

Athletic Policy Handbook



The King's Academy

2015 - 2016

TKA athletics... A culture where Christ motivates, competing dominates, excellence permeates & teamwork operates.

TKA ATHLETIC POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

The King's Academy is a Christian school where Jesus Christ is pre-eminent in all our relationships and where His word is our standard. At TKA, we seek to assist Christian families in developing Godly young men and women through athletics in a distinctively Christian environment. Our athletic program is an extension of the classroom and not a separate arena to be governed by the world's standards. With this in mind, our goal is to promote Christ-like character through athletic excellence.

Philosophy

The purpose of athletics at The King's Academy is to bring glory to God through striving for excellence in competition. TKA's outstanding program offers students the opportunity to learn the skills of the sport, develop teamwork and exhibit sportsmanship at all times.

This purpose is reflected in the following goals of the TKA Athletic Department:

Goals

1. To develop Christ-like character in each athlete (Galatians 5:22,23)
2. To exhibit the transforming power of Jesus Christ in our players and our coaches. (Matthew 5:16)
3. To continue developing the athletic abilities of each athlete (Colossians 3:17; II Timothy 2:5)

LION PRIDE

Through athletics at TKA, the goal is to teach a system of values that will extend beyond the arena of athletics and into every area of the athletes' lives. An acronym has been developed to help our coaches and athletes remember what is most important.

L – Loyalty – to show faithfulness and devotion. As Christ followers, our first loyalty lies with Him. Our next loyalty is to be to our families, followed closely by loyalty to our school.

We are all Lions!

I - Integrity – to do right no matter the outcome or the consequences. Said another way, integrity is how one acts when no one is watching.

O – One mind (Unity) – to work together to achieve a common goal is essential to success in athletics and in life. In other words, there is great value in sacrificing individual glory for the benefit of everyone involved: "Together we stand and divided we fall!"

N – Nurturing – to care for and encourage the growth or development of the whole program. Each team should show support for and encourage one another. Older athletes should take

opportunities to build into the lives of the younger athletes and teach them God's Way.

P – Pledge (Commitment) –to be dedicated to the cause of TKA Athletics. We gauge our level of commitment by what it takes to stop us. Quitting is NEVER an option!

R – Respect – to show esteem and high regard to the coaches, opponents, officials, teammates, fans, and everyone that we encounter. Always strive to put others ahead of self.

I - Involvement – to be involved with or to participate in something. This involvement goes beyond casual activity to personal, spiritual and emotional associations with others.

D – Discipline – to learn to manage our bodies, our time, and our resources. Self-control, diligence, and persistence are all synonymous with and are by-products of discipline.

E – Excellence – to strive for excellence in everything we do! Excellence results as we put our other core values into practice. As we practice lives of character, the result is excellence!

ELIGIBILITY POLICIES

Lower School Eligibility Guidelines

1. Students in the Lower School grades may sign up for the TKA "A-Team." 1st-6th grade soccer, 4-6 grade football and 3-6 grade basketball and cheerleading are all offered based on student interest and availability of quality coaches. Students will be taught the basic skills.
2. Parents will be notified of sign-up date, via Orientation, the Lion's Share and Athletic Calendar.
3. Students who play on a team must return all required forms prior to participation.
4. A student must not have reached his/her thirteenth birthday prior to September 1st of the current school year.
5. All Lower School teams will abide by TKA athletic policy.
6. Students in 5th and 6th grades may be able to participate in B-Team Sports. That decision will be based on the availability of the sports, the numbers of athletes on the team(s) and on the size and skill of the individual athlete. B-Team Sports will be governed by SCISA as well as TKA Athletic policy and an athletic physical will be required prior to participation.

Middle School Eligibility Guidelines (6th -8th grade)

1. Fifth and Sixth graders may sign up for TKA Middle School Athletics. (See number 6 above)
2. JV Cheerleading will be offered to students in 7th-8th grade.
3. All middle school and JV teams abide by SCISA and TKA athletic policies.
4. A student who repeats a grade below the ninth grade after having passed that grade will not be eligible during the year the grade is repeated.
5. In order to participate in JV activities, a student must not have reached his/her sixteenth birthday before September 1st of the current school year. In order to participate in middle school activities, a student must not have reached his/her fourteenth birthday before September 1st of the current school year.
6. Students below ninth grade must pass four subjects each grading period
7. To be eligible for a sporting event or school related activity sponsored by TKA students must attend at least 4 academic periods of the school day.

