



*Educating, Equipping, and Energizing
Champions for Christ!*

Parent/Student Athletic Handbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Philosophy of Athletics & Extra-Curricular Activities	2
Goals of the Program	2
Vision of the Program	3
Discipline	3
Tryouts / Player Selections	4
Practice Length / Non-School Days	4
Practice & Event Guidelines	5
Ejections	5
Injury	6
Volunteer / Parent Coaches	6
Practice Attendance	7
Game Attendance	7
Practice & Game Day Dress Apparel	8
Physical	8
Insurance	8
End of Season Programs & Awards	9
Managers	9
Conflict Resolution	10
Athletic Fees	10
Playing Time	11
Quitting	11
Parents Code of Conduct	11
Transportation	12
New Students	12
Athletic Handbook Compliance Form	13

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Kingsway Christian School, we believe athletics are an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics are important but should not take the place of academic, church or family commitments. We also believe every student has been gifted with various abilities. While it is impossible for every student to be involved in athletics, we encourage every student to explore their God-given capabilities in the athletic opportunities provided at KCS.

Participation in athletics and all other extra-curricular activities is a great way for students to build relationships with God, their fellow teammates, their coaches, and to take opportunities to share Christ with teammates and opponents. Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship."

Parents play a vital role in the success of a student athlete. It is our expectation that all parents be positive, supportive and encouraging to all players, coaches and opponents. Parents and spectators should cheer not only for the goals and shots made, but also for the successes of all players no matter how big or small.

Lastly, parents should be a support system to the coaches and frequently ask how they can help. Parent/coach conflicts should be handled gently, privately and with a prayerful heart. Gossiping with other parents about the faults of the coach and/or other players and students, or officials, is beneficial to no one and will be addressed with the parties involved.

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

The goals of the KCS Athletic program are to:

- Represent the person of Jesus Christ in the area of athletic competition
- "Coach the heart behind the jersey"
- Teach student athletes through athletic participation to love God and love others with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength
- Teach technical skills to athletes to be able to compete at a high level
- Teach student athletes the value of teamwork

VISION OF THE PROGRAM

The vision for our program is reflected in our athletes, coaches, parents and department as a whole.

Athletes who genuinely have a love for God and the confidence to represent Him at all times on and off the field

Coaches who love their athletes, work hard to improve team skills, and model leadership and humility to everyone they come in contact with

Parents who support and pray for our coaches and athletes, and volunteer time toward the improvement of our athletic program

An Athletic Department and Administration that is organized, dedicated, involved, and excited about the potential successes of our athletic teams

DISCIPLINE

Students participating in extracurricular activities must abide by all policies in the KCS Student/Parent Handbook. With permission from the athletic director, coaches may suspend players from practice, from a game or from the team if it is deemed necessary.

As a Christian school, it is of the utmost importance that every player's actions are consistent with what we believe. All coaches and players must set a Christ-like example with each other, and with their opponents.

TRYOUTS / PLAYER SELECTIONS

If Tryouts are needed, they will be held in the first 3-4 days of practice. The number of players on a team varies from sport to sport and depends on the number of students who try-out. There are two main reasons for tryouts and player selections to take place. The first is that certain leagues only allow a certain number of players on a team roster. The second reason would be the student to coach ratio. The student to coach ratio will be determined by the coach and Athletic Director.

If a player is cut, he may approach the coach about becoming a student manager. Team selections will be discussed by the coach and athletic director before any cuts are made.

PRACTICE LENGTH / NON-SCHOOL DAYS

Practices shall not exceed more than 2.5 hours per day during season. (Pre-season and camps are the exception) Practices will be in the afternoon or early evening. Practices will not begin after 7pm.

Wednesday practices must be finished by 5pm. We do not in any way want to interfere with youth groups, prayer groups or Bible studies. No games will be scheduled on Wednesdays.

