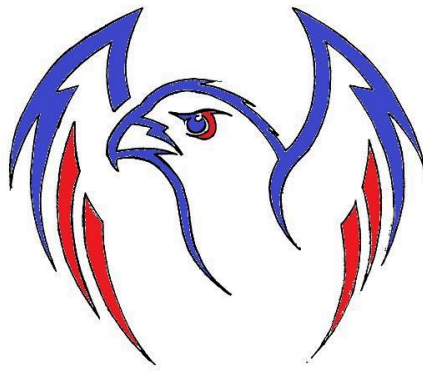


Innovation Academy Charter School



2016 - 2017
ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK
(Revised Summer 2016)

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Please fill out and return one copy to Athletic Department and
reference the online version for any future questions

INTRODUCTION

The following Athletic Handbook has been adopted by the Athletic Program at Innovation Academy Charter School. This Athletic Handbook is to serve as a guide to better define the expectations of a student-athlete and to create uniformity throughout the Athletic Program of Innovation Academy Charter School. All expectations outlined in this Athletic Handbook are designed to promote the best interests of a healthy athletic environment which will allow student-athletes to compete at their highest levels. Every prospective student-athlete will be given a copy of this Athletic Handbook and will be responsible for knowing and following its policies.

Since all student-athletes are representing their school and community in such a visible fashion, it is important that their behavior reflect a positive image, not only during an athletic season, but throughout the entire school year. Therefore, this Athletic Handbook is in effect throughout the entire school year. Once a student has joined the program and agreed upon and signed this document, along with their parents, they will be held to these expectations for the duration of the school year. The school year is defined as either the first day of school or the first day of tryouts (whichever comes first), to the last day of school or the last day of competition (whichever comes last). However, all violations that occur on school grounds will be penalized accordingly, regardless of the time of year.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1.1. GENERAL CONDUCT GUIDELINES

Student-athletes at Innovation Academy Charter School are expected to represent themselves, their team, and the school with honesty, integrity, and character whether it be academically, athletically or socially. Participation on a team is a privilege, not a right, and certainly not a guarantee. All student-athletes must understand that every action that they take will have consequences. The nature of these consequences (whether they are positive or negative) is up to the student. Benefits from participation in sports include but are not limited to: increased health, a further development of personal values and moral principles, friendships, possible higher education opportunities, fun, entertainment, excitement, and increased confidence. However, with these many opportunities there comes a great deal of responsibility.

Student-athletes will be representing the school to the outside community. The behavior of our teams serves as a direct reflection of Innovation Academy. Athletes are very often the focus of people's attention during both competitions and practices. The positive actions of one student-athlete can create an admirable image for their fellow teammates and institution. However, the negative actions of one student-athlete most often results in a negative stereotype being applied to all student-athletes from their institution as well as the institution itself. It is expected that all student-athletes abide by department and school rules.

Student-athletes who do not abide by all of the rules, regulations, and expectations of their team, the Athletic Department, and the school will face consequences for their actions that may include, but are not limited to: a warning, additional practice time, additional study hall time, suspension from a competition, suspension from the team, dismissal from the team, and other consequences deemed appropriate by the coaches and administration. In addition to any consequences set forth by the team or the Athletic Department, students are also subject to facing further consequences by the school itself based on the school rules and regulations they have broken.

1.2. STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Be respectful and thoughtful to all others.
2. Communicate with their teammates, coaches, teachers, principals, and other members of the school community with honesty and timeliness.
3. Follow all department, team, school, league, training facility, and meet (competition) rules, regulations, and guidelines.
4. Attend all school days/classes unless absences are excused and approved.
5. Complete ALL their academic work on time and make all necessary revisions (as decided by teachers).
6. Maintain a minimum of an "Novice/Apprentice" in all classes for middle school students and a "C" in all classes for high school students. If this is not maintained, student-athletes will be placed on Academic Leave and required to attend extra help. They will also not be allowed to compete until their grades have reached an acceptable level in X2. Please see Section 5.5 and 5.6 for the week long grace period rule.
7. You are expected to try your hardest both in school and athletics. If it is suspected that you are not putting forth your best efforts in academic endeavors, by either getting an "A" when you could get a "P" or, for high school, getting a "C" when you could get a "B", there will be steps taken to change this attitude.

1.3. PARENTS & FAMILY MEMBERS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Be respectful and thoughtful to all others.
2. Never interact with umpires, referees, or officials with any animosity or negativity.
3. Communicate with coaches, Athletic Directors, or principals in regards to any complaints they have about officiating during a competition in an appropriate, respectful, and calm manner. Please see Section 1.4 for communication protocol.
4. Follow all team, school, league, facility, and game/meet/competition rules, regulations, and guidelines concerning fans and fan behavior.

1.4. PROTOCOL OF COMMUNICATION

All student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coaches and/or captains to resolve conflicts and/or for help problem-solving. Families should contact the coach via email to arrange a meeting (outside of a game/competition). Families may also contact the Athletic Director or their child's principal, after their coach, if needed.

