

CFS Participation Policy

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PURPOSE

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

DEFINITIONS

“CFS” is Cornerstone Family Schools

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

BACKGROUND

The Board encourages CFS members to create partnerships with non-CFS members to advance the educational and extracurricular experiences of all children in the northeast 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 nonmember participants to fill open slots in activities when needed from private Christian schools who CFS has reciprocal agreements to participate in their activities. Current schools with reciprocal agreements are Veritas and Heritage Christian School because they allow CFS students to participate in some of their activities (i.e. baseball).

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

Spring Annual Meeting and Opportunity Fair, Graduation and Winter Family Dance are open to all CFS members and their guests. Spring Formal is open to CFS high school students. Juniors and seniors may bring a guest. All other activities are 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 CFS member guests at events such as graduation, formal, athletics, or fine arts.)

1. Parents/legal guardians (hereafter known as the applicants) will complete the Non-member Participation application form (Attachment B) on the CFS Website. All applications must be submitted no later than seven days after the starting date of the activity (i.e., after the first practice for a sport or after the first day of a fine arts activity such as choir). 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 Membership Ambassadors of the CFS Board will review the applications for completeness and when complete present the applications to the CFS Board to be voted on for tentative approval contingent upon being later accepted by the activity coordinator of the activity being applied for non-member participation.
 - a. The criteria to be used by the Board for approval of non-member participants is included in Attachment C.
 - b. The Membership Ambassadors may, at their discretion, grant non-member applicants temporary approval to participate in practices only prior to Board approval if they were approved to participate by the Board in previous school years. 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.
5. If tentatively approved by the Board for participation, the Board will forward the applicant's information to the applicable activity coordinator(s) for final approval. (If not approved, a Board member will contact the applicants and inform them they were not approved for non-member participation)
6. The activity coordinator or their designee will contact the applicant to inform them when they have received final approval. (If not approved, the activity coordinator will inform the applicants and the Board for the reason of disapproval)
7. 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.

Attachment A to this policy identifies the Board approved list of sanctioned CFS Activities. Attachment B to this policy is the Non-member Participation application form. Attachment C includes criteria for the Board to consider when voting on non-member participants. These attachments will be reviewed and updated annually.

VERSION HISTORY

Version	Description	Date
1.0	Attachment A updated. B.Ciummo	3/2014
2.0	Added application process for non-member participation, attachment A updated, added attachment B, Non-member Participant Application Form. G. Pendergrass	4/2017
3.0	Changed the application and approval method for non-member participants to make it web based.	11/2017

ATTACHMENT A

Policy G-005 – CFS Participation Policy

The CFS Board has resolved to sanction CFS activities for each school year and to designate individuals as CFS activity coordinator:

The Volunteer Commitment Form for the current school year is the official list of CFS sanctioned activities and activity coordinators for that school year.

The volunteer commitment form is posted on the CFS website.

Attachment B
Policy G-005 – CFS Participation Policy
Cornerstone Family Schools
Non-Member Participation Application Form

Name of Student		Grade		M or F	
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Student is currently?		
Homeschooled	Enrolled at: CPLS or Heritage	Other

Father's Name	Phone #	Email
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Mother's Name	Phone #	Email
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Address:

Which activity would your student like to participate in?

Has student participated as a CFS non-member in the past? YES or NO If yes, what activity?

Have you ever applied for membership with CFS and been denied? YES or NO If yes, why were you denied?
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We have read and agree to the Cornerstone Family Schools Statement of Faith (SOF)? The SOF is available on the CFS website https://www.cfs-online.org/	Initial ____
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We have read the applicable CFS policies and will abide by them	Initial ____
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We agree to pay applicable fees to participate in the specified activity.	Initial ____
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Parents Signature	
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By entering your name, you are signing this form electronically. You agree your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual/handwritten signature on this form.

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.	

I understand that participation with CFS is contingent upon Board approval. Temporary participation for practices only may be granted by the Membership Ambassador, but can later be declined by the Board.

Attachment C

Criteria To Consider For Non-Member Participants

1. Is the exception being granted to a non-member in an organization we have a reciprocal agreement with?
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 track or cross country.)
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. Is there a Christian missions-related reason to grant the exception? (For example: CFS could decide to sponsor a Christian underprivileged homeschool student to participate who would not otherwise have the opportunity.)

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.