



Developing Christlike Character
and Academic Excellence

2018-2019 Athletic Handbook

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Isaac Newton Christian Academy is operated by the
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Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics at Isaac Newton Christian Academy. Your family's interest in this aspect of our school programming is important. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences for every student athlete.

It is our hope to maintain an interscholastic athletic program that is sound in purpose and honoring to God. Through athletics, we want to pay particular attention to competing and coaching in a way that reflects the character of Christ (Colossians 3:17). Our goals for our athletic program are to bring glory and honor to our Savior, to build Christ-like character in each athlete, and to develop their individual athletic potential. This is a big undertaking. To do this requires time and commitment from everyone involved—particularly coaches, athletes, and parents.

Through participation in athletics at Isaac Newton Christian Academy, student athletes will mature physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. A student athlete who participates in athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. Failure to comply with team or school rules of training and conduct or failure to maintain academic requirements may mean exclusion from a squad. There is an expectation that each student athlete will discipline his or her mind and body for rigorous competition. We believe God calls us to strive for excellence and we do not want our student athletes to compromise or accept mediocrity.

Parents play a key and critical role in the overall success of their student athlete's involvement in athletics. It is important that all parents realize the importance of their commitment and role in this area of their student athlete's life. Some individuals neglect their role and, as a result, the student athlete may experience difficulty and frustration. In athletics, family provides many of the key elements for success.

One of the purposes of this handbook is to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized program of athletics. It is the role of the school administration to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad base of support, which is partly achieved through communication. It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this publication.

Sincerely,

Isaac Newton Christian Academy Athletic Staff

Philosophy and Rationale

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Isaac Newton Christian Academy to provide the highest quality Christian education program available through consistent and comprehensive incorporation of biblical principles. In a Christ-centered, loving environment, the student will achieve academic excellence and individual character development as well as mental, physical, and spiritual growth.

Purpose of Athletics

1 Corinthians 10:31 states, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

The extracurricular programs of Isaac Newton Christian Academy are designed to enrich the student with a Christian educational experience. The athletic programs are specifically designed to help develop a healthy attitude toward competition and of winning and losing in life. The nature of sports is such that there are more losers than winners. We as Christians must learn how to lose gracefully, and when God permits us to win, to do so gracefully as well. More importantly, we desire that our student athletes develop a Christian perspective on what winning and losing truly are.

At Isaac Newton Christian Academy, we expect our coaches, players and students to represent the school in a manner that is respectful of others, both on and off the field of play. We also encourage and endorse the enthusiastic support of constituents and friends. In the process, we expect all such constituents and friends to uphold the same high standards that we demand of our students, which is to be ambassadors of Christ Jesus. Opposing teams and their fans are to be treated as honored guests.

In order for any Isaac Newton Christian Academy sports program to glorify God, each participant their parents or legal guardians must agree to abide by the academic and Christian intent of the rules. While not all instances can be addressed, each participant must understand that the programs are designed to enhance the educational experience.

Philosophy of Athletics

The philosophy of participation in athletic events at Isaac Newton Christian Academy is to develop fundamental skills and build character in a student athlete. At the 5/6th grade level, student athletes are rewarded for their efforts by being allowed playing time comparable to their efforts during practices and games. Both skilled and unskilled players are rewarded with equitable playing time if similar efforts are exerted.

At the 7/8th grade level, the desire is to build character through hard work and recognizing that God has gifted each athlete differently. The challenge at the 7/8th grade level is to work hard in a way that glorifies God and to identify one's role in contributing to the success of the team. If the role is to be the best scout player to challenge the starters during practice, then a player should do that with all his/her heart. If the role is to be the team encourager, then the player should do that with all his/her heart. If the role is to be the highest scorer, then the player

should do that with all his/her heart. The desire is still have players rewarded with equitable playing time when possible.