1. All student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coaches and/or captains in order to help resolve any situations.
2. Parents should first contact the immediate Innovation coach involved via email to schedule a meeting
3. Parents should not approach coaches before, during, or directly after a practice, game, or competition, unless it has already been arranged via email with the coach.
4. If an acceptable resolution is unable to be reached, a parent should contact the Athletic Director via email.
5. If after contacting the Athletic Director, an acceptable resolution is unable to be reached, parents should contact the Principal via email.

Please initial below confirming you have read and agree to abide by the IACS Athletic Department General Conduct Guidelines.

Parent initials _____

Student initials _____

CODE OF CONDUCT

2.1. GENERAL PROCEDURE

Participation in Innovation Academy Charter School Athletics is a privilege. All athletes are expected to abide by all school and MIAA policies

2.2. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

The following is a list of mandatory minimum consequences for any disciplinary indiscretions. Depending on the severity of a particular rule infraction the administration reserves the right to impose additional consequences.

Detentions: Detentions, with the exceptions of school dress codes and tardiness, will result in (at minimum) a partial game suspension from the next contest in which the student-athlete is able and eligible to participate in.

Suspensions: For each day a student is suspended from school they will also be suspended (at minimum) from the same number of contests/athletic events in which the student-athlete is able and eligible to participate in. A student who is suspended is not eligible to participate in any athletic event during their suspension (in school suspensions count as suspensions). Therefore the athletic suspension shall begin once the student is no longer on suspension and has returned to school.

Injury Clause: If a student is set to serve a suspension from athletics and is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics at the time the suspension is supposed to take effect, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

2.3. THE POINT SYSTEM

The Innovation Athletic Department runs on a disciplinary point system. Each time an athlete violates a rule/policy/procedure, they will be penalized a certain number of points based on the nature of the violation. Below are the different levels of violations accompanied by immediate mandatory minimum consequences as well as the points that will be given to the student. For each infraction, an athletic disciplinary form will be filled out and placed in the student's record.

Points are accumulated from August 25, 2016 to June 22, 2017. After 1 year, students will start over at 0 points for the following school year. However, previous year's disciplinary reports will be kept on file. If a student accumulates more than 50 points during their time as a student-athlete (5th-12th grade), they will be permanently suspended from the IACS Athletic Program. For example, if the consequence period/suspension is not completed during the season/school year of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season/school year of actual participation.

The first 5 level 1 offenses can be erased from a student's athletic disciplinary record by completing 3 hours of community service. The first level 2 offense can be erased by completing 6 hours of community service. The nature of this community service will be chosen by the Athletic Department.

If at any time, an athlete wants to check on their point accumulation, they should contact the Athletic Director who will disclose the information.

6 points: Suspended for 1 athletic season (Remainder of current season and entirety of next athletic season)

8 points: Suspended for 2 athletic seasons (Remainder of current season and entirety of next 2 athletic season)

10 points: Suspended for 3 athletic seasons (Remainder of current season and entirety of next 3 athletic season)

12 points: Suspended for 4 athletic seasons (Remainder of current season and entirety of next 4 athletic season)

14+points: Suspended for 5 athletic seasons (Remainder of current season and entirety of next 5 athletic season)

***** Please note that certain offenses carry with them more severe consequences than the point system based on school and association regulations. When this occurs, the most severe minimum consequence will be enforced.**

Level 1

First Offense: Written warning and 1 point towards athlete's disciplinary file

Second Offense: One game/contest/event suspension and an additional point towards athlete's disciplinary file

Third Offense: For each additional **Level 1** offense a student-athlete receives they will receive a two game/contest/event suspension. All additional points will be added to the athlete's disciplinary file.

- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Inappropriate language during practices or events
- Skipping class
- Any behavior which causes a classroom or school disruption
- Cell phone use during inappropriate times
- Work refusal
- Inappropriate use of computer equipment (social media and non school related site etc.) during school hours
- Having knowledge of and failing to report a Level 2 offense when questioned
- Skipping detention

Level 2

First Offense: One game/contest/event suspension and two points towards athlete's disciplinary file

Second Offense: Two game/contest/event suspension, two week suspension from all practices, and two additional points towards athlete's disciplinary file.

