

# **Athletic Handbook**



**The King's Academy**

**2018 - 2019**

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

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## **Introduction**

Lion Fans,

I am extremely blessed to have been a part of the best school family anywhere for the past four years. As I begin my fifth year at TKA, I am most grateful for the people that I come into contact with everyday that help make my job the best job in the world.

Thank you for your unwavering support and loyalty to TKA Athletics. It is my belief that we have the best fans anywhere! Thank you for your support that you show each week through your serving, through your giving and through your attendance. I believe that 2018-19 is going to be a great year! Thank you for showing your Lion Pride every week!

Brad Bochette, Athletic Director

## **2018/19 TKA Athletic Department Staff**

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## **History**

The King's Academy was founded as an educational institution in 1990. Shortly after, in 1995, the first athletic team, Co-ed Soccer, was established. From the early formative days to the 2018/19 school year, the Athletic Program has experienced steady growth. This year, TKA will offer 10 different sports and will produce 29 different teams. For the 2017/18 school year, 79% of students in grades 7-12 participated in athletics in one form or another.

TKA has seen state champions crowned in Boy's Soccer on two occasions and in Sporting Clays and Skeet on nine different occasions. In addition to the state championships, the Sporting Clays team has also claimed 4 National Championships.

## **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 a sport, develop teamwork, and exhibit sportsmanship at all times.

The objective of the TKA Athletic Department is to produce student-athletes who:

1. Exhibit the character and transforming power of Christ as they mature into responsible and productive citizens (Matt. 5:16 and Gal. 5:22-23);
2. Work to fully advance their knowledge, skills, and tactics as athletes (Col 3:17 and II Tim. 2:5);
3. Contribute to a wholesome and God-honoring atmosphere of safety, fairness, ethics, respect, and fellowship at every TKA athletic event (I Cor. 10:31).

## **LION PRIDE**

Through athletics at TKA, the goal is to teach a system of Christ-centered values that will extend beyond the arena of athletics and into every area of the athletes' lives. The acronym "Lion Pride" helps 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 – Nurture – to care for and encourage the growth or development of the whole program. Each team should show support for, encourage, and serve one another. Older athletes should model Christian virtues and maturity to positively nurture the younger athletes.

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, team mates, 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 characteristics 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 a sign-up date, via Orientation and the Lion’s Share.
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 made 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. Depending on numbers, positions may be offered to students in the 5th and 6th grades.
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 the SCISA September cutoff date for fall sports and prior to the SCISA January cutoff date 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 a 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 priority over any and all 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. Student-Athletes returning from an away athletic event after 11:00 pm, will be excused (SE) from first period the following morning. The coach or Athletic Director must email faculty and the school secretary prior to first period. The student athletes will also be given one extra day to complete course work.
8. 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.

9. 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.

## **TKA ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

### *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 referenced online at [www.scisa.org](http://www.scisa.org).)

#### *TKA Extracurricular/Athletic Academic Suspension*

- Academic progress of all student-athletes will be checked by the coach in season at the midpoint of each quarter.. If an athlete is not demonstrating satisfactory progress, the coach may choose to take action such as the following: Meeting with athletes and parents, academic action plans with athletes and teachers, tutoring, or even suspension from practices and games.

- If a student athlete earns a grade of F in any subject on any Report Card (not including a semester exam grade), he/she will be placed on Athletic Suspension beginning the third school day after the grading period ends. This same policy would apply to any student who earns two D's in two different subjects during any quarter or semester.

- The student athlete and parent/guardian will be notified the date the suspension begins.
- The student athlete and parent/guardian will be notified of the date the suspension ends.
- The student athlete will be suspended from all athletic activities for a period of two weeks.
- The student athlete will be released from suspension at the end of two weeks, provided he/she has show satisfactory progress in all classes and does not have an F in any class or two D's in any classes..

- Release from suspension is only made by the Head of School with input from the Athletic Director..

- 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. (The TKA and SCISA Codes of Conduct are listed separately.)