Matthew 18 Principle

Matthew 18:15-17 states the following:

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. But 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. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

At Isaac Newton Christian Academy, we request that the Matthew 18 Principle be followed when dealing with the offenses towards others, and this also applies to the athletic program. Any questions, concerns, or complaints should always begin at the appropriate level and be communicated through the proper channels: athlete, coaching staff, athletic director, Head of School, and LCEA Board of Directors.

Athletic Program Goals

It is the goal of the Isaac Newton Christian Academy administration, Athletic Director, and coaches to achieve the following objectives:

1. To glorify God through the use of HIS gifts to us on the field/court.
2. To provide a Christian environment for student athletes to develop their athletic talents.
3. To instill in student athletes an attitude of respect and sportsmanship towards other players, coaches, officials, and fans that is consistent with Biblical principles.
4. To provide a forum for student athletes to be a Christlike witness to players and spectators as they compete against other teams.
5. To provide an opportunity for student athletes to develop individual and team skills and strategies, as well as an understanding of different roles in team makeup.

Roles and Responsibilities

Student Athlete Responsibilities

Becoming a member of an Isaac Newton Christian Academy athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many of our student athletes. This accomplishment is a privilege—one that should not be taken for granted. All student athletes will learn to take responsibility for personal growth by developing loyalty, pride, integrity, and commitment. As a member of the Isaac Newton Christian Academy athletic program, a student athlete is responsible to help build a tradition that is glorifying to God. When a student athlete wears the Red, White and Blue of Isaac Newton Christian Academy, he or she is willing to accept the responsibilities that go with representing the school.

Responsibilities to God

Christians are ambassadors for Christ and the light of the world. As a member of an athletic squad from Isaac Newton Christian Academy, the most important responsibility a student athlete has is to be a representative of God. God has provided all of our student athletes with a platform—athletics—to witness to others.

Responsibilities to Oneself

Each Isaac Newton Christian Academy student athlete has a responsibility to broaden him/herself and to develop strength of character in areas such as loyalty, pride, integrity, and commitment. Each athlete owes it to him/herself to get the greatest possible good from interscholastic athletic experiences by competing at the highest possible level.

Responsibilities to the School

By participating in athletics to the maximum of one's ability, a student athlete is contributing positively to the reputation and tradition of the school. The student body, the surrounding community, and other communities judge our school by the student athlete's conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, student athletes can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride.

Responsibilities to Others

Student athletes bear a responsibility to their family, friends, and others. In particular, younger students watch student athletes and copy their actions. Student athletes should work hard to set a good example for them. These responsibilities extend further than just to the immediate team. All athletes are now part of the Isaac Newton Christian Academy athletic family. In the bigger picture, we are not here to compete with one another, but to complete one another.

Conduct of a Christian Athlete

The conduct of a Christian athlete is closely observed in many areas of life. It is important

that an athlete's behavior is above reproach in both of the following areas: competition and classroom.

- Competition. In the area of athletic competition, a Christian athlete never uses profanity or illegal tactics, and he or she learns quickly that losing on the scoreboard does not dictate one's attitude or how one competes. A quality Christian athlete is gracious in defeat and modest in victory. It is always courteous to congratulate the opponent on a well-played game after the contest, whether in victory or defeat. This means there should be no fits of temper, clowning, ridicule, or showing of any disrespect. When things fail to go as desired or when being replaced by a teammate, a Christian athlete must exhibit self-control at all times.

Officials in a game are there for the purpose of ensuring that both teams play fairly. Officials do not win or lose a game for a team. It is an athletic tradition and rule that no one except the appointed captain can talk to the official, and he or she should speak in a tone of respect and only for the purpose of clarifying a rule, not to question the judgment of the official.

Any behavior contrary to that which has been stated above is a direct reflection on the school, team, and coaches, and will not be tolerated. Violations of a minor nature will result in removal from the game. Violations of a serious nature may result in suspension and possible expulsion from the team.

- Classroom. A quality student athlete always strives to be the best student he or she can be and succeed academically. Time is carefully planned to provide sufficient energy for their studies to ensure acceptable grades. An athlete must also give respectful attention to classroom activities and show respect for students and faculty members at all times.