- Posting any inappropriate material on any social media outlets while having any association with Innovation Academy in the post
- Posting any inappropriate material on any social media outlets relating to Innovation Academy Athletics or athletes, or any other inappropriate material relating to Innovation Academy
- Posting any inappropriate material on any social media outlets while representing Innovation Academy/Athletics.
- Failure to identify one's self upon the request of a school official
- Being in an off-limits area or unauthorized area without proper permission
- Cheating/plagiarism

- Missing a game, contest, match, or meet without proper notification and coaches approval (exceptions due to extenuating circumstances will be determine by the Athletic Department)
- **Any form** of inappropriate displays of affection during school, school events, athletic practices, or athletic events.
- Inappropriate use of computer equipment (inappropriate websites) during school hours
- Physical aggression towards another person
- Disrespect to staff
- Willful failure to comply to any staff, intern, or volunteer
- Vandalism of any kind
- Harassment/threat
- Pulling a fire alarm and causing a false alarm
- Having knowledge of and failing to report a Level 3 offense
- Inappropriate language or gestures directed towards another individual or individuals
- Possession of drug paraphernalia

Level 3

First Offense: Suspension from athletic games/contest/events for 4 weeks and three points towards the athlete's disciplinary file

- Alcohol consumption at any point during the school year (in or out of season)
- Any use of illicit drugs, tobacco, steroids, marijuana, or any other controlled substance at any point during the school year (in or out of season)
- Any possession of illicit drugs, tobacco, steroids, marijuana, or any other controlled substance at any point during the school year (in or out of season)
- Any distribution of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, steroids, marijuana, or any other controlled substance at any point during the school year (in or out of season)
- Sexual harassment
- Theft
- Bullying
- Hazing
- Fighting
- Assault
- Weapons

By signing below, I am acknowledging that I understand that all school related disciplinary issues are shared with the athletic administration, and all disciplinary issues that occur during athletics are shared with school administration. It is through this communication process that all rules and regulations for both athletics and academics are able to be enforced in a fair and unbiased manner.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Student-Athlete's Signature

Date

Student Name (Printed)

POLICIES/RULES/LAWS

3.1. GOVERNING BODIES

Innovation Academy Charter School is a member in good standing of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and of the Ecumenical Athletic Association (EAA) as well as the USATF for middle school athletics. IACS abides by all of the rules set forth by the state athletic association, the USATF, the EAA, and Massachusetts State Law.

3.2. MIAA RULE #62.1- CHEMICAL HEALTH/ALCOHOL/DRUGS/TOBACCO

In accordance with MIAA regulations, an athlete shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This also includes products such as "Non-Alcoholic or near beer." It is NOT a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor. The MIAA statewide minimum standard is not intended to render "guilt by association", e.g. many student-athletes might be present at a party where only a few violate this standard. If a student-athlete in violation of MIAA Rule #62.1 is unable to participate in interscholastic sports due to injury or academics, the penalty will not take effect until that student is able to participate again.

Innovation Academy Charter School continues to support and encourage all students to make choices that lead to safe and healthy lifestyles. We continue to encourage all students to "say no" to illegal drug, alcohol, steroid, and nicotine use. It is important to remember that the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, steroids, and nicotine are not allowed on school property or at school-related events.

Please initial below confirming you have read and understand the policy regarding Chemical Health/Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco

Parent initials _____

Student initials _____

3.3. INNOVATION ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL HAZING POLICY AND MA LAW

3.3A INTRODUCTION

Hazing by any member of the Innovation Academy Charter School Athletic community is strictly prohibited. Hazing is prohibited whenever it occurs on school premises, at school sanctioned events, at athletic competitions, while an athlete is representing IACS, or if it occurs in connection with any IACS-affiliated team, group or activity. Student-athletes who violate the prohibition against hazing are subject to disciplinary actions by the IACS Athletic Department and school. In addition, any criminal complaints will be reported to law enforcement. According to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 any student who participates in a school sponsored group must be made aware of the following terms, definitions, and penalties of hazing. It is critical that for the well being of our community that you abide by the expectations of this law. Thank you for helping to ensure that IACS continues to be a safe community for all students to participate inside and outside of the classroom. Your participation in any IACS sponsored student group requires documentation that you understand this law (law follows policy)

3.3B SCHOOL POLICY

Hazing is an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of an individual (including, without limitation, an act intended to cause personal degradation or humiliation), or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation in, admission to, affiliation with, as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization, or because a person differs in age, grade level, gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion, size, or any other differences that exist.

Such activities and situations include but are not limited to:

1. Physical punishment, contact, abnormal and excessive exercise outside of a team training program, or any other forced activity that causes excessive fatigue and/or physical or psychological shock
2. Putting any individual in restraints of any type
3. Forced or coerced consumption of food, drink, alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs
4. Forced or coerced transportation of individuals
5. Singling out an individual or group in a negative manner because of their age, grade, gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion, size, or any other differences that exist
6. Public humiliation, ridicule, indecent exposure or ordeal
7. Coercing or forcing illegal acts or acts that are against school and/or athletic policies
8. Coercing or forcing acts that are immoral or unethical
9. Blocking an individual's academic, athletic, health or personal success
10. Personal servitude
11. Mental harassment
12. Sexual harassment
13. Deception
14. Threat of social exclusion
15. Any activity that involves the use of alcohol or any controlled substance
16. Any activity that is not in accordance with Innovation Academy's established policies

