



Horizon Christian School
Student-Athlete Handbook

“The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

1 Timothy 1:5

I. Governances

- a. The responsibility of overseeing the athletic department is assigned to the athletic director. Each student-athlete is directly responsible to his/her head coach, who is responsible to the athletic director, head of school, and administration.
- b. Horizon Christian School is a member of the ICSAA (Indiana Christian School Athletic Association).

II. Purpose & Vision

- a. Demonstrate the Love of God to teammates, coaches, officials, and spectators. (John 13:35)
- b. Shape and mold Christian character through team comradery and adversity. (Romans 5:1-5)
- c. Excel athletically, physically, mentally, and spiritually both on and off the court. (Colossians 1:28)
- d. Demonstrate the highest level on sportsmanship and integrity, regardless of circumstance. (Proverbs 11:3)
- e. Have a sincere faith, good conscience, and a pure heart. (1 Timothy 1:5)

I. **Athletic Programs**

a. Junior High: Grades 6-8

1. One advantage of our junior high teams is the focus put on gaining valuable experience. Coaches are instructed to stress fundamentals, as this is a period of growth and forming habits. Student-Athletes begin to learn the importance of commitment, hard work, and perseverance.

b. High School: Grades 9-12

1. Our High School athletic teams are, in some cases, comprised of two separate levels; Junior Varsity and Varsity. Junior Varsity teams are for continued development of a player's fundamental skill. Junior Varsity Competitions are meant for players to gain valuable, sport specific, experience. The varsity level is the level that competes for ICSAA State championships. Varsity coaches are expected to play the most capable athletes and do everything possible to be successful without compromising the athletic department's values. (see II)

II. **Athletic Department Policies**

a. Participation Requirements

1. At Horizon, we recognize that playing sports is a privilege, not a right. Therefore student-athletes are held to a very high standard. Each student-athlete

must always act in a way that represents the values of Horizon Christian School.

2. The standard of behavior placed on student-athletes extends to parents. Each parent is expected to display character that properly represents the values of Horizon Christian School. Parents are expected to positively encourage athletes, and promote hard work, commitment, and perseverance.
3. All student-athletes are required to turn in a valid physical to his/her coach before the first game, or by a date specified by the coach. While Horizon is not a member of the IHSAA, we do accept IHSAA physical forms, which can be downloaded from the IHSAA website.

b. Communication

1. Parents and athletes should expect the head coach to clearly communicate his/her philosophy, expectations, and schedule of team events.
2. Parents and athletes are expected to clearly communicate concerns, scheduling issues (well in advance), and specific issues regarding the health or well-being of athletes.
3. In the event of an issue, the following protocol should be followed; Firstly, the athlete should communicate with the coach. Secondly, the parent may contact the coach directly. And lastly, the parent may contact the athletic director. The athletic director may call a meeting with a parent, parent and coach, or parent coach and athlete, depending on the situation.

4. Items to discuss with the coach:
 - The treatment of your child
 - How your child can improve
 - Concerns about your child's health and well being
5. Items to not discuss with the coach:
 - Your child's playing time
 - Coaching strategy
 - Other student-athletes or parents

c. Social Media

1. Student-athletes must understand that anything posted on social media is public information, regardless of the privacy settings on your account(s). Anything posted on any social media must represent the values of Horizon Christian School. Things to **NOT** be posted on social media include, but are not limited to, explicit language, comments reflecting negatively on teammates or opponents, violent pictures, full or partial nudity, inappropriate gestures, and any sort of sexual harassment.
2. The athletic director and/or head of school reserve the right to take disciplinary action in the event of any inappropriate post.

d. Attendance

1. Practice and Competition
 - i. Each athlete is expected to attend every practice and game. Any absence or tardiness must be clearly communicated with the head coach well in advance. Remember, if you're not early, your late!

6. School Attendance
 - i. Good attendance in school is required to remain eligible. Students cannot miss more than 12 days per semester. *(see student handbook for specific requirements and clarification.)* Student athletes must be in attendance at school before his or her lunch period to participate in that day's competition. Students who leave school early due to illness are not permitted to compete that same day. *(see student handbook for a list of excused absences)*

b. Participation

5. Horizon Christian School currently allows their students and homeschool students to participate on athletic teams. Both students and homeschool students are held to the exact same academic and behavioral standards.
 - i. In the event that participation in a sport is so low that a coach cannot field a team with Horizon students and homeschool students, the head of school and athletic director will work carefully with the coach to formulate a strategy of gaining outside athletes, in order to field a team. Students of other schools are not eligible to try

out for any Horizon team, but may be given consideration on an invitation only basis, as needed.