If a student will be missing classes because of an athletic competition, it is the student's responsibility to get all missed assignments from teachers prior to the day of the contest. It is also a student's responsibility to turn in all missed assignments before the deadline specified by the teacher.

Expectations of Student Athletes

Student athletes wearing an Isaac Newton Christian Academy uniform are expected to adhere to the following:

1. Commit for the entire season and be ready to practice, learn, and play.
2. Submit a completed physical examination form (signed by a physician), a concussion form, medical card and signed athletic handbook to the school office before participating in practice or games. These forms may be found at <http://www.incaonline.org/parent-info/parentforms.cfm>
3. Arrive to all practices and games on time.
4. Maintain passing grades of 74% or higher in all subjects.
5. Show respect for fellow players, coaches, and officials, as well as the opposing team members, coaches, and fans.
6. Perform to his/her potential and have fun learning the sport.

7. Be a model student in the classroom by demonstrating exemplary behavior, managing time effectively, and being responsible for completing homework by the assigned dates.

The Athlete,s Code of Conduct

Isaac Newton Christian Academy student athletes are expected to abide by the following code of conduct:

1. Be committed to Jesus first, family second, school third, and then the team.
2. Be intense and give maximum effort.
3. Be disciplined, self-controlled, and on time.
4. Be obedient to authority (coaches, captains, officials and others).
5. Leave the locker room, court, etc., cleaner than found.
6. Promote team unity.
7. Strive for excellence.
8. Treat teammates and others as more important than themselves.
9. Be examples in upholding the rules of Isaac Newton Christian Academy.
10. Love one another.

Parental Support and Cooperation

Since Isaac Newton Christian Academy first opened its doors, parent involvement has been key to the success of our many programs. Athletics is no exception. In the past, parents have supported the athletic programs financially, through work projects, donations of equipment and uniforms, and in ministry to our coaches and athletes.

Parents can support their student athlete by

- Attending every contest that is feasible. Your attendance at games is important to your student athlete. However, do not try to live through your student athlete. Be positive and supportive without adding undue pressure and unrealistic expectations.
- Understanding that athletics is a commitment for your whole family. Make sure that this is something to which your family can commit and see through to the end.
- Trying to be objective. Avoid the pitfalls of seeing your student athlete as the best player on the team or as viewing your child as faultless. All players, no matter how capable, need correction, redirection, and occasional criticism.
- Letting your student athlete know that you are supportive of him/her and that your love for them does not depend on their individual or team performance in a contest.
- Building up, rather than putting down other team members. It is important that each student athlete sees the other team members as a vital part of the team, regardless of their role or skill level. Parents are also expected to regard each member as vital to the team and not disparage a student athlete at any point, either during or outside a sporting event.

- Believing and supporting the coach's judgment, character, actions, strategy, and overall philosophy. This will help your student athlete do the same. In contrast, criticism and questioning of the coach's choices will likewise lead the student athlete in the same way. The attitudes and ideas communicated in the home will often be carried out in the heart and mind of the student athlete.
- Confronting an issue with a coach in good timing and with proper methodology. Sometimes, an issue will surface that needs to be discussed between the parent and the coach. When this occurs, it is better to confront an issue in love in accordance with the Matthew 18 Principle by scheduling a meeting with the coach rather than let it go and build up unnecessary hard feelings.
- Being sensitive to those around you as you watch a contest. Being a parent of an outstanding player or being a parent of a player who plays less often each hold their own shares of joy and pain.

Required Parental Participation

It is required that parents and guardians of student athletes participate in supporting the athletic program at home contests. This participation may be in the form of taking money at the gate, working in the concession stand, helping with setup and cleanup, keeping statistics and scores, etc. Schedules will be developed indicating which home contests require parental participation. It is the responsibility of the parent to serve the athletic program at the time and manner indicated on the schedule. If a parent is unable to find a suitable adult replacement, he or she may pay a \$25 fee to have a high school student work the scheduled shift.