A person commits a hazing offense if the person:

1. Engages in hazing
2. Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing activities
3. Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly permits hazing to occur
4. Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student and fails to report the plan to the athletics department to prevent the hazing
5. Has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report it to the Athletic Director or other appropriate officials at IACS

Typically, hazing occurs in connection with initiation activities. Even if an initiation activity is optional, an individual may not feel empowered to refuse participation. Individuals involved in any form of hazing shall be held accountable for their actions and will be subject to disciplinary actions by the Athletic Department as well as the School Administration. Disciplinary actions may include but are not limited to: immediate suspension from the team, dismissal from the team for the season, permanent dismissal from the team, and possibly dismissal from all school athletics. In addition to disciplinary actions taken by the Athletic Department all actions of the parties involved in any incident will be reported to all relevant principals and additional actions may be taken by the school.

If a student-athlete chooses to file a hazing complaint against an individual or group, it should be reported to the Athletic Director or a coach. Every effort will be made to protect the identity of the person reporting the incident, where permissible under the law and rules of the school. It is possible that a student-athlete may initially voluntarily agree to participate in an initiation activity, and that he or she may later decide within a reasonable period of time that it was an unacceptable hazing activity. A complaint need not be filed for a disciplinary action to occur.

3.3 C. MASSACHUSETTS LAW REGARDING HAZING

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment. **The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.** Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 19. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of postsecondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of postsecondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of postsecondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

Please initial below confirming you have read the hazing policy AND MA law.

Parent initials _____

Student initials _____

3.5 A. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Innovation Academy believes that in order to learn and improve as a person, student, and an athlete there must be a safe, comfortable, and healthy environment. Sexual harassment is unlawful and unethical. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, sex-based conduct that is intimidating, hostile or offensive, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is prohibited by the school. Complaints of sexual harassment by a student-athlete will be promptly addressed. If it is found that sexual harassment has occurred, the individual responsible will be suspended from their team until a meeting has occurred to determine the correct course of action. This is in addition to the action that the school will take. If this behavior occurs while participating in a school athletic event, school affiliated event, or involves other students attending Innovation Academy then all school rules in this area apply, and the student-athlete shall be immediately reported to the appropriate school officials and law enforcement agencies if appropriate.

Some examples of prohibited conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Unwelcome remarks of a sexual nature to describe a person's body or clothing
2. Sexually degrading language to describe an individual
3. Continued or repeated verbal abuse of a sexual nature
4. Sexually degrading language to describe an individual
5. Sexual advances/propositions/suggestions.
6. Offensive physical contact, such as unwelcome touching
7. Sexual graffiti
8. Sexual gestures
9. Sexual "dirty" jokes

10. Spreading rumors about other student's sexual activity
11. Touching oneself in a sexual fashion in front of others
12. Talking about one's own sexual activities in front of others
13. Showing offensive/sexual pictures, stories, objects

3.5 B. BULLYING DEFINITIONS

On May 3, 2010, Governor Patrick signed an Act Relative to Bullying in Schools. This law prohibits bullying and retaliation in all public and private schools, and requires schools and school districts to take certain steps to address bullying incidents. Parts of the law (M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O) that are important for students and parents or guardians to know are described below.

These requirements are included in the school's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. The Plan includes the requirements of the new law, and also information about the policies and procedures that the school or school district will follow to prevent bullying and retaliation, or to respond to it when it occurs. The complete text of the IACS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is located on our school website.

Specific Definitions

- Aggressor is a student who engages in bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation.

- Bullying is the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- (i) causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- (ii) places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property;
- (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- (iv) infringes on the rights of the target at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Bullying includes cyberbullying.

- Cyberbullying is bullying through the use of technology or any electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, and the Internet. It includes, but is not limited to, email, instant messages, text messages, and Internet postings.

- Hostile environment is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the student's education.

- Target is a student against whom bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation is directed.

- Retaliation is any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

Prohibition Against Bullying

Bullying is prohibited:

- on school grounds,
- on property immediately adjacent to school grounds,
- at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function, or program, whether it takes place on or off school grounds,
- at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased, or used by a school district or school,
- through the use of technology or an electronic device that is owned, leased or used by a school district or school (for example, on a school computer or over the Internet using a school computer),
- at any program or location that is not school-related, or through the use of personal technology or electronic devices, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the target, infringes on the rights of the target at school, or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying is prohibited.

Please initial below confirming you have read and understand the policy regarding sexual harassment and the definition of bullying

Parent initials _____

Student initials _____

ATHLETIC SEASONS

4.1. SPORTS AVAILABLE

The IACS Athletic Program strives to offer a range of both team and individual sports for both middle and high school students. Several of these sports have a no-cut policy. These sports are broken up into three seasons: fall, winter and spring. Participation on IACS athletic teams is open to all students who meet the criteria set forth within this handbook. All students are encouraged to participate in at least one sport. Students are only allowed to participate in one sport per season.