If Saturday practices are held, they are optional to players and players cannot be reprimanded for missing them. They should only be held in the morning. Sunday practices are prohibited without exception. We believe Sunday is a time to spend with the church and with family.

Practices may be held during school breaks, but not on these holidays:

- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas
- New Years Eve
- New Years Day
- Good Friday
- Easter
- Memorial Day

Players should not be reprimanded for missing practices over official school breaks.

PRACTICE & EVENT GUIDELINES

Students who miss more than half a school day are not permitted to practice or play in a game on that day without special permission from the administrator and the athletic director.

All words and actions by coaches, players and fans should be positive, uplifting and encouraging to others. We should all make every effort to follow the words of Galatians 5:22-24 and be positive witnesses for Jesus Christ.

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.” Galatians 5:22-24

In games where we are leading by a large margin, coaches will model Christ-like decision-making. Coaches will avoid “running up the score” and consider how the outcome will reflect on Kingsway Christian School as well as how it will affect the players from the opposing team.

At KCS, we believe all coaches, players and fans should ask themselves: “Is this game about my needs, wants and desires or is it about Jesus Christ and how my words and actions reflect who He is?”

EJECTIONS

Any ejection from a game whether it be of a coach or a player will result in an automatic two game suspension. Parents ejected from a game will also be asked not to return for two games.

The coach or player ejected will also have a mandatory meeting within two days of the game with the athletic director and the administrator to discuss the cause of the ejection and further disciplinary action if necessary.

INJURY

Players will be excused from practice and games if they are injured. If a player misses three or more consecutive practices because of injury, he must be cleared by a doctor to return.

If a player becomes unconscious for any reason, he may not continue to participate that day and must have a signed doctor's note before returning to practice or a game.

VOLUNTEER / PARENT COACHES

Volunteering at KCS is always welcome, including in our athletic programs.

All volunteer coaches must be interviewed by the head coach to ensure proper knowledge of the sport they will be coaching, as well as to determine if they will be a positive, Christ-like role model to the athletes. The athletic director must approve all volunteers. Once approved, potential volunteer coaches must obtain an FBI and BCI background check along with other coaching certifications that may be required. Once the results are returned, the coach may begin working with the team.

Please remember Coaches, whether volunteer or paid, who have children of their own on the team, must show no favoritism. If the coach does show favoritism, they will be asked to resign their position.

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance at practice is expected of all student athletes. The only acceptable reasons for missing practice are because of a(n):

- Injury/illness
- Doctor's appointment
- Family emergency
- School Conflict (such as a school supported trip or music or drama production)

If a player is going to miss a practice, he should make every effort to notify the coach at least one day prior to the day of the practice. Repeated absences and/or unexcused absences can result in decreased playing time, suspensions and/or removal from the team.

If a player needs to miss a practice for any reason other than those mentioned above, it must be approved by their coach. If it is not approved, it will be counted as unexcused and the player should be prepared to accept the consequences of their actions.

GAME ATTENDANCE

Games may only be missed because of a(n):

- Injury/illness
- Family emergency
- School conflict (such as a school supported trip or music or drama production)

Athletes should notify their coaches as soon as possible if they are going to miss a game. If a game is missed for an unexcused reason, the coach reserves the right to suspend the athlete for the next game.

PRACTICE & GAME DAY APPAREL

Students may wear non-uniform clothes to practice, but should dress modestly and in an appropriate way to represent KCS. Students should not wear excessively short shorts and coaches should not ask students to play shirts vs. skins.

Appropriate footwear is required. Students may not practice barefoot, in socks, dress shoes or shoes that do not go along with the sport. (Ex. No basketball shoes for soccer practice or games)

Jewelry is not permitted to be worn during games and practices. This includes necklaces, bracelets, anklets and earrings. Long hair should be pulled back with hair ties.

KCS-issued game uniforms are to be worn only for games—not for practice or P.E. Uniforms should be worn with modesty. Uniform shorts may not be rolled up.

