

Faith Christian Academy / Kansas City North Knights Athletic Handbook

MISSION

The purpose of the Faith Christian Academy / Kansas City North Knights Sports is to partner with parents and students in a corporative venture to provide an opportunity for Faith Christian Academy and home school students to participate in organized, competitive athletics and to use that competition to teach Christian-based principles that will encourage young people to strive for spiritual maturity in all areas of their lives.

The KCN Knights is governed by an athletic committee approved by FCA Council which establishes rules, makes organizational decisions, and appoints athletic staff based upon an established standard of organization and Faith Christian Academy statement of faith of.

ELIGIBILITY

Faith Christian Academy Students

All students who attend Faith Christian Academy are eligible to participate with the Kansas City North Knights. All full-time students at Faith Christian Academy that participate in athletics will participate with the Knights. The only exceptions are:

1. The FCA / KCN Knights do not offer that sport
2. **Returning full-time students** that have played with another program in the past while attending FCA will be grandfathered and will be allowed exemption from the policy.
3. Specific exemption from the Knights board and FCA Council.

Homeschool Students

The requirements for homeschool students are that each participant must be homeschooled at least **50%** of their classes each year. Following are definitions of what is considered to be homeschooled and what is NOT considered to be homeschooled.

Homeschooled means:

1. Taught at home by one or more of the student's parents or grandparents.
2. Taught at home by an adult sibling or by a legal guardian.
3. Taught at home, or someone else's home, by another homeschool parent or tutor, provided that it is done under the direction and supervision of the child's parent.
4. Taught at a central location for a particular subject (such as chemistry, speech, or calculus) by a homeschool parent or tutor.
5. Correspondence courses are considered to be homeschool.
6. Co-ops (where a group of homeschool parents gather in a central location and each parent teaches a different subject to all the students) is permissible provided that each student is still taught at least **50%** of their classes by their parents or guardian, regardless of location.

Homeschooled does NOT mean:

1. College classes taken at a university or college.
2. Vocational/technical classes taken outside the home.
3. Classes taken at a private, Christian, or public school, other than Faith Christian Academy even if those classes are set up to cater to homeschool children.

AGE REQUIREMENTS

Junior High (7th – 9th grades) cannot be 16 before September 1st of the School year in which they are participating.

High School (9th – 12th grades) cannot be 19 before September 1st of the School year in which they are participating.

The school year is considered to begin August 15 and continue through June 15 of the following year. All players are limited to four years of high school (varsity) eligibility beginning with their freshman year. All athletes must follow the FCA Athletic Sports Points policy attached.

Any homeschool student who is or has participated in the KCN Knights athletic programs within the previous year and elects to participate in another homeschool athletic program; or, to participate in athletics, while continuing to homeschool, at a private Christian school or any other formally organized school, may not return to KCN Knights without approval from the Knights' Athletic Committee.

PARTICIPATION

Participation rules apply to all athletes, cheerleaders, and in some instances parents and spectators. It is important to remember that we are not in athletics to follow the crowd, but to be the example. All coaches have full authority to enforce these rules during any scheduled practice or game. Anyone who does not feel they can abide by the rules and be committed to the team should not sign up. Please understand that we fully intend to enforce all of these rules.

1. Violation of any of these rules by the parent or participant may result in dismissal from the program or result in a probationary status for the coming year. An individual on probation will be immediately removed from the program upon violation of any of these rules. Individuals (or families) placed on probation will be notified in writing from the Athletic Director. An appeals process is available.
2. Players and coaches must conduct themselves so as to be a good example in all situations.
3. No ridiculing of players (ours or the opponents) will be tolerated. This includes any type of taunting. Foul language will not be tolerated. Certain words deemed unacceptable by a coach should not be used at sporting events. Violations of this rule should be communicated to the athlete and his/her parents. Continued violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including removal from the team.

4. All athletic forms and insurance forms must be turned in prior to the first game before a player will be allowed to play. Getting a sports' physical is optional, however, if you choose not to have a physical, a waiver stating so much be signed.
5. Basketball, cheerleading, soccer, and volleyball are considered team sports and teamwork will be emphasized. There is no place for individual "attitudes". If a player refuses to participate in a team activity, such as practice, drills, or discipline, he/she may be put on probation.
6. Players must attend all scheduled practices on time unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach. Prior arrangement means that you have notified the coach at least 48 hours in advance unless there is an emergency. The "no practice, no play" rule will be in effect. Since we have a limited number of practice days it is very important that players make scheduled practices on time. Continued absence or tardiness may result in dismissal from the team.
7. All decisions concerning game situations and players will be made by the coaching staff and will not be open for discussion. Do not disturb a practice or a game; this includes times immediately prior to or following practices or games. Verbal assaults or confrontations with coaches (by parent or player) concerning playing time, game decisions, awards, and lettering will not be tolerated. Violations of this rule will be cause for immediate probation. We ask that you address the coach first of any concern privately. If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved; parents may bring this issue to the Athletic Director. Please put your concern in writing either by e-mail or by letter and send it to Athletic Director. You will receive a reply within one week. He can be reached by e-mail at knightsad@fcaclassical.com or USPO mail at 3500 NE Prather Rd., Kansas City, MO 64116.
8. The facilities we use for practices and games do not belong to the KCN Knights. Please observe all rules when attending games or practices. Any damage done to practice or game facilities as a result of horseplay or maliciousness will be paid for by the parents of the individual(s) involved. If it was the result of maliciousness, then the player may be removed from the team for the remainder of the year. If it was the result of horseplay, the player(s) will be allowed to continue to play on probation. A second offense may result in further disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the team.
9. Uniforms must be returned to the uniform person prior to the Awards Banquet. No awards will be given out until your uniform is turned in. Lost or damaged (normal wear and tear considered) must be paid for at the time it is returned. Failure to compensate for damaged uniforms will result in players from that family being barred from participation until such compensation has been made. Failure to return a uniform within the given time frame may result in a non-participation status for the next year.