FALL SPORTS

Co-ed Cross Country (5-12)
Boy's Soccer (5-12)
Girl's Soccer (5-12)
Co-ed Volleyball (5-12)

WINTER SPORTS

Boy's Basketball (5-12)
Girl's Basketball (5-12)
Indoor Track and Field (7-12)
Cheerleading (5-12)

SPRING SPORTS

Co-ed Track & Field (5-12)
Baseball (6-8)
Softball (6-12)
Co-ed Dance (5-12)

4.2. START DATES AND TRY-OUT INFORMATION

According to the MIAA (grades 9-12), fall practices for high school athletics may begin for all teams as early as the second Thursday preceding Labor Day (prior to the starting date of school). The winter season begins on the Monday after Thanksgiving. The spring season begins on the third Monday in March. According to EAA (grades 5-8), fall sports begin between August 28th and September 1st, winter sports begin November 1st, and spring sports begin between March 20th and April 1st. USATF has rolling start dates each season.

IACS desires to have as many students as possible participate in the athletic program. We encourage coaches to keep as many students as they can without compromising the integrity of the sport. Time, space, facilities, equipment, and other factors will place limitations on the most effective squad size for any particular sport. IACS strives to maximize the opportunity for our students to participate without diluting the quality of the program.

All interested candidates must attend all tryout sessions (number of tryout sessions is determined by the coach of each sport). Coaches are directly responsible for determining who will be a member of their team.

IACS ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY RULES

5.1. BASIC ELIGIBILITY

1. All participants on any IACS athletic team must be a student currently enrolled, and in good academic standing at the Innovation Academy Charter School.
2. All student-athletes need to submit the required paperwork by the deadline in order to be assured an opportunity to participate in any athletic program or activity.
3. Late paperwork will most likely result in delayed start, for the time it takes to process, and may result in a student not being able to participate in a season.

5.2. REQUIRED PAPERWORK

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

1. Current physical signed and dated by a physician. Physicals are valid for 13 months from the date of the exam

2. Birth certificate must be on file
3. All sections of FamilyID must be completed
4. \$185 fee must be turned into Athletic Department prior to the start of the season. Please make checks payable to "IACS" and write the student-athlete's name in the memo section along with what sport the payment is for.
*** IF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED PLEASE FILL OUT A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM WHICH CAN BE FOUND ONLINE***
5. All uniforms from prior seasons must be passed in to the Athletic Department or paid for
6. All invoices sent by the Athletic Department from previous seasons must be settled

FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:

1. EAA Liability and Medical Information sheet (required each season)
2. Pre-Participation Head Injury/Concussion Reporting Form (required each season)
3. IACS Parental Permission form (required each season)
4. Athletic Handbook initialed and signed (required yearly)
5. Signed Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet (required yearly)
6. Parent NFHS Concussion Certification with parent's name (required yearly)
7. Student-Athlete NFHS Concussion Certification with student's name (required yearly)
8. Birth Certificate (required to be on file)
9. Updated Physical: Physicals are good for exactly 13 months from the date of completion. All physicals will run out exactly 13 months from the date of completion, and athletes with an expired physical will be unable to participate physically in any practices or competitions until an updated physical is passed in. For example, an athlete who has a passing physical dated January 4th, 2012 will be ineligible to actively participate starting on February 5th, 2013. In order to be eligible, they must pass in a copy of an updated physical.
10. There is a required \$135 athletic fee. Please make checks payable to "IACS" and write the student-athlete's name in the memo section along with what sport the payment is for.
*** IF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED PLEASE FILL OUT A FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FORM WHICH CAN BE FOUND ONLINE***
11. Uniforms from all previous season must be returned (or paid for) in order to be cleared to participate in a current season of athletics.
12. All invoices sent by the Athletic Department from previous seasons must be settled

5.3. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

1. Any student-athlete who is absent from school may not participate in any practice or contest that **same day**.
2. Any student-athlete who has not attended at least half of the school day (three and a half hours) is not eligible to compete. The missed time must be excused in order to participate. For an absence to be excused, an athlete

must bring official documentation to the Athletic Office **before they compete or practice** on the day of their absence. Legitimate excuses include college visits or doctor's appointments.

3. If a student becomes ill and goes home at any point of the day, he/she may not participate in practice or a game that **same day**.

5.4. AGE AND GRADE ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

1. At Innovation Academy Charter School, eighth grade middle school student-athletes may not participate on high school level athletic teams, unless the high school participation in a sport is too low to field a **varsity team** and an MIAA waiver is granted before participation begins. If a student has aged out of the middle school program, a waiver may be requested to participate at the high school level. However there is no guarantee that this waiver will be granted. Both the MIAA and IACS must approve the waiver.
2. Innovation Academy Charter School is a member of the Ecumenical Athletic Association (EAA). According EAA to league rules, middle school student-athletes who turn the age of 15 at any point during the season will not be permitted to participate in that season.
3. A high school student-athlete must be under 19 years of age, but may compete during the remainder of the school year, provided that his/her 19th birthday occurs on or after September 1st of that year.
4. Freshman must be under 16 years of age but may compete during the remainder of the school year provided that their 16th birthday occurs on or after September 1st of that year.
5. With an invitation, a middle school student-athlete may participate in no more than two high school practices a week, and no more than 10 total high school practices in a season.