Upper School Eligibility Guidelines (9th-12th grade)

1. Students in the 9th-12th grade have the opportunity to participate in JV and/or Varsity sports under the eligibility policies outlined in the TKA Athletic Handbook and SCISA regulations.
2. Varsity cheerleaders will be in 9th thru 12th grade .If there is no JV squad then 7th and 8th graders will be permitted to join the varsity squad.
3. A student may not turn 19 before July 1 to play that year.
4. The primary purpose of school is education. The participation in athletics is a privilege for those students who are in good academic standing. Eight Semester Rule: All students will have eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the first year that they enter the ninth grade.
5. All required TKA and SCISA forms must be submitted for a student to be able to participate in the first practice of the season. A student must have a physical before he/she will be allowed to practice with a team.
6. To be eligible for a sporting event or school related activity sponsored by TKA students must attend four classes the day of the event. If the student is absent because of a contagious illness or disease, parents are asked to notify the office as soon as possible,
7. TKA will abide by all additional eligibility rules in the SCISA Blue Book.

Team Eligibility Guidelines

1. A student who enrolls and then transfers must wait sixty days before establishing eligibility on another SCISA team.
2. A student who transfers from a non-SCISA school is exempt from the sixty-day rule if other requirements are met. (See SCISA Blue Book)
3. Students in 7th-12th grade who enroll after the first day of class will be eligible to participate on an athletic team if enrolled prior to September 16 for fall sports and prior to January 7 for winter

- sports. If approved, a transfer must participate in ten days of practice before being allowed to participate in a game.
4. Placement of the student on a team will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and coaches of the teams in question.
 5. No student will participate in two games of the same sport on the same day unless the contests are doubleheaders in volleyball, baseball, or softball.
 6. Basketball: A student's name must be listed in the scorebook for at least on-half of all JV Basketball games scheduled to be eligible to participate in the JV Region Tournament. *Exception: a player who becomes eligible or returns from injury after the start of the basketball season.*
 7. A student is eligible to participate in the JV/B-Team Tournament or Varsity Tournament, not both.
 8. A student may participate in only one football game each calendar week. *Exception: SCISA may grant an exception based upon weather or health related postponement of a contest.*

Attendance requirements for practices and games

Each family will receive a sports schedule in time to allow them to make plans that will not conflict with the practice/game schedule.

Each athlete will have a chance to earn a position on the team based on his/her skill in the sport, proper attendance, attitude towards the players and the coach and how hard he/she works. The coaching staff will determine the position an athlete will have on a team based on what is best for the whole team.

1. A student may miss practice due to an illness provided that the student has a note from either a parent or a doctor.
2. An athlete may miss a practice if there is a family illness (with a written excuse) or a death in the family.
3. An athlete may not miss a practice in order to attend a concert or any other social event. The Head Coach must approve missing a practice due to another school event.
4. If a student does not feel well, but has attended school all day, he/she is still expected to come to watch the practice.
5. A student athlete that exhibits a pattern of missing practice time will be subject to discipline from the Head Coach which may include extra conditioning, suspension from part or all of a game and possible dismissal from the team. Unexcused absences from games will subject a student-athlete to possible dismissal from the team. (Exceptions to this policy will obviously be made in the event of extenuating circumstances.)
6. TKA athletics take precedent over any outside athletic teams. Athletes are expected to attend all games for their entirety. Missing practice time for any outside of school activities must be addressed with the Head Coach and Athletic Director before the season begins.
7. A student-athlete may only be a member of one TKA team per season. *Exception 1: Sporting Clays – a student can join the Sporting Clays Team but will not be permitted to miss practice time from another sport to attend Sporting Clays practice. Exception 2: Cheerleading. Requests for other exceptions may be made through the Athletic Director.*
8. If a student chooses to quit a TKA team once a season has started, he/she will not be permitted to begin practicing or conditioning/lifting with another team until the season of the team in which he/she quit has completed. Further action can be taken at the discretion of the Athletic Director and the Head of School.

