**North Tampa Christian Academy**

**Athletics Policies Handbook**

**2022-2023**

**NTCA Mission and Core Values**

***LEADERSHIP THROUGH CHRISTIAN INNOVATION***

**Imagine:** Promote creativity, wonder, and beauty to God’s glory. Colossians 3:2 says, “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

**Respect:** Include and encourage each other as we embrace diversity for the greater good. Matthew 7:12 says, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

**Inquire:** Foster curiosity and a persistence to learn that drives academic excellence. Matthew 7:7-8 says, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

**Achieve:** Pursue knowledge to attain the optimal outcomes for every learner. Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”

**Innovate:** Create and transform ideas while inventing methods to improve the community. Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world. But, be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

**Serve:** Cultivate minds and hearts for service as students place others’ needs before their own. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

**Inspire:** Invigorate the passion to achieve success and ignite the hope to persevere. Ezra 10:4 says, “Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.”

**Goal of Athletics**

**Our goal as a school is to provide a setting that creates a Christ-like character in all student-athletes as well as developing an athlete’s physical giftedness and mental strength in a competitive environment.**

**Philosophy**

We believe that an extra-curricular activities program enhances the atmosphere of the North Tampa Christian Academy student body, providing students and parents with an opportunity to express positive school spirit.

We believe that participation in extracurricular activities provides opportunities for our students to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in their interaction with the surrounding community. We expect our North Tampa Christian Academy family to lead in a positive manner as we come in contact with visiting fans as this may be their first interaction with a Christian group.

Athletics is a real-world experience, under proper mentorship, where students are given the opportunity to develop character and physical giftedness. Athletics is to only be one piece of a student’s extra-curricular experience at North Tampa Christian Academy.

**Proper Scope of Athletics**

The spiritual and academic welfare of our student-athletes is our first priority (see Eligibility Requirements). Athletics must fit within the context of growing students spiritually, intellectually, and physically.

1. Athletic director reports to the NTCA Head of School.
2. Athletic director will ensure that scheduling, practices, and games will uphold the high standards NTCA places on our spiritual and academic program.
3. Athletic sports will be funded through players, booster club, and additional fundraisers/donors.
4. NTCA will have job descriptions for coaches.
5. Athletic director, in consultation with the NTCA Head of School will carefully screen coaches and other support staff.
6. Any district, region, or state game that requires NTCA student-athletes to compete on Sabbath (sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday night) will be forfeited.
7. Athletic Director and coaches will provide opportunities for spiritual development.

**Forms**

This year NTCA will be a part of the Sunshine State Athletic Conference and the Florida High School Athletic Association. Every student-athlete must have a sports physical at the beginning of every year before they can participate in any sport. The physical is good for 365 days from the date of the examination. If a physical form from a doctor’s office is used, you will still need to fill out one of the FHSAA physical forms for parental consent to participate. The FHSAA also requires consent and release forms to be signed and on file for each year. The physical forms and consent/release forms are available in the office or on the NTCA website.

Parents need to fill out a travel permission form listing those people that their son/daughter would be allowed to travel home with from an athletic contest. Students will only be released to individuals on the list or their parents.

[FHSAA Physical Evaluation Form](https://www.fhsaa.org/sites/default/files/el02_physical_2_0.pdf)

[Consent and release from Liability Certificate](https://fhsaa.com/documents/2020/3/26/el03_consent_03_19.pdf)

SunShine State Athletic Conference Consent Form

**Eligibility/Attendance**

Student-athletes must be full-time student’s of NTCA and/or meet FHSAA/SSAC requirements for eligibility. As NTCA believes in academic achievement, a student-athlete must maintain a 2.5 GPA No F’s and no more than 1 D. Grades will be checked by the AD every Friday. A student-athlete on any type of suspension and/or probation, will not be eligible.

Athletes must be fully enrolled and participating in class work before participating in an athletic contest, unless the part of the day that was missed was due to a documented appointment. Attendance at games/tournaments/practices that occur over holiday periods are required if an athlete is in town, however, if an out of town family vacation is planned, an athlete will be excused and not penalized. These absences need to be made known to the coach as far in advance as possible.

If a student-athlete becomes ineligible while on a sports team, the following apply :

1. They may attend practices.
2. They may not participate in games.
3. They can become eligible when the AD checks grades the following week.
4. Once a student has three ineligible periods, they WILL BE removed from the team.