10. Parents and family members attending KCN Knights games and events are expected to conduct themselves in a positive manner so as to be an example to our players and participants. This includes the manner in which we address the officials, and coaches, players, and fans of the opposing teams. Verbal abuse of any of those listed, or un-sportsman-like conduct by parents or family members will result in a warning to the offenders. A second offense shall result in a one game suspension for the offender. A third offense will result in the offender being suspended from the KCN Knights home games for one year. Failure of a parent to comply may result in the removal of the child (or children) from the program. Please help us keep the game and the program fun and exciting for everyone!
11. KCN Knights considers unacceptable any conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline or which tends to impair the morale or good conduct of students. This includes, but is not limited to: possession, consumption, being under the influence, or sale of alcoholic beverages including malt beverages; possession, use, being under the influence, or sale of narcotics or drugs, or drug paraphernalia; possession, use or sale of explosives, weapons, tobacco; any conduct which would subject students to criminal prosecution.
12. Players may qualify for a varsity letter beginning with the freshman year that they play a varsity sport. Players must compete in a required number of varsity quarters as a high school student (9th-12th grades) before earning a varsity letter. Students not lettering will receive a certificate of participation. The head coach has the prerogative to issue or withhold a letter for extenuating circumstances such as early season injuries. Coaches must provide documentation of these circumstances to the athletic committee. In all cases, students must complete the season as a member of the team in order to letter.

Players may qualify for a junior varsity letter beginning with the 7th grade year that they play a junior varsity or varsity sport. Lettering for all sports: basketball, cheerleading, soccer, and volleyball Students must meet the following criteria.

1. Student must meet all academic eligibility and good citizenship criteria.
2. The athlete must have completed the entire season.
3. The student must attend all practices unless excused by the coach for illness or emergency beyond the student's control.
4. Must attend all the games throughout the season unless excused by the coach for illness or emergency beyond the student's control.
5. All equipment and/or uniform must be turned in.
6. The student must play in the required number of quarters/minutes for each sport.

Basketball = 50% of quarters

Cheerleading = 90% of all games cheered

Soccer = 50% of all games and 25% of minutes of the games

Volleyball = 50% of all games

13. Miscellaneous information:

1. There should be no gum chewing during games or practices. This is dangerous if aspirated.
2. Jewelry, watches, and metal hair barrettes are not to be worn during the game.
3. The team's first aid kit will be by the bench during all games.
4. Players should not hang around in the locker rooms. They are to be used for changing, stretching, and coaching purposes.
5. Players' sidelines are for game participants only – fans must remain in designated areas for spectators.
6. All athletes should respect each team's warm-up time before games and during half-time; when the current team is warming up, others should stay off the court.
7. Athletes are to come to games dressed either in nice dress clothes, or FCA school uniform. This is standard policy for most high school teams which brings an important, serious attitude to the players. The coach of each squad will determine which of these dress codes their squad will follow. Dress clothes for girls does not necessarily mean a skirt or dress; nice slacks and top are fine. Boys should wear dress slacks and a nice shirt. No jeans or t-shirts unless you have been asked to arrive early to set up or stay late for clean up. Once these responsibilities are completed, the athlete should change into the appropriate uniform for his/her squad.

FEES

Payment

Athletic fees will be set before the season begins. Each sport will have a different dollar amount according to expenses. The fees cover such things as gym rental, referees, uniform fee, tournaments, insurance, supplies, equipment, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Payments shall be made prior to the first game of each season, unless other arrangements have been made. Payments can be made either by cash, check, or from your athletic account. Payments may be made in one installment at the beginning of the season or in two installments (basketball only), one at the beginning and one prior to the first game of the second half of the season.

Admission/Concessions

Money made from admission and concessions shall be placed into the account and used for operating expenses. The main expense will be the payment of the referees and gym rental. Just like at all public and private school athletic events, admission fees will be collected at all home and away games. Generally, prices are as follows: Adults - \$3.00 Students (K-12) - \$2.00 Preschoolers are free. Prepaid admission cards are available for Knights' home games. Knights' players, coaches, cheerleaders, and team managers as well as those of the opponent, will not be charged admission. Knights' athletes get free admission to home games of the sport in which they are participating only.

Additional Money

There will also be additional money needed to cover each sport accordingly. Uniform items such as socks, hair ribbons, spankies, shoes, etc. are up to each player to provide on their own. The list and cost should be provided by each sport's coach prior to the beginning of the season. For varsity players and cheerleaders, additional money will be needed to cover travel expenses. Other optional costs include physical exams, team pictures, award banquets, etc.

Any funds you earn for the Knights during team sponsored fund raisers is credited to an account for your family to help with fees within the Knights' organization. These funds can be used for: athletic fees, Knights sponsored camps, equipment required as a part of the Knights' uniform such as socks, spankies, etc...or travel fees for players, coaches, and parents asked to participate as chaperones. These funds cannot be used for: outside camps such as Don Eddy, Tri City, or Calvary; pictures; banquets; or gifts. Money in your account is carried over from year to year. Any money left after you leave the program is still the property of the KC North Knights and is not transferable since it was earned for this non-profit organization.

TEAM COMMUNICATION

E-mail – There is so much information to be communicated that e-mail is the choice of communicating general information to team members. Please check your e-mail at least daily during the season.

Phone Tree – A phone tree for each team may be established after teams are formed. The phone tree is used for quick message alerts such as cancellations due to inclement weather.

Directory – A team directory will be given to each player once teams are formed.