

# The King's Christian School's ATHLETIC HANDBOOK for Students and Parents (revised 6/2012)

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## I. Philosophy of Athletics

The King's Christian School believes that sports provides the Christian athlete, coach, and fan a unique opportunity to enjoy, develop, and use God given interests, talents, and abilities. As the athletes and coaches give of themselves – spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically – they are to do so in a way that brings nothing but the highest glory to their Lord and Savior. While striving for wins, team or individual goals, or mastery of skills are commendable, these are never to become more important to TKCS athletes, coaches, or fans than their relationships with God and testimonies to a fallen world.

(I Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:23)

## II. Goals and Objectives

- A. To be Christ-like in all that we do through athletics and to always demonstrate our Christian testimony.
- B. To improve the individual: spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and athletically.
- C. To teach that team unity is more important than individual achievement.
- D. To develop respect for others: coaches, officials, opponents, teammates and spectators.
- E. To be good stewards of what the Lord provided for us by caring for equipment, facilities, belongings, etc.
- F. To provide opportunities for fellowship with teammates and other Christian schools.
- G. Team Levels: Since there are different skill levels of the players within our athletic teams, it is

important to emphasize different goals at each team level. Therefore, our goals are:

### 1. Middle School Team:

- a) To learn basic fundamentals of the sport(s) and the individual skills of the game.
- b) To learn team concepts.
- c) To emphasize individual participation/playing time rather than team success.

### 2. Jr. Varsity Team:

- a) To build on individual skills.
- b) To further develop team concepts, strategy and tactics.
- c) To achieve a balance of individual participation/playing time and team success.

### 3. Varsity Team:

- a) To refine individual skills and team play.
- b) To apply the learned team concepts, strategy and tactics. To strive for team success.
- c) Team achievement and success is more important than individual achievement or playing time.

## III. Guidelines

- A. It is a privilege for a student to participate in interscholastic athletics. The school may revoke this privilege when the athlete does not conduct himself in an acceptable manner.
- B. The participants must maintain acceptable levels in academics, Christian character, citizenship and sportsmanship.
- C. Team Size - Student athletes that wish to compete must realize that a "try-out" is necessary in order for the coaches to determine who is best prepared to compete. Unmanageable numbers can cause discouragement and unsafe conditions for all involved.

- 1. Team sizes may exceed the maximum at the discretion of the

Administration, A.D. and coach. These will be decided prior to opening practice.

2. When a tryout is necessary, selection of a candidate may be based on athletic performance, attitude, conduct, effort, cooperation and the desire to represent both Christ and the student body in a manner which complements the school. The Middle School students who try-out are not to be eliminated because of athletic skill, but may be eliminated due to lack of cooperation, effort, poor attitude, testimony, or character. If the number of Middle School participants is anticipated to be larger than the posted "team size", then the Athletic Director may establish both an intramural program and an interscholastic program prior to the season. Participation in both/either is still conditional upon the students' cooperation, effort, attitude, testimony, etc., but specific placement is at the discretion of the coaches and Athletic Director

3. Students wishing to join a team after the try-out period has ended (for example, new students to the school transferring in mid-season) must participate in at least 6 practices prior to being eligible. Attending a game and sitting with the team counts as a practice.

4. Only students in grades 9 - 12 are eligible to participate at the Varsity level unless the minimum number of students necessary to field a team is not available. The decision to allow 7th and 8th graders to participate will be made by the Athletic Director and the Administration.

5. It is not possible to state how much playing time each team member will have because coaching decisions are based on many factors.

#### D. Practices and Games

1. All athletes must be prompt and are expected to attend all practice sessions as well as all games. Authorized absences from school are also excused absences from practices and games. Unless a parent has followed the prescribed process for notifying the school of an absence, it is the responsibility of the athlete/parent to notify the coach (preferably in writing and in advance) of any practice or game that he/she will miss. This note must be signed by a parent; otherwise, the

practice or game that is missed is considered unexcused. If an athlete misses practice or a game that is unexcused, disciplinary action may result from the coach. This could include not playing in the next game.

2. In order to participate in an athletic practice or game on a given day, the athlete must attend school on that same day and must attend at least 4 class periods (in their entirety) scheduled for that day.