All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach or athletic director within a week of the last game. Postseason awards will be held if these items are not returned. If a player never returns a uniform, he will be charged to replace it and may not be offered the opportunity to participate in a sport the following season.

PHYSICAL

All students must have a completed OHSAA physical form, which includes a physician's signature, before competing in any practice, try-out or game. A physical form is valid for one calendar year from the date of completion and does not need to be repeated for additional sports played during the year.

INSURANCE

KCS recommends each family check with their insurance provider for coverage in the event of an injury during a school sponsored practice or game. Most companies provide additional insurance options for student athletes.

END OF SEASON PROGRAMS & AWARDS

All players who complete an entire season are given an award at the end of the season. Individual awards are limited to:

- Most Improved Player
- Outstanding Sportsmanship
- Christ-Like Attitude

All other awards must be approved by the athletic director.

MANAGER

Student managers (not exceeding two) can be kept on a team at the coach's discretion. Student managers may be responsible for handling equipment, keeping statistics, running the scoreboard and/or setting up practices or games.

Student managers may participate in practices if the coach sees it as beneficial to the manager and to the team.

Student managers must follow the same academic policies student athletes are required to follow.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

At KCS, we follow the Matthew 18 Principle:

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over; if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. Matthew 18:15-16

Parents, if you have a dispute or disagreement with a coach, we ask that you go to him or her with an attitude of appeal. Be respectful and understanding of their response. Most situations are misunderstandings and can easily be resolved. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, please contact the athletic director to schedule a meeting with all parties involved.

24 Hour Rule: No Parent should approach the coach with conflict for at least 24-hours after a game. Emotions can be high following a competitive game and we encourage players and parents to write out their thoughts before approaching a coach.

ATHLETIC FEES

Students who participate in athletics are required to pay a fee at the beginning of each season. The fee for the an individual for the year will be \$100 and \$150 per family after April 31, 2017.

Participation fees cover expenses incurred in any athletic department and pay for the services of coaches, officials and bus drivers as well as for equipment and gas. Fees will not be refunded if a student quits a team after the one-week grace period.

Students still may be required to purchase items including uniforms, shoes and personal equipment (such as shin guards or knee pads).

PLAYING TIME

Starters for games will be chosen by the head coach based on past performance, attitude and leadership. All players should play in every contest, barring disciplinary action. How much a student plays is at the coach's discretion.

QUITTING A TEAM

Participation in athletics is highly encouraged at KCS. However, it is expected that if a student starts a sports season, they finish it.

Students will be given a one-week grace period at the beginning of the season to decide whether that sport is for them. If not, they may leave the team. If a student is considering quitting a team, he should set up a meeting with his coach or athletic director to discuss the situation. If a student does quit a team after the grace period is over, he will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that sports season. We want to teach students the value of persistence and perseverance to overcome any obstacles that come their way.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents are expected to give their full support to their child, other players, coaches, opponents and officials. Parents should not be verbally arrogant or angry with anyone at a game. Parents should help their children be dependable and accountable by communicating with them about practice and game schedules.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation by bus will be provided when available. Students will be required to ride the bus to the games. Students may ride home with a parent if a signed note is provided to the coach after the game.

When there is a conflict in transportation needs, priority will go to the team that has more participants and the other team will be asked to transport their students to and from the game.

NEW STUDENTS

Students who arrive in the middle of a sports season will be given the opportunity to join a team if any positions are open. These students must practice with the team for at least five days before participating in their first game. This is also in compliance with OHSAA Bylaw 4-7-3 Transfer Rules.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK COMPLIANCE FORM

I have read and understand the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth in this handbook. I agree to abide by these rules, regulations and guidelines and I will faithfully support the coaches, athletic director and administration of Kingsway Christian School.

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

IMPORTANT: Please read, sign and return this form to your coach or the athletic director. This, along with your OHSAA physical form, liability release form and any fees due must be received by the athletic department prior to your first practice. Without these items, you will not be permitted to practice or participate in a game.