5.5. MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Academics are the main priority for all student-athletes

1. All students must maintain *an average* of 1.26 *across the four strands* in each academic class. In addition, students must keep two or more strands in each class above a 1.26. If any student-athlete falls below this standard for more than a week, they are required to go on "Academic Leave." While on Academic Leave, the student will remain part of the team. However, they will be excused from practices so that they may improve their grades. While on Academic Leave a student **will not** lose his or her spot on their team. Academic Leave is to allow any students who are struggling with classes to have the time to raise their grade back to a 1.26 or above.
2. When a student first falls below the minimum grade point average (1.26), they will be put on a one week warning period. During this warning period they will be allowed to fully participate in all aspects of their athletic team. If at the end of this one week grace period, their grades still remain the required minimum average, they will be put on Academic Leave.

3. While on Academic Leave, a middle school student shall not actively participate in practices unless a step-by-step plan has been put in place that will allow them to catch up in school. In order to attend practice, a step-by-step plan must be approved by the student's athletic director, coach, parents/guardians, and all teachers of classes in which the student is struggling in. In addition, attending practices cannot interfere with attendance in extra help, tutoring, or other supports to help the student improve their academic standing. Until a plan is agreed upon, students on Academic Leave should use practice time to improve their academic standing. If they attend a practice they should work on school work during that time (unless a plan is in place that allows them to practice). Students are not required to attend practices while on Academic Leave, and are in fact strongly encouraged to seek out academic support instead of attending practices.
4. While on Academic Leave a student shall be allowed to dress for interscholastic competitions. However, the student shall not be allowed to participate in the event until they have returned from Academic Leave and the coach is satisfied that it is safe and beneficial for both the team and the student to participate in the event. Participating in an athletic competition at 100% effort having not practiced the week prior can be dangerous, and not knowing the team strategies for the competition (due to not participating in practice) can potentially disrupt the flow of the game/competition. Therefore it is the coach's decision when a player shall return to competition once they are removed from Academic Leave.
5. Students on Academic Leave will be expected to attend all extra help sessions in subjects which they are receiving less than a 1.26.
6. Students will remain on Academic Leave until all of their grades are at an N/A (1.26) or better. These grades must be reflected on X2.
7. Any student-athlete who is receiving less than an 2.25 in any class may choose to take an Academic Leave to improve their standing in said class or classes. This request shall be honored and they may return from Academic Leave when they are satisfied with their grades (unless grades are below a 1.26/NA).
8. Students may miss or be late for any practice to attend an extra help session in any class regardless of their standing in said class.
9. The Athletic Department, in coordination with school administration, is the sole authority on academic eligibility.

5.6. MONITORING OF GRADES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

1. Please remember that all student-athletes are students first and have an obligation to maintain all of their grades in all of their classes **without any special treatment** because of their contributions to the Athletic Program.
2. Grades will be checked every Thursday throughout the year, excluding the first few weeks of an academic quarter/semester. Coaches and athletes will be notified with who is academically ineligible within 24 hours.
3. The Athletic Department reserves the right to spot check any student or team at any time.
4. Any student who becomes ineligible after the week long grace period will remain ineligible for at least 24 hours and until their grades have all been brought back to acceptable levels in X2.

5. No student shall be able to become eligible the same day they were found to be ineligible regardless of whether or not their grades in X2 are raised. There must be at least a 24 hour period from when the coaches are notified before the student is able to once again become eligible for any interscholastic competition or scrimmage.
6. ***Notes from teachers are not acceptable for student's eligibility purposes***, X2 is the only way by which a student's grades will be determined.
7. For a student who is ineligible to become eligible before the next scheduled grade check they must bring an X2 print out of all of their grades in all of their current classes (all grades must be at an acceptable level on the print out) to the Main Office and it will be reviewed by the Athletic Office. Once it has been reviewed an email will be sent to the student's school email account as well as their current coach. They may also email a screenshot of their grades to iacsathletics@innovationcharter.org.
8. Any student who participates in a competition after a coach has been notified of their academic ineligibility and before being once again cleared by the Athletic Department shall be suspended from athletic competitions for no more than 10 days.
Coaches are not able to clear individuals who have been determined to be ineligible.
9. No student, parent, or coach shall pressure any teacher to grade or enter assignments into X2 before they do so for other students in the class or before they originally have planed on doing so. Teachers should not deviate from normal procedure just to help a STUDENT-athlete to become eligible. Remember as stated before, these individuals are students first and have an obligation to maintain all of their grades in all of their classes without any special treatment because of their contributions to the athletic program. Any student who is found to be pressuring a teacher for special consideration will remain ineligible until the next scheduled grade check, regardless of what their X2 print out shows.
10. Students who are in the process of being evaluated for any learning disabilities that may result for a new IEP or 504 Plan will have an extended grace period. In addition, any students currently on an IEP or 504 Plan that is going through modifications will be given an extended grace period to allow time for the new services to be implemented. Families must contact the Athletic Department to arrange this extended grace period.
11. If there are any extenuating circumstances that you believe have lead to a child's ineligibility, please have them email the Athletic Department so a decision can be made on whether or not to temporarily change their academic status. This decision will be made by the Athletic Department and appropriate staff and administration.