**Leadership Structure and Concerns**

If there are any questions, concerns, or incidents involving our athletic program, the appropriate person in charge should be contacted. The following chain of command be should followed:

1. Head Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Head of School

Do not express a concern to a coach immediately following a game. **Instead after an appropriate time has passed,** state your concern in a manner-of- fact way and listen to the coach’s response. If a parent and/or student-athlete does not feel a situation has been resolved with appropriate personnel, then they may go to the AD. The Head of School will only be contacted if the AD has been involved in a situation.

**Student-Athlete Responsibilities**

Since interscholastic sports should foster Christian character and personal growth, student-athletes will be given the opportunity to develop these areas as they represent their school with honor and integrity.

Expectations for the student-athlete on the court or field include the following:

1. Exhibit positive sportsmanship (never refuse to shake hands or recognize opponents for outstanding performances).
2. Respect God, others, and yourself (no performing undermining cheers, blaming loss of game on officials, coaches, or teammates).
3. Exercise self-control in all circumstances (no taunting, name calling, or profanity).
4. Live and compete honorably.
5. Meet commitments to practice and games.
6. Treat other players the way you want to be treated.
7. Help promote a team spirit (team’s goals, welfare and success before individual).
8. Observe the spirit and the letter of rules.
9. Display humility in victory and graciousness in defeat.
10. **Demonstrate Christian behavior in all aspects of the game.**

Infractions to the NTCA Athletic Behavior standard will result in one of more of the following:

1. The student will meet with the athletic director and parents (potentially principal).
2. The student may do a report on the area of infraction (bullying, benefit of a positive attitude, etc.).
3. The student may apologize to anyone affected by infraction.
4. Student-athletes may be placed on probation for the remainder of the season.
5. If a student-athlete is ejected from a game/match, there may be a one game suspension. A second ejection, may lead to removal from the team.
6. The NTCA Handbook will apply to all athletic extracurricular events (see eligibility).

Positive behavior is also required off the court/field for all NTCA student athletes. NTCA student athletes should:

1. Make academics a priority.
2. Represent the school, coach, and teammates with honor.
3. Be loyal to the school and team.
4. Avoid using any illegal or harmful substances.
5. Demonstrate Christian values in life.

**Coaches Responsibilities**

At North Tampa Christian Academy, all coaches will be selected by the Athletic Director and approved by the Head of School. Each coach must have the following qualities:

1. Model Christian ethics at all times.
2. Encourage a healthy lifestyle.
3. Encourage an atmosphere of camaraderie and team play.
4. Model respect for all people and teams (do not run up scores, help up opponents who have fallen, etc.).
5. Promote loyalty to school and team.
6. Use positive coaching methods to improve the self-esteem of student-athletes.
7. Place the spiritual, intellectual, and physical well-being of student-athletes above the desire to win.
8. Insist that student-athletes observe the letter and spirit of the rules.
9. Communicate and enforce codes of conduct.
10. Be willing and able to provide spiritual, mental, and physical growth and direction

Each coach has the following responsibilities:

1. Embrace divine opportunities that God has given to mentor student-athletes.
2. Begin all activities with prayer and, if applicable, a short worship.
3. Oversee all aspects of the sport.
4. Create and run stats based try-out for team selection.
5. Running appropriate practice sessions.
6. Determining starters, positions, minutes played for players.
7. Establish a team contract with rules.
8. Select how team captains are chosen.
9. Report scores to the athletic director.
10. Take required FHSAA or SSAC coaching classes.
11. Help ensure equipment and facility is left in clean and safe order.
12. Keep accurate stats.
13. Develop an off-season program for players.
14. Understand FHSAA and NTCA rules governing sport.
15. Assign duties to assistant coaches/managers.
16. Exit interviews with players.
17. Exit interview with AD.

**Spectator Code of Conduct**

Spectator conduct should include all of the following, but not limited to:

1. Support all players, teams, and visitors in a positive way.
2. Be respectful by avoiding the use of profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or any other demeaning actions.
3. Do not show excessive displays of anger or frustration.
4. Do not use noisemakers during a contest.
5. Treat officials with respect at all times by not complaining or arguing calls or decisions made during game.
6. Cheer appropriately and in a way that is representative of our school.
7. Compliment extraordinary performances.
8. Represent the school with dignity in victory or defeat.
9. **Exhibit Christian behavior at all times.**

**Try-Out Process/Playing Time**

Try-outs will be conducted for all NTCA athletic teams by the head coach of the team. NTCA students will be notified by the Athletic Director as to the date and time of specific sport try-outs. Potential players must be at try-outs, unless an emergency situation. Team members are chosen by the coach, who has the final call on the roster. Once try-outs have concluded team rosters will be posted at the school for those that made the team.

The Titans coaching staff does not promise playing time to any player. It is our philosophy that each player must earn his/her time on the court by competing for a starting position and demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship both on and off the court.