6. Academic Eligibility

- i. Grades will initially be checked after the first 4 weeks of semester. In the event of a student athlete having under a 2.00 semester GPA or be failing a class, that athlete will then go into a 2 week probation period. An athlete on probation is still allowed to practice and participate in games. At the end of that 2 week period, grades will be reassessed. If administration can determine that the athlete is above a 2.00 GPA and not failing any classes, the athlete will be in good standing. However, if the athlete is under the minimum semester GPA requirement or is failing a class, that athlete will be ineligible for all team activities for two weeks. At the end of that two week period, the athlete's grades will be reassessed. An ineligible athlete cannot become eligible until the end of the two week period, and only if that athlete meets the minimum GPA requirement and not be failing any classes. If an athlete that has already been on probation drops back below the minimum requirements, that athlete will go straight to 2 weeks no practice and no play.
- ii. At the end of any semester, if any athlete is ineligible, that athlete will not be able to play in any games over break but can attend practice.

The athlete would then automatically start a 2 week probation period on the first day of the following semester.

- iii. It is important to note than any athlete who is placed on probation more than twice in one season, could result in automatic ineligibility.

c. Quitting a Sport

5. It should be the aim of every student athlete to finish what they have started; however, should a student athlete decide to quit a sport during the season, the student-athlete must meet with the head coach to discuss reason(s) for quitting. Any uniform, gear, or apparel provided to that student will be forfeited and must be turned into the athletic director's office. Quitting a sport during it's season will also impact that student's opportunity to play another sport.

g. Concessions/ Gate Duties

1. Parents play a vital role in aiding the athletic department create an overall great experience in athletics. Sign-ups for concession stand and gate duties will take place before each season. Parents and other volunteers are responsible for working their assigned time or finding their own replacements.

h. Athletic Fees/Physicals

1. Athletic fee structure will be re-evaluated on a yearly basis. Athletic fees will be clearly communicated to parents well in advance. Athletic fees and current physicals are due before the first game; unpaid athletic fees or missing physicals could result in ineligibility. If problems pertaining to paying fees arise, please contact the Athletic Director as soon as possible.

i. Uniforms

1. Players are responsible for his or her jersey. Jerseys must be washed and hung up after every game so that the jerseys look presentable during competition. There will be a charge associated with lost or damaged jerseys. The head coach has the freedom of creating any policy pertaining to how an athlete uses his or her jersey.
2. Lost or damaged jerseys will incur a charge of \$60.
3. Late Jerseys will incur a fee of \$1 per day.

j. Game day Dress Code

1. The head coach of each team reserves the right to implement a policy for game day dress code.

k. Facility Usage

1. In season sports will always have priority for use of the athletic facilities. All usage of athletic facilities must be approved by the athletic director. Students may not use any facility without direct supervision of a coach or School Employee. All equipment and facilities should be left in a better state than they were found in.

- I. Start with a prayer, end with a prayer.
 1. Everything we do is to give God glory. One way we will do this is by starting and ending every team activity with a prayer. It is the head coach's responsibility to organize a team prayer before and after every team meeting, practice, game etc.

Uniform Check-Out

DATE _____ Team: Middle School JV Varsity

Player's Name: _____

Jersey #: _____ Jersey Size: _____ Shorts
Size: _____

Sport uniforms are provided by the school during the sport season. I understand it is my responsibility

to care for the uniform assigned and return it to the school at the end of the sport season. A \$60 fee will

be charged for all uniforms not returned.

I understand I can only wear the sport uniform during home and away games. It is not to be used for

everyday wear as part of my personal wardrobe. Exceptions apply if approved by the coach or athletic

director.

I understand my uniform needs to be washed on a regular basis, after each game. It should be washed

in COLD water, gentle cycle, turned INSIDE OUT, and AIR DRIED. It should not be washed in hot water or

dried in the dryer. Proper care of our sport uniforms ensures durability and longevity. A \$60 fee will be

charged if care isn't taken and the uniform needs replacing.

All uniforms must be WASHED and CLEAN before returning them at the end of the season.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____