

New Jersey United Christian Academy Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook

I. To the Parents/Guardians:

This booklet is presented to you because your student has expressed an interest to participate in interscholastic athletics at **New Jersey United Christian Academy**. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that will assist in your student's personal growth and development. We view athletics as a co-curricular entity in the education process.

It is the responsibility of the Administration and Athletic Director to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for New Jersey United Christian Academy. This can best be achieved through open and honest communication.

It is our desire to operate the athletic program recognizing God's Words in Romans 11:36: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen."

II. Athletic Philosophy:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." – Colossians 3:23

Athletics are considered to be an essential aspect of the learning process at New Jersey United Christian Academy. We believe that our athletic program is vital to the spiritual, academic, physical, and social development of our students. We believe that young people learn a great deal from their participation in sports. The principles learned include: leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, competition and how to win and lose gracefully. These experiences are an integral part of each team in our athletic program.

Participation in our athletic program at New Jersey United Christian Academy is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to our God, to the school, to the sport, and to the student athlete themselves.

III. Requirements for Participation

A. Physical Examination

In order to participate, mandatory physical examinations must be conducted each year using the “Preparticipation Physical Evaluation” form provided in the registration packet. These physicals are conducted in accordance with sporting guidelines, to protect the health and well-being of each athlete.

B. Emergency Medical Authorization

Each athlete’s parent/guardian must complete an “Emergency Information & Medical Consent” Form from the registration packet, giving permission for emergency treatment by a doctor and/or hospital if the parent(s)/guardian(s) are not available. This form will be kept in our medical kits for availability at all practices and games.

C. Scholastic Eligibility

In order to participate on New Jersey United Christian Academy teams each student must have satisfied and maintain all of the scholastic eligibility requirements. If a student does not perform adequately in academic areas, he/she must forgo co-curricular activities. The minimum requirement is an overall average of 70 and no failing grade in any subject. Students become ineligible according to but not limited to the following academic guidelines.

1. During any given quarter, if a student receives one or more academic warnings for an average of a 69 or below.
2. If a student becomes ineligible due to a warning notice, dropping that course will not reinstate him.
3. If a report card is issued with an overall average below 70 or with a failing grade in one or more subjects.

Two exceptions are taken into consideration.

1. If a student’s academic history demonstrates that he/she does not have the ability to maintain an overall average necessary for eligibility, he/she may be granted conditional approval to participate in an extra-curricular activity as long as he/she does not fail in any required course or receive a warning for an average below 70 in any required course.

2. If a student is new to our school, he/she may have difficulty adjusting to the academic expectations and may be granted a conditional approval to participate in sports if his/her average is below 70 as long as he/she is showing consistent effort and is not failing any required academic subject.

The athletic director ultimately makes the final decision regarding the student's scholastic eligibility.

D. Behavior Eligibility

A student may also become ineligible if he/she manifests an attitude of disrespect, lack of cooperation, or poor testimony at anytime (i.e. during practice, competition, school events, or in the classroom) and if discipline points exceed the amount clearly defined in the student handbook. Students may be reinstated at the discretion of the athletic director and administration.

E. Risk of Participation

All parents/guardians and students must realize the risk of injury, which may result from athletic participation and competition. All coaches and athletes are to conduct all athletic events according to safe practices.

F. Equipment

All school equipment/uniforms issued to a student are that student's responsibility. The athlete is expected to keep them clean and in good condition. Any loss or intentional damage to the equipment/uniforms is the student's financial obligation. No student will be issued equipment/uniforms until he/she has returned or paid for the lost or damaged equipment/uniforms.

G. Attendance of Practices and Games

In order to develop a legitimate program, athletes should be prepared to practice or play a game on any given afternoon. A coach and team need to have full participation and cooperation from all athletes. If a conflict arises, the student should have already determined **prior to** joining the team, that the practice/game must have priority. We believe that this is an important aspect of teaching responsibility and commitment. In the unavoidable event of an absence, an athlete must:

1. Contact the coach prior to the absence.
2. Be willing to accept the consequences relative to your role or position on the team.

H. Transportation

We rely on our school van/bus to transport students to and from the games. Students may only drive themselves when a written request is sent to the athletic director stating the necessity of the situation. Students should be reminded to respect the vehicles and drivers. All trash, etc, should be removed with the student when he/she exits the vehicle.

I. Attendance at School:

Students must be in school on the entire day of an athletic contest or they will not be eligible to compete that day. The same policy will be in effect for all practices. We believe that if you are not well enough to come to school, you are not well enough to practice or play. Attendance of school is mandatory; however, excused absence for time missed at school (not full day) will not be counted against the athlete.

J. Released from Class:

On occasion it may be necessary for student athletes to miss class. Under these circumstances it is the responsibility of the student to see the teacher(s) involved and get all assignments prior to the absence. Homework will not be excused due to sporting competition/practice. Both grade and participation in athletics will be in jeopardy if there is outstanding work.

K. Squad Selection

In accordance with our philosophy for athletes and our desire to have as many students as possible participate in the athletic program, our coaches reserve the right to make selections as they see appropriate to the sport and the students in participation. The selection of captains and the athletes playing time is to be determined by the coach.

L. Reporting of Injury

All injuries must be reported immediately to the coach. If a physician treats an athlete for an injury, the athlete must obtain the Doctor's written permission before returning to the activity.

M. Gym Regulations

All students and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a Christian-orderly fashion during practices and sporting events. Anyone displaying behavior unbecoming and inappropriate will be promptly dismissed from the event and may be prevented from attending future sporting events.

The athletic director and/or administrators will handle any conduct that does not reflect a good sportsmanship and does not adhere to the athletic handbook.

N. Athletic Awards Policy

Earning a varsity letter is a major accomplishment in the world of athletics. It is evidence that you have excelled not only on the playing field, court, or track, but also in the classroom. Only those athletes in good athletic and academic standing shall be considered for a varsity letter. This athlete must be of good character as well as a good teammate. These athletes must also meet the following sports requirements:

Soccer and Volleyball – participate in at least half of the scheduled matches at varsity level.

Cross Country – participate in at least half of the scheduled meets and finish a race with a faster time than below:

Boys: Freshman 22:00, Sophomore 21:30, Junior 21:00, Senior 20:30

Girls: Freshman 26:00, Sophomore 25:30, Junior 25:00, Senior 24:30

Boys and Girls Basketball – participate in at least half of the scheduled games at a varsity level.

Track – participate in at least half of the scheduled meets and achieve minimum qualification standards in their specific event(s).

All student athletes must display a consistent Christian attitude in both practice and games. Letters will not be presented to those that do not finish the season for any reason other than injury. Injured players may receive a letter if in the opinion of the coach the athlete would have qualified if not for the injury and also served the team in some capacity while injured.

Upon receiving a varsity letter for the first time, the athlete will also be present with a pin signifying the sport that he/she lettered in. A bar will signify a second letter in the sport. Captains will be presented a pin as well.

Every student participating will receive a certificate of participation.

Every athlete will be required to sign the Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Acknowledgement that they have read and agreed to the policy listed within its pages.

Interscholastic Athletic Policy Handbook Acknowledgement

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

I have read, understood, and agree to honor the New Jersey United Christian Academy Athletic Statement of Cooperation. I understand that violation of this statement may result in dismissal from the team and forfeiture of all possible awards. I recognize the risk involved in athletics and will not hold any NJUCA program or personnel responsible.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____