it may result in suspension or dismissal from the team. All student-athletes must demonstrate Cushman's virtues of Industry, Courtesy, and Responsibility at all times. Therefore, **as a requirement for athletes to participate**, they must receive *no lower than a "3"* on their honor card. The goal of The Cushman School Athletic Department's eligibility guideline is to foster academic improvement for athletes who are in academic difficulty, in a timely manner. All student-athletes must adhere to The Cushman School's Code of Ethics for student-athletes at all times:

Code of Ethics for Student-Athletes:

1. Be courteous at all times (with officials, fans, and parents).
2. Exercise self-control.
3. Be familiar with all the rules of the contest.
4. Show respect to all players, fans and officials.
5. Refrain from the use of foul and abusive language.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
7. Win with character and lose with dignity.

Code of Ethics for Parents and Spectators:

1. Support your child by encouraging daily attendance to practices.
2. Respect decisions made by coaches and contest officials
3. Be a role model with positive cheering.
4. Respect fans, players, and coaches in a positive manner.

Code of Ethics for Coaches:

1. Always be a good example for players and fans through good moral behavior.
2. Instruct players in proper sportsmanship on and off the court.
3. Respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the game.
4. Be fair to all players and show respect to players, fans, and officials.

Athletic Eligibility:

The Cushman School first views all of its interscholastic team members as students. The school expects all student-athletes to fulfill their academic responsibilities and then to meet their obligations in athletics. An athlete may be suspended or removed from a team should he/she fail to meet his/her responsibilities as a student. Please refer to the Student-Athlete Academic Probation Criteria for academic status for student-athletes.

Student-Athlete Academic Probation Criteria:

The Cushman School places the endeavors of Industry, Courtesy, and Responsibility above all. In order for Cushman's student-athlete to participate in the athletics program, he/she must adhere to the following regulations. The school expects all student-athletes in grade 5th through 8th grade to fulfill their academic responsibilities and then to meet their obligations in athletics. Students in the 5th and 6th grades must receive a three or higher on their honor card. If a student-athlete earns below a three on their honor card then they will be suspended for one game.

Academic Eligibility:

An athlete may be suspended or removed from a team should he/she fail to meet his/her responsibilities as a student. In areas related to personal and academic responsibilities, the Middle School Director or Assistant Athletic Director shall determine the eligibility status of Cushman students participating on athletic teams. In areas related to athletic responsibilities the coach, Assistant Athletic Director or Athletic Director will determine the eligibility status of a team member.

Athletes will be placed on academic probation according to the following guidelines:

Probation Status

Probation status will be determined based upon the first quarter grades, interim grades and each quarter grade thereafter. A student-athlete who earns a grade of a "D" when the first quarter grades are issued will be placed on Academic Probation. A student who earns a failing grade will be placed on Academic Probation and will be ineligible to participate in **games only** during the academic probation process.

Academic Probation

Academic Probation means a student with a grade of “D” may still participate in practice and games with the team, but he/she must make academic progress over the following two-week period in the area(s) of concern in order to remain eligible to compete. A student with a failing grade will be placed on Academic Probation for a two week period and may not participate in games only practice. Academic progress means that the student-athlete must attend after school help in area(s) of concern and stay current with all homework and projects. Two weeks after these grades are issued; the Assistant Athletic Director will obtain an academic update from teachers of an athlete on probation. If progress is being made and academic commitments are being honored, the student-athlete will remain on probation, but will continue to be able to compete in athletics. An athlete on Academic Probation will become ineligible for a two-week period if progress is not made in the area(s) of concern. The student-athlete will be suspended from games but may attend practice until he/she can become eligible. He/she may become eligible again in two-weeks if he/she begins to make academic progress again. Eligibility status will be based upon the ruling of the Middle School Director, in conjunction with the Assistant Athletic Director. The probationary period continues until the next quarter grades are issued, with review every two weeks.

Transportation:

The Cushman School will transport all student-athletes to away contest via a scheduled bus or by school van. If a student-athlete wants to leave an athletic contest with someone other than their parent or guardian, then the student-athlete must have a written note from their parent or guardian. A phone call at the conclusion of the contest will not be tolerated and the athlete will not be permitted to leave unless the coach warrants it an emergency.

Procedures for pick-up of student-athlete:

Coaches will handout a parent communication letter at the beginning of every sport season about practice times and the location of practice. Parent who picks up their child from practice should plan to arrive at the scheduled time. There will be a grace period of 10 minutes. If you arrive after the allotted grace period then you will be charged \$15 for every 15 minute increments you are late. Coaches have personal responsibilities, as well as team responsibilities, so please be considerate of their time. If a student has to wait for transportation they will be put into EDC and you will get charged. If the sport practices off campus then the student-athletes will be transported to the practice but it is the parent’s responsibility to pick up the student-athlete at the location off campus.

For away contest you will be told the estimated arrival time back to school from the contest. Please have patience and wait for the bus or van to arrive back at the school.

On rainy days we will continue to have practice. Locations on campus in which the teams will be practicing are as follows:

- Middle School class rooms
- Fitness Center (located in the old middle school 7th grade building)
- Athletic Department Office (located in the old middle school science lab)

The coach will communicate with the front and middle school offices as to the team's location on campus. You can also contact the coach to find out their location. If the practice is off campus they will stay on campus in one of the areas mentioned above.

Annual Athletic banquet and awards:

In April we will honor our Cougar Athlete's for their wonderful accomplishments and a successful year. The annual Athletic Banquet will be April 28, 2010 beginning at 5:30.

Each Athlete will receive a certificate of participation and a pin representing the sport they played. This year we will have special awards for those athletes that the coaches designated and they are as follows:

- **Coach's Award:** To recognize a player who has exhibited an outstanding quality relative to the student's participation on the team. Qualities that is exemplary but not limited to are good sportsmanship, hard work, responsibility, and integrity.
- **Most Valuable Player:** To be awarded to the player who made the most significant contributions to the team. This does not mean the player who scored the most goals but the one who was most beneficial to the team.
- **Most Improved Player:** To be rewarded to the player the coach feels most improved on their knowledge and skill of the game.

Remaining Issues or Concerns:

- All directions to games and locations are posted on the Cushman web site and can be accessed by going to the athletic page of the Cushman web site.
- On game days student-athletes are allowed to wear their game uniforms to school to show school spirit.
- If you would like to sponsor a team please contact the Athletic Director, Kyllene Weiss, via the phone or email. Phone number to reach Kyllene is 786-251-8813 and the email is kweiss@cushmanschool.org.
- Any concerns or issues that arise during the season please contact the coach directly and if the problem continues then you would contact the Athletic Director. At this time a meeting would be arranged with the coach, athlete, Athletic Director, and the parent or guardian. Please do not hesitate to communicate with the coach on a consistent basis to make sure that all our student-athletes have an enjoyable experience.
- Please subscribe to the Cushman calendar for you will be updated email and reminders about upcoming events.