Expectations of Parents

Parents or guardians of an Isaac Newton Christian Academy athlete should

1. Commit your student athlete for the entire season.
2. Pay the athletic fee before the first game. If this is a hardship, please contact the Athletic Director to make special arrangements. The athletic fee schedule is as follows:
 - \$75 for 5th and 6th grade athletes,
 - \$75 for 7th and 8th grade athletes, and
 - \$100 for high school athletes.
3. Ensure emergency contact information on file at the school is up-to-date.
4. Practice timeliness by making sure the student athlete arrives and is picked up on time for all practices and games. This is particularly important since the Activity Center is used for many school-sponsored and non-affiliated events.
5. Positively support the officials and coaching staff.
6. Encourage your student athlete and his/her team.
7. Attend preseason parent meetings (at least one parent) to gain an understanding of

general guidelines related to the specific sport and coaches' expectations for that sport.

8. Be available as needed to assist in supporting home contests.

Coach Responsibilities

Coaches must always respond in a Christlike manner in all situations. This includes his/her demeanor during practices, games, and when interacting with parents, referees/officials, and opposing teams and coaches. Coaches are expected to prepare and coach with excellence. Coaches should always communicate changes in schedules, travel plans, arrival times, etc. to athletes and parents.

Coaches will provide appropriate supervision of student athletes at all times. This accomplishes three important goals: (1) to guard player safety, (2) to ensure the proper treatment and maintenance of equipment, and (3) to reduce the risk of theft of personal property.

Coaches must also maintain appropriate modesty requirements as outlined in this handbook.

Athletic Director Responsibilities

The Athletic Director reports to the Head of School and is a standing member of the Sports Advisory Committee (SAC). Any concerns about the athletic program will be directed to the Athletic Director after expressing these concerns to the coaches, in accordance with the Matthew 18 Principle for resolving conflict.

The Athletic Director is responsible for scheduling games and practices, ordering equipment, and providing personnel for home games to run smoothly. This means that the Athletic Director must be informed of program needs. The Athletic Director is responsible for implementing and enforcing policies set by the school administration and Board of Directors. The Athletic Director is also responsible for recommending and evaluating coaches annually. Additional responsibilities include issuing and retrieving keys and equipment to/from coaches as appropriate.

Student Athlete Eligibility

Behavior

Student athletes represent God, Isaac Newton Christian Academy, their teammates, their families, and themselves. Any behavior that results in dishonor to God, the school, the team, or the athlete will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate behavior include—but are not limited to—the following:

- foul language,
- fighting,
- continual loss of temper,
- cheating,
- disrespect of opposing teams or coaches,
- arguing with officials.

After consultation with the athlete and the authority involved, the coaches, athletic director, or Head of School may declare an athlete ineligible for a specified number of games or until there has been a significant improvement in behavior and overall character on the part of the athlete. Parents of the athlete will be notified verbally and in writing of such ineligibility.

Academic Eligibility

In order for students to be eligible for extra-curricular activities, they must meet the following requirements:

1. Academic performance shall take priority over participation in athletics. For this reason, all students must maintain passing grades in all subjects (i.e., 74% or higher). In the event that a child is earning poor marks, the following is a list of the roles and responsibilities of the adults in the student athlete's life:

Teacher,s Role

- Inform parents of student's academic progress at the end of each academic quarter.

Coach,s Role

- Encourage athletes to do their best. The coach may also speak to parents about the effect that sports may be having upon their child's academic standing.

Parent,s Role

- Consider all of the information available and make a wise decision for their child as to whether or not the child should continue to participate in the athletic program.
 - Communicate student eligibility changes to the coach(es) as soon as possible.
2. The student can regain his/her eligibility after a period of five school days by having a statement signed by the teacher in the class(es) that the grade has been raised to

passing.

