

Participation Policy

Policy number	S-002
Category	Athletics
Sponsor	Athletics Ambassador
Initial Date of Approval (or Revision)	3/15/2025
Effective Date	4/1/2025
Version	4.0
Review Frequency	Annually

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define who can participate in “CFS Activities” and the application process for non-member participants.

DEFINITIONS/RELATED POLICY

“CFS” is Cornerstone Family Schools

"CFS Activities" are those activities expressly sanctioned by the Board.

“Homeschool Student” as defined in the CFS Purpose Statement (G-002)

BACKGROUND

The Board encourages CFS members to engage non-CFS members to advance the educational and extracurricular experiences of all children in the Kansas homeschool community. However, in order to minimize administrative confusion and CFS liability, only sanctioned CFS activities may use the CFS name. CFS activities are intended for CFS members only, unless otherwise stated in a CFS policy or Board resolution.

The Board may, at its discretion, grant exceptions to allow individuals who are not members of CFS to participate in CFS sanctioned activities as non-member participants. This includes allowing non-member participants to fill open slots in activities when needed from private Christian schools with whom CFS has reciprocal agreements to participate in their activities. A current school with a reciprocal agreement is Heritage Christian School because they allow CFS students to participate in baseball and girls soccer. However, league rules take precedence, as well as the other team’s stated policy.

Homeschool students who are not members of CFS may be approved to participate in CFS athletic activities for one academic year. If they are interested in participating in CFS activities in future years, their family will be required to join CFS.

The spring Annual Meeting and Opportunity Fair is open to all CFS, their guests, and interested or potential homeschool families. The Winter Family Dance is open to all CFS members and their guests.

Fall Homecoming Dance and Spring Formal are open to CFS high school students. Juniors and seniors may bring a guest. All other participation is intended for CFS members only.

PROCEDURE

To request consideration as a non-member participant, the following steps must be taken: (Note: this application does not apply to spectators at events such as graduation, athletics, or fine arts concerts and events.)

1. Parents/legal guardians (hereafter known as the applicants) will complete the Non-member Participation application form on the CFS Website. It is preferred that applications be completed before the athletic season begins. NOTE: it is encouraged to complete the forms early since applicants cannot participate until approved as outlined in this policy.
2. Applicants must agree with the current CFS Statement of Faith (SOF) document with no changes.
3. The youth waiver of liability form must be filled out on the CFS Website.
4. The Athletic Ambassadors of the CFS Board will review the applications for completeness and consult with the sport coordinator as to whether there is a need for an applicant on the team according to the athletic policy.
5. Applicants will pay for and authorize a background check for each parent. The amount is subject to change, but in 2025 that amount was \$20/person.
6. CFS Administration Ambassadors will order the background checks. Under normal circumstances the background check company says to expect the results within 3-5 business days.
7. If the coordinator and/or athletic committee approve of a non-member participant application, the athletic ambassador will present the request to the board for vote and then inform both the sport coordinator and the applicant family of the decision. The criteria to be used by the Board for approval of non-member participants is included in Appendix B. Note: If the applicants are new to CFS and do not have a sponsor listed on their application, the Membership Ambassadors will arrange for an interview prior to the Board vote.
8. The applicants will pay the applicable fees charged by the activity which may include additional fees above that required for CFS members.

Every application for an exception shall be prayerfully considered and decided upon in the manner which a majority of the Board believes will best glorify God.

VERSION HISTORY

Versio n	Description	Date
1.0	Attachment A updated. -Ciummo	3/2014
2.0	Added application process for non-member participation, attachment A updated, added attachment B, Non-member Participant Application Form. -Pendergrass	4/2017

3.0	Changed the application and approval method for non-member participants to make it web based.	11/2017
3.1	Updated ambassadorship in charge from membership to athletic and current practice of applications flowing from ambassador to coordinator to board for final approval. Deleted appendix of approved list of sanctioned activities as it changes regularly, but is under Athletics, Fine Arts, and Events committees. - Riddle	4/22/2023
4.0	Number, category and ambassador changed from G-005. Added sports with reciprocity. Updated the approval process through Athletic Ambassadors. Added updated application with background fee statement.	3/17/2025

Appendix A
Policy S-002 Participation Policy
Cornerstone Family Schools
Non-Member Participation Application Form

Please read and sign electronically by going to [Non-Member Participation Application Form \(cornerstonefamilyschools.org\)](http://cornerstonefamilyschools.org)

Name of Student: _____ Male or Female
Grade: _____ DOB: _____
Student is currently: homeschooled according to CFS definition / enrolled in a private school / enrolled in a public school / other (please describe): _____

Father's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Mother's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____

Activity or activities your student would like to participate in: _____
Has this student participated as a CFS non-member in the past? Yes No. If yes, what activities? _____
Have you ever applied for membership with CFS and been denied? Yes No

We have read the applicable CFS policies and will abide by them (cornerstonefamilyschools.org, S-001 Athletic Policy, G-002 Purpose Statement, S-002 Participation Policy, G-006 Conduct Policy, G-008 Child Safety Policy). _____
(Initial) (Initial)

We (parents) have read and agree to the CFS Statement of Faith (cornerstonefamilyschools.org)

(Initial) (Initial)

We agree to pay applicable fees to participate in the specified activity.

(Initial)
We also agree to pay the non-refundable new application fee as listed on the Fee Schedule. This fee will transfer to a new application if you choose to join CFS immediately following the non-member school year.

Parents' Signatures: _____
Name of Sponsor: _____

[The sponsor must be a CFS member or coach of the activity in good standing who knows the applicant's family and agrees that the family meets the standards expected of CFS families. If there is no sponsor with a strong knowledge of the family, the applicants will be interviewed by one or more members of the CFS board, as is the process for new members.]

Note: You will also need to fill out the liability waiver ([Youth Liability Waiver \(cornerstonefamilyschools.org\)](http://cornerstonefamilyschools.org)) and the medical release ([Medical Release Form \(cornerstonefamilyschools.org\)](http://cornerstonefamilyschools.org)).

Appendix B

Criteria to Consider for Non-Member Participants

1. Is the exception being granted to a non-member in an organization with whom we have a reciprocal agreement?
2. Will the granting of the exception diminish the opportunity of CFS students to participate in the sanctioned activity? (For example: Are there already enough CFS members participating in the activity to meet the roster size requirements or will the addition of non-members substantially reduce CFS members participation.)
3. Will the granting of an exception allow a group of CFS students to have an experience that they would not otherwise have? (This is commonly used when not enough CFS students have interest in a CFS sanctioned activity to allow CFS to meaningfully participate, such as to field a complete soccer team.
4. Will the granting of the exception, or the refusal to grant the exception, be detrimental to the unity and the purpose of CFS?
5. Would the granting of the exception contradict any policy, league, or tournament agreements?

Note: The Board may also consider such other issues as it deems necessary, but under no circumstances shall exceptions be granted for the purpose of gaining a competitive advantage.