SCISA Athletic Eligibility

- A student wishing to participate in SCISA athletics in grades 9-12 must take and pass at least four (4) one unit CORE Courses, or any five (5) one unit courses, each grading period to maintain academic eligibility.
- Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester to maintain academic eligibility.
- A senior who has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation must pass four (4) one-credit courses each marking period/semester.
- Courses taken during the school year by the **“Home School”** method are not eligible for athletic eligibility determination. “Virtual school” or online courses used for athletic eligibility will be considered on a case by case basis and must receive prior approval by SCISA.
- Any student who did not receive credit for at least **one-half of all courses taken the previous school year** cannot be declared eligible until after the successful completion of the **1st semester**. A maximum of Two Credits earned during summer sessions may be accepted from an accredited school with an established summer school program.
- A student may use college credit courses for eligibility purposes provided the student has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation.
- A One Credit Course is a course taken for 36 weeks, one period each day for a minimum of 45 minutes. A course taken each day as above for 18 weeks would be a half credit which when combined with another half credit course would be the equivalent of a one credit course. A course taken for 36 weeks but only three, 45 minute periods each week would not be a one credit course. Note: A One Credit Course taken for 18 weeks shall meet for one period each day for a minimum of 90 minutes. Dual Credit Courses are treated as one half of a Carnegie Unit.
- Core Courses: Those courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science (1), Fine Arts (1), and Foreign Language that are recommended by the Commission on Higher Education and are common to SCISA schools.
- Eligibility is to be declared on the fourth (4th) school day after the end of the marking period. A student shall become eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the fourth school day after the end of the marking period. *Example 1:* The marking period ends on Friday. Student X becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on Thursday. *Example 2:* The marking period ends on a Monday, and Tuesday is a holiday for students. Student Y becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the following Monday.
- New students/Transfer students from block scheduling system. Students coming from a block academic schedule system must have maintained good academic standing throughout both semesters of continuous academic work. (*Example:* a student who earned 4 units for the first semester but withdrew/dropped-out 2nd semester shall be declared ineligible).
- An ineligible player is not allowed to participate against another school in any competition whether practice sessions, scrimmages, jamborees, or scheduled game (SCISA or out-of-league games). An academically ineligible player may

- not take part in any practice sessions.
- ***Any changes to the SCISA Academic Eligibility Requirements that are not reflected in the TKA Handbook will be enforced as written in the SCISA Blue Book. (The Blue Book can be reference online at www.scisa.org.)***

TKA Extracurricular/Athletic Probation/Suspension

- Academic progress of all students will be checked every 2-3 weeks throughout the school year.
- If a student earns an “F” in any subject on a Progress or Interim Report or on a Report Card, he/she will be on academic probation for two and a half weeks until the next grade report period ends.

Extracurricular/Athletic Probation

- The student, parents, coach(es), club sponsors, directors, etc. will be notified that the student has two and a half weeks to bring up grades.
- Administration, the student, parent, and teacher(s) will develop a plan to help student’s grades improve, which may include tutoring, mandatory use of homework assignment book, curtailed school activities, etc.
- If grade(s) does not rise above failing within two weeks, student will be placed on suspension from all TKA extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular/Athletic Suspension

- Extracurricular/Athletic suspension begins on the third day after the grading period ends.
- The student and parent/guardian will be notified the date the suspension begins.
- The student and parent/guardian will be notified of the date the suspension ends.
- Extracurricular/Academic suspension does not end when the grades are pulled up or when the teacher notifies student of passing grades.
- Release from suspension is only made by the Head of School.
- A student on extracurricular/athletic suspension may not leave class for practice or preparation of games, rallies, events during school hours, or for early dismissal of games, meets, or trips.
- Students on suspension may be suspended from extracurricular practices and/or games for a period of time set by the Principal and Athletic Director.

- Grades will be reviewed by the administration on the day the Progress and Interim Reports are issued and on the day that ends a nine-week grading period.
- Discovery students abide by the grade policy in the Discovery Policy Manual.

Discipline

1. TKA athletics should abide by the TKA Code of Conduct and the SCISA Code of Conduct.
2. Zero Tolerance Policy for Foul, Abusive, or Profane Language – If a student uses foul, abusive, or profane language or uses an obscene gesture during a game, the student will be removed from the game by the coach and not be allowed to play the rest of the game and the beginning of the next game until the time missed is equivalent to one full game. If the offense takes place in practice, the coach will administer team discipline in addition to a write up to be turned in to the office.
3. Zero Tolerance for Level III Offense, specifically relating to the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. All level three offenses will lead to automatic game suspensions and possible dismissal from the team. (Statement regarding accumulation of Level II Offenses.)
4. Students who have ISD/OSS may not attend practices or games during suspension.