3. The athlete who played in a sport's season which just concluded is not required to attend the next sport's practices for five school days.

E. Team Commitment - In order for the team to be successful, athletes and their parents must remain committed for the duration of the season. For this reason, once try-outs are complete, and the team has been established, team members are not permitted to quit. Students and their parents must carefully pray and consider the many ways that their involvement will affect them (time, academics, transportation, etc.) before they commit to join the team. If a student quits or is removed from a team before the season is complete, disciplinary action may be taken, including possible disqualification from other extracurricular activities.

#### F. Miscellaneous

1. Parents are responsible to see that their children are picked up promptly after practices and games. Athletes who are routinely not promptly picked up may be removed from a team.

2. Students are not to bring electronic equipment such as mp3 players, radios, headphones, etc. with them to the games, or on the buses.

3. Athletes are expected to adhere to the school dress code for all athletic events. When there are alterations to this policy, the coach and/or Athletic Director will give directions concerning what may be worn to these events.

4. Any player dismissed from a team for behavioral reasons may not compete in that particular sport until further notice from the coaching staff involved, the Athletic Director, and School Administration.

5. All sports are governed by the rules as stated by the National Federation of High School Associations, except where modified by the league rules to which a team belongs. The Varsity teams are members of the Tri-State Christian Athletic Conference

made for students with a 504 Plan and/or classified by a professional child study team as learning disabled. The child study team, school principal, Timothy Program teacher, athletic director and teachers will work in concert on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility status.

D. Eligibility for MACSA Athletic Events: The Mid-Atlantic Christian School Association periodically hosts athletic event in which TKCS athletes participate. They have instituted the following requirements:

#### IV. Eligibility Requirements

A. Behavioral Eligibility: Proper behavior must be demonstrated whether in school or during competition. The consequences of improper behavior may include temporary or permanent suspension from a team as determined by administration.

B. Academic Eligibility: In support of the TKCS Core Value of Academic Excellence, student athletes are expected to maintain their academic efforts and performance while participating in athletics; therefore,

1. At the end of each academic quarter, athletes' grades will be reviewed.
2. A student athlete will become academically ineligible to participate if upon such review it is determined that:
  - a) His/Her numeric grade for any class is below a D (less than 65%), or
  - b) His/Her average of numeric grades from all classes is below a C (less than 74%).
3. Beginning on the day that Quarter Grades are posted, academically ineligible students may no longer practice, play, or travel with the team until they are reinstated.
4. Ineligible students may be reinstated to the team on the day that Interim or Quarter Grades are posted as long as grades meet the aforementioned requirements.
5. Students newly enrolled at King's will be eligible at the principal's discretion until the next academic quarter, at which time the above guidelines will be in effect.
6. Students, parents, and coaches are strongly encouraged to make frequent checks of academic progress to avoid ineligibility.

C. Eligibility for the Classified and/or 504 Plan Student: Reasonable accommodation will be

#### 1. High School:

a) Students may only compete for the school in which they are enrolled and taking at least four courses.

b) Home-schooled students and middle school students may not participate on a high school team.

#### 2. Middle School:

a) High school students may not participate in middle school competitions.

b) Home-schooled and part-time student may participate on middle school teams.

#### V. Awards

A. Athletes at the Jr. Varsity and Varsity level may earn letters by playing in 50% (25% for Seniors) of total halves, quarters, or innings played.

B. A first year letterman receives a letter with a pin representing the sport. A returning letterman receives a bar for each additional year completed. Captains receive Captain pins. Managers, scorers and statisticians who complete a sport will be given a letter and receive a pin/bar indicating their participation with the team.

C. Varsity All-Stars/MVPs who are chosen by the league coaches are given All-Star/MVP pins. A plaque or trophy will also be awarded.

D. Other recognition may be given with the approval of the coach, Athletic Director and Administration.

E. Three team awards may also be given in each sport; such as: Most Valuable Player (plaque and pin), the Coach's Award (plaque and pin), and the Most Improved Player (plaque and pin).