3. Students who are ineligible because of academics may not practice unless approved by the Head of School and Athletic Director.
4. In order for a student to participate in extra-curricular activities, he or she must be in school on the day of the activity.
5. Students must be in attendance at school the day after any extra-curricular activity unless an excused notice, signed by the parent, is given to the office. Note the following:
 - The excuse, "I was too tired" is not an excused absence.
 - If a student receives an unexcused absence for the above reason, he/she will be ineligible for the next game day or activity.
6. If a student is suspended from school for any reason, he or she will be ineligible for a period to be determined by the Head of School.
7. There may be circumstances concerning a student's eligibility that are not covered by the above stipulations. In such cases, the Head of School will make the final decision concerning eligibility.

Note: Grades will be checked by report card and midterm reports. If the student receives an unacceptable grade, the student may not participate until the grades are passing and at least one week has passed since becoming ineligible. Students who fail at the end of the year must wait two weeks to be eligible for the next school year.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Attendance/Participation

Student athletes should make every attempt, with as much advance notice as possible, to let a coach know when he/she will not be able to attend a team practice or game.

Student athletes are expected to be on time for their games and practice. Failure to be on time, as determined by the coach, can result in a reduction or elimination of playing time in a game or other athletic event.

An athlete who is absent from school because of illness may not practice or participate in an athletic event after school unless he or she is at school by noon.

Coaches will keep attendance records of student athletes to all team-related events (i.e. practices, games, meetings, team functions). Failure to participate without an excuse may result in a suspension from play. For varsity athletes, if there is no excusable reason for missing practice, the following will be enforced:

- One missed practice results in missing a quarter of the next game.
- Two missed practices results in missing a half of a game.

- Three missed practices results in missing an entire game.
- Four missed practices results in a meeting to discuss, with possibility of dismissal from the team roster.

NOTE: The head coach will determine what is an excused absence in accordance with this Handbook.

When a student athlete is medically excused from school, he/she may be excused from practices and games. Parents and student athletes should make every effort to schedule non-emergency medical or dental appointments to avoid conflict with practices or games.

When a student athlete knows he or she is going on a vacation, the student athlete should let the coach know immediately. All vacations should be planned around the sports schedule, especially major events (games, tournaments, etc.). A vacation is an excused absence from practices or games. However, when a student athlete returns, he or she is not guaranteed his or her previous position (i.e., on the starting team).

When a student athlete misses a practice because of a scheduled school function (i.e., Student Council, field trips, etc.), it is viewed as an excused school-related absence. However, the student is expected to convey this to the coaching staff in a timely manner prior to the absence.

If a student athlete has an unexcused absence during the school day, he or she will not be allowed to practice or play in the game that day.

Physical Examination and Concussion Forms

A student athlete will not be allowed to participate or compete until he or she has submitted evidence of having a physical examination by a licensed physician as well as a concussion form. Head coaches—in coordination with the school office—will ensure that student athletes meet this requirement. Physicals are valid for one year and one month from the date of the physical. Copies of all physical examination and concussion forms must be on file in the school office.

Participation with Non-School “Outside” Teams

Isaac Newton Christian Academy does not place restrictions on student athletes from participating in non-school athletic competitions of sports other than to require that the school sport be given first priority when there is a conflict of schedule. If the school sport is not given first priority, the coach has the authority to give out consequences to that student. Consequences could include loss of playing time, sitting out of a game, or extra conditioning in practice.

Grade Levels for Participation

Any student who is in at least 5th grade is eligible to play sports at Isaac Newton Christian Academy.

Students in 5th and 6th grades participate on 5/6th grade teams, if a 5/6th grade team is available. Students in 7th and 8th grades participate on the 7/8th grade teams. However, in the event that a 5/6th grade team or 7/8th grade team is short of players, the athletic director

can approve that players from the grade below play up on the 5/6th grade team or the 7/8th grade team. Likewise, in the event that a 5/6th grade team is short players, those players that have comparable skills from the 7/8th grade team may be allowed to play on the junior varsity team at the Athletic Director's discretion.