SAFE AND RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENT

As an educational institution, TKA desires to educate students in a safe and productive environment. Therefore, bullying, harassing, or hazing of any kind will not be tolerated. Please refer to the Student Handbook, Sections 7340-7342 for more specifics on how TKA defines behaviors that can be classified as bullying, harassing or hazing. (This would also include cyber-bullying.) In addition to school discipline, if an incident occurs during the context of an athletic event (practice, pre-game, game, travel, etc.) an athletic penalty will be incurred (such as suspension, dismissal from team) in addition to the school discipline.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

1. Total cost of uniform (if applicable) will be the responsibility of the parent and payable at sign up
2. All items, uniforms, and equipment are the property of The King's Academy.
3. Uniforms must be turned into the coach at the end of the season,
4. The student is responsible for their uniform. Uniforms not turned in at the season will be charged to the students account.
5. All uniforms or T-shirts must be approved by the Athletic Director prior to ordering.
6. If a varsity athlete has played a sport the previous year he/she may keep his/her uniform number until he/she graduates.

RECOGNITION (Awards)

1. The procurement and presentation of awards to coaches and players is the responsibility of the TKA Athletic Department. Parents desiring to honor coaches must contact the Athletic Director prior to recognition.
2. All Lower School/JV athletes will be recognized with a certificate of participation.
3. All Upper School athletes will be recognized with a letter, bar or pin depending on their years of participation.
4. The Athletic Director will recognize all coaches.
5. Each Varsity coach will give three awards (i.e., most improved, best defense, and best offense) In addition, a coach's award for the display of Christ-like character in the context of that sport and a 3D award for dedication, determination and desire will be given by each Varsity Coach.
6. In order to letter in a sport a student should have played in $\frac{1}{4}$ of all games, matches or meets.

Dress Code

1. **Practice** – Loose fitting shirt (girls-neckline no lower than 2 inches, about 3 fingers width, from the base of the sternal notch on the neck). Loose fitting athletic pants or shorts no higher than 3 inches above the knee. Shorts with writing on the seat are not permitted. Athletic shoes should be worn. Sports bras may not be worn as a uniform top during practice/conditioning or at any time during athletic events.
2. **Game Day** – **Boys**-collared shirt and dress pants. **Girls**-dress pants, skirt/blouse, or dress. At the coach's discretion athletes may be permitted to wear their uniforms to school for game days.
3. **Athletic Ceremonies** – **Girls** – Skirts/blouse dresses, dress pants or Capri dress pants are permitted, but the capris must be mid-calf in length. No hats, sunglasses, jean skirts, shorts, cargo pants or athletic pants will be permitted. **Boys** – Dress pants and a dress-collared shirt, tucked in with a belt and a tie must be worn. No hats or sunglasses will be permitted.
4. A student not in dress code will not be allowed to participate in practice or ceremonies until acceptable changes are made.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

The athletic policy chain of command (working both ways) is as follows: parent, coach, Athletic Director, TKA Administration and TKA Board of Trustees.

FANS

SCISA Code of Conduct and Philosophy

The South Carolina Independent School Association believes that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate in athletics must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet these expectations. Moreover, adults shall be models of good sportsmanship and will lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control. Athletes, coaches, officials, and fans shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner. Each person will be responsible for his/her words and actions at all SCISA athletic events and will conform his/her behavior in adherence to the Code of Conduct. (For more information on the SCISA Athletic Code of Conduct, please refer to the SCISA Blue Book, which can be found at www.scisa.org.)

TKA will ask fans to follow the SCISA guidelines and adhere to the SCISA Code of Conduct (see above) as it applies to fan participation. TKA strives to provide an environment that is free of offensive behavior. TKA is intolerant of any action or comment that would reflect prejudice toward another person. Conduct, whether intentional or unintentional that subjects another person to unwanted attention or to comments or actions because of race, national origin, age, gender, physical characteristics or disability, robs the person of dignity and is not permitted. TKA does not condone or allow harassment of others whether engaged by student, staff or family members.

Coaches

The coaches at TKA are distinguished by their commitment to Christ, their athletic excellence, and their dedication to the students. It is and shall be the policy of The King's Academy, in the hiring of coaches, not to discriminate on the basis of the applicant's race, color, gender, or national or ethnic origin.

