

# New Hope Christian Academy



## Athletic Handbook 2018-2019

All parents, student-athletes, staff, and coaches must read this document, along with the parent/student handbook. The policies and procedures presented in this Athletic Handbook will be the standards by which we are governed.

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## **1. New Hope Christian Academy**

*New Hope Christian Academy (NHCA) admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities. In addition, NHCA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarships, loan fee waivers, educational programs, athletics, or extracurricular activities. NHCA is not intended to be an alternative to court or administrative agency ordered or public school district initiated desegregation.*

New Hope Christian Academy is recognized as a chartered nonpublic K-12 school. As a chartered nonpublic, New Hope is able to establish specific admissions criteria, policy and procedures in order to provide a safe, secure, and wholesome learning environment. The following policies and procedures are established in order to ensure each student (current or prospective) and family requesting admissions to New Hope understands and upholds the rules and regulations associated with the policies and procedures.

New Hope Christian Academy stands firmly upon the historical truth claims and moral foundation of Christianity. This includes, but is not limited to the Biblical definition of marriage, the attendant boundaries of sexuality and moral conduct, and the clear biblical teaching that gender is both sacred and established by God's design.

The Biblical and philosophical goal of New Hope Christian Academy is to develop students into mature, Christ-like individuals who will be able to exhibit a belief of what qualities or characteristics exemplify a Christ-like life. New Hope Christian Academy retains the right to deny enrollment to or to expel any student who engages in sexual immorality, including any student who professes to be homosexual / bisexual / transgender or is a practicing homosexual / bisexual / transgender, as well as any student who promotes such practices (Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:27).

Parents or legal guardians who apply are accepted and subsequently enroll their children at New Hope Christian Academy are agreeing to support these and other basic Biblical values derived from historical Christianity and relevant Christian positions. Parents understand and agree that New Hope Christian Academy will teach these principles and Biblical values.

### **Purpose**

The purpose and goal of New Hope is to provide our students with the very best education with caring, qualified, Christian teachers. Our school provides curriculum, activities, methods, and materials centered in and upon the eternal principles of God's Word and His son, Jesus Christ. Small class sizes provide a high degree of individual interaction.

We believe that the education of our students is important because it not only deals with their present lives, but it also affects and shapes their future. The student's home, church, and school experience should be a preparation for life, a life of walking daily with God and service to man.

### **Vision Statesman**

New Hope Christian Academy is an innovative PreK-high school Christian academy dedicated to excellence by partnering with families and churches in educating the future Christian leaders through Christ-centered training, application, and example.

## **Strategic Vision Statement**

Our Strategic Vision is to become the premier Christian K-12 college preparatory leadership school in Ohio.

## **Statesman Creed**

"I will let God give me wisdom and integrity today, so that I can be my best and make a difference in the world." It is more than a creed. It is a way of life for our students. Our standards for principled student leaders are high and each student and his/her family must be willing to adhere to the standards.

## **Core Values**

NHCA affirms the following core values:

- Scripture is recognized as the revealed Word of God and is taught as truth.
- A rigorous process of the integration of faith and learning in all academic disciplines is maintained.
- Christian administration and faculty model Christ in teaching and leading.
- High academic standards are maintained, and internal and external evaluation is welcome.
- Curriculum and other programs are characteristically innovative.
- Every student can learn and be successful.
- Parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children; the school serves as a tool for the parents.
- Teaching of the Bible is a core subject and is essential to the academic curriculum.

## **2. NHCA Athletic Purpose Statement**

The purpose of athletics at NHCA is two-fold: first, as a school, athletic competition is part of the development of young men and women and should be done with the same excellence and spiritual emphasis as academics. Second, athletics provides opportunities for many of our students to apply their faith in multiple ways. Our desire is always to provide our students with coaches who will expose them to the truth of the gospel as well as train them properly in the sport of their expertise.

At NHCA we desire to provide quality coaching, teaching, and competitive experiences from a Christian perspective, all designed to prepare and enable each individual student to grow in Christ and strive for excellence by way of athletics.

Middle School: At the middle school level, our goal is to lay an athletic foundation of a Christian worldview, quality instruction, and a fundamental approach to each sport. This instruction is fulfilled through coaching that is marked by our desired dual focus: a mature Christian faith coupled with excellence in the sport coached.

High School: At the high school level, our desire is to continue the quality instruction of the middle school. All of our coaches are encouraged to play to win but to do so in a manner which brings glory to our Lord and Savior. What does this mean? It means we field a team that plays hard, fair, and aggressive in order to win, but that team does not play, win, or lose in a way that taints the name of our Lord and Savior.