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. All Out of School Suspensions will result in a minimum of a one game suspension. A second Out of School Suspension may result in a student's suspension from athletics for the remainder of the school year. 4. A student athlete will serve a one game suspension upon the second In School Suspension. A third In School Suspension may possibly result in the student-athlete's dismissal from athletic participation for the remainder of the school year. Note: Refer to the TKA Family Handbook Section 7300 for information on TKA Conduct and Discipline.

## **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. All items, uniforms, and equipment are the property of The King's Academy unless purchased by the coach, parent or student athlete.
2. Uniforms must be turned into the coach at the end of the season,
3. The student is responsible for their uniform. Uniforms not turned in at the season will be charged to the students account.
4. All uniforms or T-shirts must be approved by the Athletic Director prior to ordering.

## **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.

### **RECOGNITION (Awards)**

1. The procurement and presentation of awards to coaches and players is the responsibility of the TKA Athletic Department. Parents desiring to bestow special recognition or honor upon 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. In order to letter in a sport a student should have played in ¼ of all games, matches or meets.

5. The Athletic Director will recognize all coaches. 6. 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.

### **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 – At the coach's discretion athletes may be permitted to wear their uniforms to school for game day.

Boys-collared shirt and dress pants.

Girls-dress pants, skirt/blouse, or dress.

### **3. Athletic Ceremonies –**

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.

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.

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. In accordance with the TKA Matthew 18 policy, TKA Athletics asks that when inevitable concerns arise, that the concerned party should communicate directly with the party involved in an effort to seek understanding and reconciliation before involving other parties.

## **TKA ATHLETE'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

*"Do everything heartily as unto the Lord and not unto man." Colossians 3:23*

I commit that I will abide by the following criteria while participating in athletics at TKA.

1. I will adhere to the SCISA Code of Conduct.
2. I will accept responsibility for my behavior and its outcomes.
3. I will honor my obligations to the team by attending practices and games.
4. I will practice and encourage good sportsmanship and will play by the rules of the game that I am playing.
5. I will do my very best in my studies at school.
6. I will abide by the TKA Discipline Policy.
7. I will treat coaches, fellow players, officials, opponents, and fans with respect.
8. I understand that missing school on a game day will result in not playing in that day's game.
9. I will refrain from prideful and boastful behavior.
10. *I will learn and practice the Christian Winner's Code: "I believe that a true winner always does his best, never to the glory of self, but always to the glory of God. With the Lord's help, I will strive to be a true winner today."*
11. I will commit to daily devotion of prayer and Bible study to prepare myself spiritually as an athlete.

## **FAN CONDUCT**

*SCISA Code of Conduct and Philosophy*

All coaches, athletes, and fans must adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Section 1: Athletes, coaches, and fans shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner, reflecting full and true credit to the school they represent.

Section 2: An athlete, coach, or fan will be in violation of Section I upon violation of one or more of the following:

1. By making an degrading remark about any official, coach, or athlete during or after any game, either on or off the field/floor of play. (This would include social media.)
2. By arguing with an official (or officials) or displaying motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
3. By using foul, abusive, or profane language at any time.
4. By making any degrading remarks or criticism of any official, coach, athlete, or school to any news media.
5. By hitting, shoving, or striking any official, coach, athlete, or fan at any time (or attempting to do so).
6. By being ejected from any contest.
7. The use and display for alcoholic beverages, tobacco (including smokeless types) or controlled substances is strictly prohibited at any SCISA event.
8. By detaining an official following a contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official.

SCISA may impose a warning, probation, suspension, or fine on any school, coach, or athlete for violating the code of conduct.

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 whether the game is played at TKA or at another school. 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. Additionally, all TKA Coaches will be certified in CPR, Concussion training, and Heat related illness yearly or as required. All first year coaches will take courses and be certified in the Fundamentals of Coaching and Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behavior.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

*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 alternative 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.

c. All drivers will be subject to a request for review of their driving record.

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.

## **Website**

Additional information regarding the Athletic Department is available at [www.tkaflorence.com](http://www.tkaflorence.com) under the athletic tab. Here you can find information such as schedules, addresses for opposing schools, team offerings, and information about how to sign up for the Booster Club.

Due to the changing nature of athletics, this Handbook will be revised yearly. Thus, the information, policies and procedures herein are valid only for the 2018/19 school year.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Signature \_\_\_\_\_