**Expectation of Different Team Levels**

**MIDDLE School Sports Participation:** Middle School teams consist of athletes in grades 6-8. In order to receive participation credit in a particular sport, an athlete must participate on the team for the entire season. If injured during the season, an athlete is required to attend all team events for the remainder of the season in order to receive credit in that sport. An athlete who quits a sport after the season has begun may not join a different Academy sport during that season.

All Middle School sports are contingent upon the number of sign-ups. If there are not enough preseason sign-ups, the sport may not be offered. It is important to make a commitment when signing up. Accomplished athletes may try out for the Varsity team if invited by the Varsity Coach, and/or the Athletic Director.

**VARSITY/UPPER DIVISION SPORTS**: Varsity teams primarily consist of athletes in grades 9-12. On occasion and depending on the sport, Middle Division athletes are invited to participate on Varsity level teams. Playing time is not guaranteed. There may be times when athletes do not participate in game action. An athlete who quits a sport after the season has begun may not join a different Academy sport during that season.

**Athletic Fees**

There will be a mandatory fee per sport, per athlete. The fees will be determined by the costs of running the program. Students’ fees must be paid by the date listed in the NTCA calendar. Failure to do so may result in the player forfeiting their spot on the team. If paying the required fee presents a problem, please see the AD as soon as possible.

Fees for 2022-2023 season, including due dates:

* Middle school sports cost: **$250**
* JV sports cost: **$300**
* Varsity sports cost: **$525**

**Once a student has made a commitment to join a team, fees are non-refundable.**

**Uniforms**

Uniforms will be supplied by NTCA for each sport. All NTCA uniforms are on loan to the students and are to be turned in at the end of the season with no less than the normal wear of a season. All uniforms must be returned **7 days** after the sports season has ended. If the uniform is not returned to the Coach or Athletic Director, the athlete will be charged for the cost to replace the sports uniform.

**Communication**

Throughout the course of the school year there will be communication sent out concerning schedules, changes, additions, etc. Most communication will take place through Blackbaud using the email addresses that are on file with the school. If you would like to change or add contact information, please let the school office know.

**Team Travel**

Transportation will be provided to away games and matches. If the game/match is at a later time and athletes leave campus after school, they may meet at the game at a specified time if agreed upon by the coach.

If a team leaves during or immediately after school, a student may only drive with written permission from their parents, and no other athletes, other than siblings, may ride with them.

If a parent would like other people to be allowed to give their child a ride home from an away game they must fill out the travel permission form listing ALL people that have permission to transport their child.

**Tournaments**

Some sports have an away tournament that requires an additional fee for student-athletes. Required study halls will be mandatory during tournaments. A student-athlete that does not participate in mandatory study halls, will NOT be able to participate in games. Each student-athlete is responsible to arrange with the teacher about missing school days and to complete assignments. Tournament travel is exhausting, but NTCA students are required to be at school upon their return (unless a doctor’s note is presented).

**Summer Practices**

Summertime practices are allowed for all sports. We encourage participation for all athletes in summer practices, camps, leagues, ect. Summer provides a great time to develop individual and team skills in the same structured environment. We understand that summer is a time for vacations, thus no one will be penalized for missing summer practice sessions.

**NTCA Booster Club**

The role of the booster club is to support the efforts of the athletic program. The booster club will be run jointly run by the Athletic Director and parents. The booster club will provide support in two main ways:

1. Provide financial support through individual gifts, banner program, or fundraising activities (in particular reducing costs of away tournaments).
2. Serve as game support staff to run admissions, concessions, and help with scorer’s table/line judges.

**Assessment of the Athletic Program**

The athletic director and Head of School will meet at the end of the year to do a joint annual evaluation of the athletic program. Included in the process will review the year with the NTCA Leadership Team. This ensures a healthy balance between spiritual, academic, and physical opportunities. The evaluation will include:

1. Report by AD summarizing the strengths and areas of growth of each sport, including coaches.
2. Report on booster club.
3. Report on budget.

**NTCA ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AGREEMENT 2020-2021**

 **PARENT STATEMENT**

*The signature of both parents is required unless a single parent household.*

I/We\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Print Parents/Guardians Names) have read the 2019-2020 NTCA Athletic Handbook and understand that these are the policies of the athletic department. By signing this form, I/We acknowledge the Athletic Handbook as binding and I/We accept its provisions as a condition of participation in the North Tampa Christian Academy sports program.

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 Parents Signature Date

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Parent Signature Date

 **STUDENT STATEMENT**

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Student Signature Date