A coach of The King's Academy must:

1. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his/her life.
2. Model a personal relationship with Christ, seeking to create a desire within each athlete to have his/her own relationship with Christ.
3. Seek continued spiritual growth through daily Bible study, prayer, and worship.
4. Be active in a local church (i.e., weekly church attendance)
5. Maintain a godly example in all areas of his/her life according to Scripture.
6. Treat all athletes, parents, officials, and fellow coaches in a manner consistent with being a follower of Christ.
7. Be in agreement with the Statement of Faith held by TKA.
8. Be in agreement with the purpose and philosophy of Christian education and athletics as held by TKA.

Professional Qualifications - All coaches of The King's Academy must:

1. Have good references, both professional and personal.
2. Maintain good relationships with TKA staff, parents, and students.
3. Dress professionally and appropriately for school functions.
4. Be prompt to perform duties and responsibilities.
5. Keep confidentiality in all areas pertaining to students and/or staff.
6. Support decisions made by Athletic Director, Administration, and Board of Trustees.
7. Organize a practice, which develops a player's potential so that he/she can play to the best of his/her abilities in game situations.
8. Instill in players the desire to compete for excellence, to work hard in practices and games and to have self-discipline.
9. Have knowledge of the sport and the ability to teach the skills and fundamentals of the sport
10. Obtain all certifications required by TKA, SCISA, and NFHSA.

All coaches must have on file with TKA: a coaching application, TKA Staff Information Form and a Background Check Form and any additional information as required by the Athletic Director and School Administration.

Lockers

1. Students involved in athletics will be issued a locker in the locker room.
2. Students need to use locks provided by the school and keep lockers locked at all times.
3. The school is not responsible for stolen items.
4. Lockers may not display materials that promote illegal substances or alcohol, immodest pictures, non-Christian music, slogans or symbols that have double meanings, slogans or symbols that would offend, or media promotion for video games, movies or TV programs that do not support Christian principles.
5. Lockers are the property of TKA and reserve the right to search a student's locker at any time.

Travel Policies

Policy for Travel to Away Games

1. The AD is responsible for arranging travel to and from away games.
2. Coaches must carry to/from away games the completed medical forms for all athletes and other students associated with a team (managers, statisticians, videographers, etc.).
3. Athletes and other students associated with a team (managers, statisticians, videographers, etc.) are the only students who will be permitted to ride the bus with the team unless a child's parent is also riding the bus.
4. Athletes riding the bus to an athletic event will be expected to ride the bus home unless written permission is given for the student to ride home with another adult other than his/her own parent.
5. The school bus must be reserved through the athletic director. If the team's coach is driving the bus then a TKA staff member, a TKA parent or another adult approved by the athletic director must serve as a chaperone to/from the game. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure that a chaperone is present.
6. The AD reserves the right to make transportation decisions in unusual circumstances.
7. If the AD arranges for parents to drive to and from an athletic event:
 - a. Permission slips must be signed by each athlete's parent indicating that the athlete may ride with those drivers the AD appoints.
 - b. Students must return home with the same AD-appointed drivers unless alternate travel arrangements have been approved by the athlete's parent(s) and communicated to the coach in writing (whether by written letter or text message to the coach) by the parent(s). NO phone calls will be accepted.
8. Due to the unique nature (i.e. transporting guns) of the Sporting Clays team the travel policy followed may be different, subject to the AD's approval.

Transportation Guidelines for Parents

1. Parent/guardian driver must have a Classroom Parent Form on file.
2. Parent/guardian driver will be held liable.
3. Vehicles used to transport students must have a seatbelt for each student. Students may not be double-belted.
4. Children under the age of twelve should not be placed in the front seat of a car with an air bag that is activated.
5. No church or rental van will be used without written approval by the administration.
6. While chaperoning or driving for an athletic event parents/guardians are asked to refrain from the use of all tobacco products including e- cigarettes and the consumption of alcohol.
7. Drivers are asked to play only Christian music while students are in the vehicle.
8. If the vehicle has a VCR/DVD player, please check with the Athletic Director before viewing movies. Generally, only movies with a G rating may be shown to Lower School students and only those with a PG rating may be shown to Middle and Upper School students.

Athletic Department Staff

Brad Bochette – Athletic Director

Keith Rogers – Assistant Athletic Director

Office Phone Number – (843) 661-7464 ext. 14

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Please sign and return this form stating that you agree to abide by the Athletic Policies in this handbook.

Student's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____