## **3. Club and Travel Teams**

In this effort to field high-quality, competitive teams in all sports, we find it necessary to address athletic participation on Club and Travel teams. It is against NHCA rules for an athlete to participate in a school sport and a club/travel team of the same sport at the

same time. For instance, a student-athlete cannot play NHCA basketball and play on a club/travel team at the same time. The student-athlete may not even participate in practice for the club/travel team.

When there is a student-athlete participating in a New Hope sport and a club/travel team (of a different sport), the NHCA sport **MUST** take priority! Tardiness, as well as absences, will be disciplined accordingly by each coach.

If a student would like to play two New Hope sports in the same season, it would need to be acceptable to both coaches and administration.

#### **4. Sportsmanship**

Good sportsmanship is expected of everyone involved in athletics at NHCA. What is good sportsmanship? It means players, coaches, and fans consistently demonstrate an attitude resembling Christ Jesus. Fans from a rival school are welcomed into our home arena with a cooperative spirit; when we play in an opposing arena, we do so in a way that honors our Lord by being good stewards of the facility, playing hard and fair, and winning or losing with the grace of the gospel. Everyone representing NHCA is expected to treat opposing players and coaches, referees, and opposing fans with respect and courtesy at all times.

At NHCA, how we do something is as important as what results from doing it. Our play must be a testimony to those who are watching. Our fans and the way we cheer also must be a testimony. We feel so strongly about this that we have developed the Statesman's Creed. We ask the entire NHCA community to abide by this creed.

- Our school and witness are characterized by our conduct.
- We always appreciate a good play, regardless of the team.
- We never 'boo' or criticize a player, coach, or official.
- We are humble in victory, praiseworthy in defeat.
- Character, not victory, is the most important thing.

The Statesman defined and Sportsmanship Code of Conduct should be read at the beginning of all varsity home games.

*The Statesman defined:* A New Hope Christian Academy Statesman is someone who impacts public life through integrity and wisdom.

*Sportsmanship Code of Conduct:* On behalf of the New Hope Christian Academy we ask fans to use good judgment and Christian character in rooting for your respective teams. Your attendance and support of the student-athletes and coaches is appreciated by member schools competing. Though both teams are rivals, they are expected to exhibit the qualities of good sportsmanship throughout the contest and the administration of both schools request the same from all fans.

The athletes, coaches and officials are guests of New Hope Christian Academy. ALL fans are asked to respect the effort each of them has put forth preparing for today's/tonight's contest. We ask all attending to show courtesy and respect for fellow fans, officials, coaches, those administering the contest and of course – your team and your opponent. And, as important today as ever, PLEASE "Respect the Game".

*Parental Code of Conduct:* Parents will be required to sign the Parent's Code of Conduct. The Code must be followed at all times and parent may be asked to leave if not followed. If a parent is asked to leave the game, the parent will be not allowed to watch the next three games.

## **5. The 24-Hour Rule**

At New Hope Christian Academy, in accordance with who we are in Christ, we ask all parents to wait at least 24 hours before speaking to any coach about matters related to game decisions. We ask parents to abide by the following procedure when questioning any NHCA coach:

1. Wait at least 24 hours.
2. Request an appointment with the coach.
3. If at all possible, meet face-to-face per Matthew 18:15.
4. Be respectful and courteous.

If the need arises to have a discussion with a coach, the discussion must be limited to your student-athlete. In meeting with any coach, please understand that playing time as well as other student-athletes will never be topics open to discussion. You are the advocate for your student-athlete; conversations outside that realm can result in gossip and rumor, which NHCA takes a strong stance against.

## **6. Organizational Affiliations**

New Hope Christian Academy is a member of the Central Ohio Athletic League (COAL) on the middle school level. As a member in good standing, we recognize and adhere to its guidelines and we submit to its authority in all athletics **at the middle school level**. The COAL rules and regulations are outlined in its members' handbook, a copy of which is kept on file by the NHCA Athletic Director. NOTE: The Athletic Director will be the school liaison when dealing with issues related to the COAL. Therefore, a parent should never contact the COAL without first discussing the matter with the Athletic Director.