Students in High School participate in high school sports at the junior varsity or varsity level, subject to the discretion of the coaching staff.

Homeschool Students

Students who are homeschooled may participate in the Isaac Newton Christian Academy athletics program. Parents who desire to have their homeschooled child(ren) participate in the athletics program must sign the Statement of Faith and pay the \$100 LCEA membership fee, plus the athletic participation fee for each sport (multiplied by 1.1, per LCEA Policy 2.05.02).

The Head of School, Athletic Director, and coaches reserve the right to evaluate players on an individual basis. Should any player exhibit behavior not becoming of the school or violate principles and guidelines of this handbook, that student will be dismissed from the team.

High School Athletics

Isaac Newton Christian Academy is a member school of the Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) for male athletics and the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) for female athletics at the high school level. As such, all high school athletes are subject to the eligibility rules of these organizations in addition to those described herein. Rules and guidelines for these organizations may be found on their respective websites:

- IHSAA
<http://www.iahxaa.org>
- IGHSAU
<http://ighsau.org>

When a difference arises between the rules cited herein and the IHSAA or IGHSAU rules, the policies declared herein will be enforced in such a manner as not to create conflict with state rules.

General Guidelines and Procedures

Sportsmanship

An Isaac Newton Christian Academy athlete should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in actions, self-controlled with words, humble in spirit, and aggressive in pursuit of excellence without regard to the score, opponent, time, referee, or environment. When Christian student athletes display these characteristics, positive things usually happen. Teams are successful. Players are motivated. Fans are supportive. Enthusiastic parents are proud. Prospective athletes desire to participate. Often, nonbelievers are drawn to Christ.

It is important that guests to our school activities feel welcome. All visitors should feel as though they have been treated fairly and dealt with in a sportsmanlike way. The skills of the visiting team should be recognized and appreciated. Everyone needs to work to create a positive atmosphere at Isaac Newton Christian Academy. The following behavior is not acceptable at any contest: booing, jeering, mocking, and taunting and/or yelling negative comments at the officials.

If a problem occurs, inform the school administration and allow them to deal with the situation. The game officials, the Athletic Director, and the Head of School, or their designee(s) have the authority to remove any person from the confines of an athletic contest for unsportsmanlike behavior. They may also deny them the privilege of attending future contests.

Because it is the desire of Isaac Newton Christian Academy that all athletes, coaches and spectators display good sportsmanship, the following sportsmanship statement was developed and will be posted at home contests:

It is the intent and responsibility of the Isaac Newton Christian Academy athletic program to promote good sportsmanship by student athletes, coaches and spectators. In order to encourage responsible behavior at all interscholastic athletic events, Isaac Newton Christian Academy requests your cooperation by supporting all participants in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or sexist comments, or any other intimidating actions directed at officials, players, coaches, volunteers, or spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the site of competition. Please enjoy all events by encouraging your team to play their best.

Ejection

If any Isaac Newton Christian Academy player is ejected from any contest, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next two scheduled contests, but may sit on the team bench. If the same player is ejected from any contest a second time, he/she will not be able to participate in or attend any sport until the beginning of the next school year.

If any Isaac Newton Christian Academy coach is ejected from any contest, he/she may not attend the next scheduled contest. If the same coach is ejected a second time from any contest, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any sport until the beginning of the next school year.

An ejection is a judgment call; therefore, there are no appeals. Penalties are cumulative from

sport to sport and from season to season, but not academic year to academic year. Ejections in the last game of a given season carry over to the next sport in which the individual participates that year. If an ejection occurs, the Athletic Director must be notified within 24 hours of the violation so the violation can be recorded. If a wrong player is identified, a correction can be made.

Communication with Coaches

The coach is the designated person in charge. While not everyone may understand or agree with the coach's decisions or philosophies, it is important that the coach be given the benefit of the doubt.

If you have a valid question or comment, verbalize it to the appropriate person (most often the coach). Choose an appropriate time and do so in a positive way. Some issues are best dealt with during off-season.