Once again *ACADEMICS* are the main priority for all student-athletes. Middle school families please initial below confirming you have read the academic policy

Parent initials_____

Student initials_____

5.7 HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. It is expected of all student-athletes at Innovation Academy Charter High School to earn and maintain respectable grades in all courses. Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above, and be passing all classes with a minimum of a C to be considered eligible to participate in interscholastic high school athletics. Any students who do not maintain these expectations may be placed on Academic Leave.
2. Please remember that all student-athletes are students first and have an obligation to maintain all of their grades in all of their classes **without any special treatment** because of their contributions to the Athletic Program.
3. Grades will be checked every Thursday throughout the year.
4. When a student first falls below the minimum grade point average, (70%) they will be put on a one week warning period. During this warning period they will be allowed to fully participate in all aspects of their athletic team. If at the end of this one week grace period, their grades still remain the required minimum average, they will be put on Academic Leave.
5. Once the grace period has ended and a student becomes ineligible, coaches will be notified within 24 hours. In addition, the Athletic Department reserves the right to spot check any student or team at any time.
6. Any student who is ineligible will remain ineligible for at least 24 hours and until their grades have all been brought back to acceptable levels in X2.
7. No student shall be able to become eligible the same day they were found to be ineligible, regardless of whether or not their grades in X2 are raised. There must be at least a 24 hour period from when the coaches are notified before the student is able to once again become eligible for any interscholastic competition or scrimmage.
8. ***Notes from teachers are not acceptable for student's eligibility purposes***, X2 is the only way by which a student's grades will be determined.
9. In order for a student who is ineligible to become eligible before the next scheduled grade check, they must bring an X2 print-out of all of their grades in all of their current classes (all grades must be at an acceptable level on the print-out) to the Main Office and it will be reviewed by the Athletic Department Office. Once it has been reviewed an email will be sent to the student's school email account as well as their current coach. Alternately, a

student-athlete may email a screenshot of their grades to the Athletic Department at

iacsathletics@innovationcharter.org, who will contact the student's coach to clear them if appropriate.

10. Any student who participates in a competition after a coach has been notified of their academic ineligibility and before being once again cleared by the Athletic Department shall be suspended from athletic competitions for not more than 10 days. ***Coaches are not able to clear individuals who have been determined to be ineligible.***
11. Practice participation shall be determined by the coach of the individual athlete unless the student is failing 2 or more classes, then they must attend extra help and will not be able to partake in any practices or team activities until their grades have once again been raised to all 70 averages or above.
12. Any student-athlete who is receiving less than an 80% in any class may choose to take an Academic Leave to improve their standing in said class or classes. This request shall be honored and they may return from Academic Leave when they are satisfied with their grades (unless grades are below a 70%).
13. Students who are in the process of being evaluated for any learning disabilities that may result for a new IEP or 504 Plan will have an extended grace period. In addition, any students currently on an IEP or 504 Plan that is undergoing modifications will be given an extended grace period to allow time for the new services to be implemented. Families must contact the Athletic Department to arrange this extended grace period.
14. No student, parent, or coach shall pressure any teacher to grade or enter assignments into X2 before they do so for other students in the class or before they originally have planned on doing so. Teachers should not deviate from normal procedure just to help a STUDENT-athlete to become eligible. Remember as stated before, these individuals are students first and have an obligation to maintain all of their grades in all of their classes without any special treatment because of their contributions to the athletic program. Any student who is found to be pressuring a teacher for special consideration will remain ineligible until the next scheduled grade check, regardless of what their X2 print out shows.
15. If there are any extenuating circumstances that you believe have led to a child's ineligibility, please have them email the Athletic Department so a decision can be made on whether or not to temporarily change their academic status. This decision will be made by the Athletic Department and appropriate staff and administration.

5.8 ADDITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Innovation Academy Charter School follows all MIAA rules and guidelines when determining the eligibility of a high school student-athlete.

High school student-athletes please initial below confirming you have read the academic policy

Parent initials_____

Student initials_____

PRACTICE AND GAME POLICIES

6.1.