High school is currently a member of the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association (OCSAA). ~~The 2016-2017 school year will be our probationary year for Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) with anticipation of full membership in the 2017-2018 school year.~~

## **7. Programs Offered (Depending upon interest)**

Interscholastic offerings at NHCA are the following:

- I. Fall Sports: Co-ed soccer - Middle School, JV, Varsity; Girls' Volleyball – Middle School, Varsity
- II. Winter Sports: Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball - Middle School, JV, Varsity, Girls' Middle School Cheerleading
- III. Spring Sports: Boys' and Girls' Middle School and Varsity Track & Field, **Co-ed Tennis**

## **8. Coaches**

A goal of NHCA athletics is to provide Christian coaches of integrity who have the highest possible skills in their respective sports. Whenever possible, qualified faculty members are used to fill coaching positions. The Athletic Director is responsible for the overall athletic program and supervises all coaches.

## **9. Insurance/Injuries**

It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to provide health insurance for their children who are participating in athletics at NHCA. Each athlete's physical well-being is of prime importance to NHCA. Therefore, all injuries must be reported promptly to a student's coach and the Athletic Director. All student-athletes must have a documented Physical examination, a signed NHCA Waiver form, and a signed NHCA Code of Conduct form on file with the athletic director in order to participate.

## **10. Academic Eligibility**

All academic standards apply to all students who participate in NHCA athletics, regardless of the school he/she attends.

NHCA Athletic Academic Standards:

- a) Grades must be maintained with a 'C' average (73% or above) or better in all classes and the student must be in good standing for absences and tardies to participate. Students with grades below 73% will be on probation. Students on probation will be required to develop an academic plan with the administration in conjunction with their parents. The probationary period will be reviewed every two weeks. If a player is on probation more than two consecutive periods, the student will become ineligible. If a student fails to take part in the academic plan, he/she immediately becomes academically ineligible and may not take part in the athletic experience at NHCA.
- b) Grades will be reviewed at interim and at the end of each nine weeks to determine eligibility.
- c) For eligibility purposes, special recitation may not be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.
- d) All students (public, private, or home-school) are eligible to play for NHCA as long as the sport is not offered at their enrolled school.

The administration and Athletic Director reserve the right to deviate from any NHCA policy if the need arises due to special circumstances and situations.

## **11. Attendance/Eligibility**

Full Day Attendance/Dismissal/Quitting:

All student-athletes, in order to be eligible to play on the day of an athletic contest or practice, must be in attendance for at least .5 of the day and the following day. The Administrator and Athletic Director reserve the right to deviate from this stipulation as circumstances and situations arise.

Eligibility

All student-athletes are expected to avoid the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products as well as avoid any illegal activities on campus or off campus. Any student-athletes choosing to engage in any of the above will forfeit their right and the honor and the privilege of representing New Hope in any sport for one year.

All student-athletes are expected to honor their commitment to their teams if they are selected to represent NHCA in any sport. Any

New Hope athlete who quits a team before the completion of that season will not be given the privilege of participating in another sport until the completion of the prior sport's season. Any student-athletes who quits a team is automatically off the team for the remainder of that season. The player may be reinstated at the discretion of the coach.

Students are expected to remain committed to the sport during the season. The current sport take precedence of all other non-school activities.

## **12. General Policies**

**a. Team Selection:** The makeup of each individual team is at the discretion of the head coach. Middle school teams are made up of 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. High school teams are made up of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade players. Any deviation of these policies is at the discretion of the Athletic Director and committee.

**b. Tryouts:** Any interested student who meets the NHCA eligibility requirements may try out for a team. Coaches determine which player are selected on the team.

**c. Parent Information:** After a team has been determined, the coach will call a parent meeting to go over logistical matters, expectations, and requirements of the athletes and parents in regard to the season at hand. Parents will be given an opportunity to ask the coach and the Athletic Director questions. Parents will be required to sign the Parent's Code of Conduct. The Code must be followed at all times and parent may be asked to leave if not followed. If a parent is asked to leave the game, the parent will be not allowed to watch the next three games.

**d. Playing Time:** Determining how much playing time each player gets is up to the discretion of the head coach with a focus on each individual player realizing his/her potential.

**e. Practices:** All athletes are expected to be present and on time to all practices. Practice time is not arrival time. All student-athletes are also expected to stay at practice until dismissed by the coach. Student-athletes should inform the coach in advance when absences are anticipated, and determination of whether the absence is excused or unexcused will be according to the coach's discretion. Recourse for missing practices is at the discretion of the coach. Wednesday practices will be completed by 6:00PM to allow attendance at mid-week church events. There will be no Sunday practices. Coaches may call a non-mandatory practice on days of school cancellations.

**f. Gender specific facilities:** Sample definition: Biological sex means the biological condition of being male or female as determined at birth based on physical difference, or when necessary, at the chromosomal level.