Communication parents should expect from the athletic director and coach:

1. General philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has of the athlete and parents.
3. Locations and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, such as additional fees and special equipment.
5. Procedures followed if a student athlete is injured during participation.
6. Discipline that will result in denial of a student athlete's participation.

Communication coaches should expect from parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach, following the Matthew 18 Principle.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts, well in advance.
3. Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Guidelines for handling concerns with the coach

1. Generally, the first responsibility is for the student athlete to work with the coach. A coach appreciates communication from the athletes regarding team or individual situations. A coach will not "hold it against" an athlete for wanting to talk about a situation. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.
2. If a parent wants to speak with a coach about a concern, it should be done at a suitable time or via an appointment. Confronting a coach before or after a contest is not an appropriate time. These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches. Use the contact information provided by the coach at the team meeting to make this

contact.

3. If a concern still exists after meeting with the coach, the concern should be taken to the Athletic Director. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined.

Risk of Participation

Student athletes and parents must realize that there are inherent risks involved in athletics. By participating in athletics, the student athlete and family acknowledge this fact and assume this risk. Isaac Newton Christian Academy will conduct a student athlete-parent meeting prior to the start of each season to explain the athletic policies and to advise, caution, and warn of the potential for injury. Isaac Newton Christian Academy will continually evaluate and assess all equipment and facilities to ensure the safety of student athletes.

Equipment and Uniforms

Players must respect all school athletic equipment. Each player is responsible for his/her complete uniform at each competition. Depending on the sport, a student may have to purchase part of the uniform. All players need to take proper care of their uniforms. Damage to any school property may result in disciplinary action, including eligibility of participation. Uniforms must be returned at the end of the season. If the uniform is not returned at the end of the season, a replacement fee will be charged to allow the school to purchase a replacement uniform for the one not returned.

Dress/Changing

On trips to games at outside locations, our student athletes represent the Lord, Isaac Newton Christian Academy, the team, and the coaches. It is expected that all student athletes dress in such an acceptable manner as the coach directs. Student athletes are to conduct themselves in a respectful manner in keeping with this code.

There should always be at least one adult of the same gender as the student athletes supervising locker rooms. This can either be a parent or an assistant coach. (For example, a male coach of a female team should have a female supervisor in the locker room.) Changing rooms should be private and separate between genders. Student athletes should only change their clothes in an enclosed room.

Traveling

Parents or guardians are responsible for ensuring that children are transported to and from practices and games. Directions to and from games are provided by the Athletic Director.

Student athletes are expected to be on time for their away games. Failure to be on time can result in not starting in that game.

Summary

Isaac Newton Christian Academy is seeking to represent Jesus Christ in every aspect of all that we do. Colossians 1:18b states, "...so that in everything, He might have the supremacy." This "everything" includes the school's athletic program. On the field or on the court of competition true character is revealed. We want our student athletes—as well as our coaches, parents, and administration—all striving and pulling together for the same goals.

Our number one priority is to raise up strong Christian men and women in the name of Jesus Christ and to have everyone at Isaac Newton Christian Academy represent God in ways that are pleasing to Him. When this is consistently taking place, we are seeking to serve our Lord Jesus Christ to the best of our abilities in everything that we do.

The mission of Isaac Newton Christian Academy is to provide the highest quality Christian education program available through consistent and comprehensive incorporation of biblical principles. Our prayer is for all student athletes to use athletics as an additional platform to glorify God and to witness to those around them. By showing His love to others through our Athletic Program, many others can come to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Athletic Commitment Sheet

We have read the Isaac Newton Christian Academy Athletic Handbook. We understand the philosophy and rationale of the Isaac Newton Christian Academy athletic program. We agree to support and abide by this athletic handbook and the policies and procedures of the Isaac Newton Christian Academy Athletic Program. We agree to follow the standards that have been set for the school's athletic program, and agree to follow the Matthew 18 Principle in our communication when necessary.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please detach this sheet from the booklet and submit to the student athlete's coach before the first game.