



## **Knoxville Christian's Sportsmanship Guide**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege. As representatives of KCS, student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that meets the highest standards at all times.

It is the goal of KCS to provide all students with opportunities to engage in athletic activities that enrich their education and further develop the core values of respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, trust-worthiness, and good citizenship.

Good sportsmanship and proper behavior are learned by engaging with others and modeling good behavior. It is the responsibility of the administration, staff, coaches, and parents to create a climate that fosters the development of these behaviors.

Expectations for the behavior of coaches, athletes, parents and spectators at athletic contests, practices, and events are outlined below.

### **COACHES**

Coaches are required to meet the following expectations.

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating support for all athletes, coaches and officials at all games, practices, and other events.
2. Place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of a personal desire to win.
3. Teach athletes to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts with civility and without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. Ensure that the sport is enjoyable and remember that the game is for the athletes and not the adults.
5. Treat other coaches, officials, players, and parents with respect.
6. Establish open lines of communication with players and parents in order to allow an understanding of expectations.
7. Communicate coaching philosophy, expectations for all team members, locations and time of practices and contests, team rules and requirements, and consequences for violation of rules.

### **ATHLETES**

Students who choose to participate must agree to turn in all required forms, pay all fees, and abide by all team and school policies.

Athletes are required to meet the following expectations.

1. Approach athletics with emphasis on respect for self, others, and property.

2. Remain loyal to self, teammates, coaches, and KCS.
3. Support the ideas of true sportsmanship and demonstrate the ability to accept the consequences for all choices.

**PARENTS**

Parents of student-athletes are required to meet the following expectations.

1. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating support for all athletes, coaches and officials at every game, practice or event.
2. Place the emotional and physical well-being of student-athletes ahead of any personal desire to win.
3. Support coaches and officials in providing a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
4. Treat coaches and officials with respect and refrain from verbal indignities.
5. Respect coaches and officials and their authority during games and not to question, discuss or confront coaches at the game site.
6. Discuss any issues or concerns with the coach at an agreed upon time and place. Discussions of playing time is not allowed.
7. Help ensure that the sport is enjoyable for their child and remember that the game is for the athlete and not for the adults.

**ATHLETE/PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

KCS encourages open communication among athletes, parents and coaches. Both athletes and parents are urged to discuss their concerns with the coach in the appropriate setting and at the appropriate time. (Before, during and after the game at the game site is not the appropriate time or place.)

Appropriate concerns to discuss with the coach include issues of mental and physical well-being, strategies for improving performance and issues of behavior.

Issues not appropriate for a parent to discuss with coaches include playing time, starting positions, team strategy, play calling, and other athletes.

**CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

It is desirable for conflicts to be resolved by an athlete with his/her coach. Occasionally, however, situations arise where conflicts are not able to be resolved through interaction and the assistance of the athletic director is needed.

**Player:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_