Student restrooms, locker rooms, and showers that are designated for one biological sex shall only be used by members of that biological sex. In any other school facilities or settings where a student may be in a state of undress in the presence of other students, school personnel shall provide separate, private areas designated for use by students according to their biological sex.

### **g. Varsity Letters:**

- Varsity athletes who remain as members of the team in good standing throughout the full season are eligible to earn a varsity letter, subject to the provisions below.
- Injured athletes depending upon the time of injury may be eligible to receive a letter.
- Managers who have held the position for at least two seasons in the same sport may earn a letter. Only those who, in the judgment of the coach, have made a significant commitment of time and effort shall be awarded the letter.



- Any student involved in the athletic program who does not receive a letter will receive a certificate of participation.
- Playing time criteria for each sport (as guideline only)
  1. Basketball: Participate in 50% of quarters played
  2. Soccer: Participate in 50% of halves played
  3. Volleyball: Participate in 50% of the matches played
- Letter Jacket: Students may purchase a letter jacket after they receive their first varsity letter. Confirmation of meeting all criteria for the letter jacket must be validated by the individual coach. Letter jackets may be purchased through Zides Company. The Point of Contact (POC) is Ms. Stephanie Cochran at 740-516-8283 or at [scochran@zides.com](mailto:scochran@zides.com). Please be aware of a 6-8 week turnaround when ordering.

The Criteria for varsity letter is awarded based on the following criteria:

- Character
- Commitment/Participation
- Attitude

Coaches will look over the guidelines to make decisions.

- An athlete could receive a varsity letter if the coaching staff feels the athlete is an integral part of the team and did the best he/she could, considering his/her physical abilities and year of graduation.

### 13. Transportation

**a. Practices:** It is the parent's responsibility to arrange for transportation to and from practices. Athletes are expected to be picked up immediately after a practice session. Coaches are required to supervise athletes until they have left the school premises. We will make every effort to provide transportation for practices which are held off campus.

**b. Away Games:** When school provides transportation to away games, athletes are required to ride with the team. Exceptions must be authorized by the team coach.

### 14. Athletic Fees

Athletic fees are \$95 per sport, with a maximum family cost of \$350 per year. Athletic fees for homeschool students are \$175 per sport, with a maximum family cost of \$500 per year. Parents are requested to volunteer at athletic events during the season.

Volunteering opportunities include set-up/tear-down of events, working at the gate, concessions, fundraiser leadership, and other areas as determined by the coaches and Athletic Boosters. Athletic fees are due before the first game of the season is played.

### 15. Home School Students

Participation Policy - No more than 30% of any team can be comprised of homeschool students unless there are not enough students to make a team.

### 16. Right to Amend

Policies and procedures remain under revision. New Hope Christian Academy reserves the right to make necessary changes and adjustments in policies and procedures throughout the school year.



## **New Hope Statesman**

### **Code of Conduct Handbook-Players**

As a player representing New Hope Christian Academy Statesman, you will adhere to the following:

1. I will treat my teammates, coaches, referees and/or officials, opponents, spectators and all others involved in our athletic events with respect at all times.
2. I will give my best efforts and full attention to my coach, and do my best to follow their instruction.
3. I will attend all practices and games as detailed on my schedule.
4. I will encourage and help my teammates and others who may not be as skilled as I am.
5. I will work to personally improve each day.
6. I will have fun.

As a member of NHCA, I understand that I am responsible for my conduct at all times during practices and games. I agree to conduct in Christian manner and to show Good Sportsmanship at all times.

It has been made clear to me that one incident of unsatisfactory conduct will result in my sitting out for one game. The second offense will result in dismissal from the team.

Unsatisfactory Conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Rude or discourteous behavior to the coach, referee, teammates, or spectators
- Displaying an attitude, which shows I am not taking responsibility for my own behavior
- Any use of inappropriate language towards the coach, teammates, referee, or spectators
- "Fooling around" at practice or a game
- Being "red carded" or ejected from a game
- Behavior which would place my teammates and myself in an unsafe situation.

As student athletes, academic activities must come first. All players must follow NHCA academic policies. Grades must be maintained with a C average (73% or above) or better in **all** classes and the student must be in good standing for absences and tardies to participate. Students with grades below 73% will be on put on probation. Probation will be handled as the athletic handbook states. Grades will be reviewed at interim and at the end of each 9 weeks to determine eligibility. Non NHCA players are to submit their interim grades and 9 week grade cards to their coaches.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_