## VI. Athletic Contract, Physical Exams and Permission Slips

- A. Prior to participating in any athletic event (practice or game), both the student and his/her parent(s) must sign the Athletic Contract, indicating their understanding of and promise to abide by the policies of The King's Christian School and its Athletic Department.
- B. Each athlete is required to have a physical exam every year to cover that coming school year. This physical will cover every sport played for that coming school year, as well as cheerleading. This physical exam must be given by a licensed physician and reported in writing **before** the student may start practice.
- C. If a student has been injured during a sport's season or has had an illness that prevents the athlete from playing that sport for an extended period of time, (a week or more) the athlete must have a licensed physician and a parent sign a "Return to Athletics" form **before** being permitted to return and participate in that sport.
- D. If a student has played in a previous sport during the same school year, the athlete **is required** to have an interim health report signed by his/her parent and the athlete. This notifies the administration of any health problems that might have arisen during the previous sport's season. These are to be turned in to the Athletic Director before the athlete begins the next sport's practices.
- E. Injuries: Precautions are taken to prevent injuries, but they do occur. All injuries must be reported to the coach so that proper aid may be given. It is important that allergies or other ailments that require special attention be reported to the coach at the **start** of a season. If an athlete is injured, the parents will be contacted as soon as possible. If necessary, emergency personnel will also be contacted. A School Accident Insurance Form is available in the school office.
- F. Injured athletes will remain on the team, continuing to attend practices, travel to games, assist on the bench, etc. Absences are permitted for rehabilitation appointments.

## VII. Uniforms and Equipment

- A. The team's coach will issue the team uniform. Each athlete who is issued a uniform is responsible for its proper care. It must be returned to the coach in good condition at the end of the season. If it is damaged, worn beyond normal wear, lost or not returned, the athlete will

pay for the uniform at its replacement price. Usually one replacement uniform costs far more than when it was originally ordered.

- B. The uniform may not be worn anytime or place other than what is authorized in connection with official games.
- C. All uniforms must be returned cleaned (and pressed, if necessary – with every piece included that was originally issued).
- D. All uniforms must be returned within one (1) week after the last game of that sport's season.
- E. The equipment a team uses is the responsibility of the team. Abusing equipment or supplies may result in the dismissal from the team and/or replacement of the damaged equipment by those who damaged it.

## VIII. Transportation

- A. The school will provide transportation for the teams to go to the athletic event. After the athletic event, it is the parent's responsibility to pick-up his/her own son or daughter at the appointed time and place. **This is a must!**
- B. Students will ride school-provided transportation. Exceptions will only be granted by prior written request from the parents involved and approval by the coach and Athletic Director. It is our strong preference that students use school provided transportation. Exceptions can only be made when written requests are approved.
- C. Student drivers need written parental permission to drive. These "Student Transportation Permission Forms" are available from the Athletic Director and/or the office and are required to be completed. This permission will be granted only under special circumstances.
- D. For some athletic events, there may be room for student spectators to ride the school-sponsored transportation. Student spectators must have written parental permission to travel to these events.
- E. Private Vehicles: The use of a private vehicle is permissible under explicit conditions:
  - 1. A private vehicle may be used to go to a "Home" game site by a driver **without passengers**, if she/he has proper written parental permission.

2. A private vehicle may be used to go to an "Away" game site, if it is in the direction of the student driver's residence and he/she has the proper written parental permission.

3. Student Transportation Permission Forms are available from the Athletic Director and/or the main office and **are required to be completed**. Student drivers need written parental permission to drive and to transport other students. Those students who ride with a student driver to an athletic event also need written parental permission. Coaches may choose to prohibit players from transporting other players.

F. Leaving the Premises of a Game or Practice:

1. When a student comes to a practice or game, that student is expected to stay on those premises at all times; unless he/she has been granted permission to leave the site by a school authority. This would include, but not be limited to such things as, going home, dinner, stores, etc. In all cases, the student and/or parent must notify the school authority before leaving the premises. It must be understood that this is a privilege that bears responsibilities.

2. Student Athletes may not leave the school early to go to practices and/or games, unless the published schedule indicates an early dismissal exists and all provisions within this handbook and school policies have been properly followed.

**IX. Fees**

A. Students playing on a Middle School team must pay a fee of \$100 per sport before he/she is allowed to participate and/or practice. No refunds will be given.

B. Students playing on a varsity or junior varsity team must pay a fee of \$150 per sport before he/she is allowed to participate and/or practice. Refunds will only be made one week after the teams are chosen - for varsity sports only.