



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 ICST (Indiana Christian State Tournament).

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)

III. 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 ICST 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)

IV. 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 higher 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 or the athletic director. While Horizon is not a member of the IHSAA, we do accept IHSAA physical forms, which can be downloaded from the IHSAA website. Physicals are due before the first game of said team.

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, you're late!
2. 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*)

e. Eligibility Policies

1. Grades are checked at semester and midterms. In the event of a student falling below a 2.00 GPA (semester GPA, not cumulative) or be failing a class, that athlete will be placed on "Hold" for 14 days. An athlete on "Hold" is allowed to practice and attend games, but may not dress for competition. During this "Hold" period, coaches and teachers will actively put together a plan to improve the student's academic

performance. After the 14 day period, the student's grades will be re-evaluated to determine if the student's GPA is at or above 2.00. But, if the student can prove his or her GPA is at or above a 2.00 during the "Hold" period, the student will be in good standing from an eligibility standpoint.

2. After the "Hold" period, if the student's GPA remains under a 2.00, the student is then considered ineligible to both practice and dress (*this includes sitting on the bench during game*) until that student's GPA is at or above a 2.00.
3. 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.

f. Quitting a Sport

1. 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 its 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 head of school 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.

j. Game day Dress Code

1. If/when a home game falls on a school day; boys must wear slacks and a collared shirt. Girl's must wear a skirt, dress, or dress pants. If/when an away game falls on a school day, home game dress code applies unless that team has travel gear. The purpose of having a game day dress code is unification. The head coach has the final decision in what the team wears to school on away game days, as long as the team is wearing the same thing. The goal of having a game day dress code is to have the team look unified. The head coach also reserves the right to require shirt and tie on game days.

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.

l. 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.

This page must be printed, signed, and turned into the High School office before the first official team practice.

Student Athlete and Parent Consent Contract

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read in detail and agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and guidelines set forth by the Horizon Christian School Athletic Handbook. I understand that it is a privilege to participate in athletics and agree to do my best to properly represent myself, parents, peers, school and God.

Student Athlete Signature Date

I/We, _____, being the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student athlete acknowledge that I have read in detail and agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and guidelines set forth by the Horizon Christian School Athletic Handbook. I/We understand that it is a privilege for my/our child to participate in athletics and agree to do my/our best to properly represent myself, children, peers, school and God.

Parents' Signature Date

T-Shirt Size: _____

2015-16 Athletic Fees

Horizon students- 1st sport \$120, any sport after that \$60

Homeschool students- \$150, any sport after that \$75