Participation on an Innovation Academy Charter School athletic team requires a strong commitment. Students who join a team make a commitment to attend all practices, competitions and team meetings. Many teams hold practices and compete during the evening, on non-school days, and during school vacations. Students are strongly encouraged to think about their choice to play a sport and the time commitment that is necessary. Please remember that missing a game without the proper notification and permission is a Level 2 offense. If any team member must be late or miss a practice, he/she must notify the coach in advance when possible and receive permission. Consequences for absences from practices are at the coach's discretion, but may not exceed the consequence of missing a game (1 game suspension). This includes absences on non-school days and school vacations.

6.2. MIAA Rule #45 (9-12) – Loyalty to the High School Team: Bona Fide Team Member

A bona fide member of the school team is a student who is consistently present for an actively participates in all high school team sessions (e.g. practices, tryouts, competitions). Bona fide members of a school team are precluded from missing a high school practice or competition in order to participate in a non-school athletic activity/event in any sport recognized by the MIAA. The first offense to the Bona Fide Team Rule will result in a 25% suspension of the season. A second offense will result in a 25% suspension of the season and also renders the athlete ineligible for tournament participation.

6.3. MIAA Rule #63.1 - Good Citizen Rule

Student-athletes may not represent their school if they are on in-house or out-of-house disciplinary suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice and competition for at least the number of days (or partial days) equal to the number of days of the suspension. Local policies will determine the actual days of ineligibility.

6.4. MIAA Rule #48.1 – Taunting

Taunting includes any actions or comments by coaches, players, or spectators which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others, whether or not the deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Included is conduct that berates, needles, intimidates, or threatens based on race, gender, ethnic origin or background and conduct that attacks religious beliefs, size, economic status, speech, family, special needs, or personal characteristics.

Examples of taunting include but are not limited to: “trash talk”, defined as verbal communication of a personal nature directed by a competitor to an opponent by ridiculing his/her skills, efforts, sexual orientation, or lack of success, which is likely to provoke an altercation or physical response: a physical intimidation outside the spirit of the game, including “in the face” confrontation by one player to another, standing over/straddling a tackled or fallen player, etc.

UNIFORM, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY CARE AND REPLACEMENT

7.1.

1. Each athlete is solely responsible for any uniforms and/or equipment issued. Uniforms and warm-ups are to be worn only on competition days. They are not to be worn during practices or at other times unless specified by coach.
2. Uniforms and warm-ups are to be washed on a regular basis, following the instructions on the garments.
3. Uniforms and warm-ups must be returned washed and folded, in a bag labeled with the athlete's name attached, by the announced due dates at the end of the season or penalties will result.
4. Any athlete who owes money for a missing uniform or equipment will not be issued additional uniforms or equipment and will not be allowed to play on any school athletic team until such time the uniform is located or paid for.
5. Damaged or lost uniforms and/or equipment must be paid for by the athlete.
6. Athletes will be respectful of all facilities and grounds whether home or away. Willful damage to any facilities or grounds will result in game or team suspension(s) as per the Code of Conduct.
7. Athletes are required to assist in the cleanup of facilities and grounds at both home and away sites after all practices and games.
8. Athletes are not allowed to use any equipment or facilities without supervision by their coach, athletic director or designated person.

TRANSPORTATION

8.1.

Innovation Academy provides transportation to most interscholastic competitions. All students are required to travel by bus with the team to all events when a bus is offered. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the Coach and Athletic Director must be notified. There may be some instances when bus transportation to a game is not provided (night, weekend or vacation games). If there is no bus provided, the Coach or Athletic Director will notify students in advance. In this case, parents are responsible for providing transportation. Students may be picked up after an away contest by a parent or guardian (or other designated person over the age of 21 with written permission from a parent or guardian). If someone under the age of 21 is to pick up an athlete, it must be approved by both Athletic Director and Principal. If a parent wants a student excused from returning to school on the team bus after a game, the request must be made to the Athletic Director via email, written request or telephone no later than 2 hours prior to bus departure from IACS to competition. **No coach, assistant coach, or other school personnel will transport any student-athlete(s) in their personal vehicle.**

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND LIABILITY RELEASE

9.1.

Student-athletes and their parent/guardian should be aware that athletic participation, on occasion, may result in accidental injury. When such an injury occurs, the athletic personnel of Innovation Academy Charter School will complete an accident report form. Each student-athlete is also required to submit a Student Health Information/Parental Permission Form outlining any pre-existing health and/or physical concerns. This form waives any liability of Innovation Academy Charter School, its agents, or employees. No student-athlete will be permitted to participate in athletics until this form is on file with the Athletics Office, and have been cleared to return by the Athletic Trainer.

ATHLETE/PARENT CONCUSSION AGREEMENT (Please read the following page before signing this page)

10.1.

We have read the Heads Up! concussion fact sheet for both parents and athletes, and understand the seriousness of concussions. We are aware of the importance of student-athletes not participating in any activities that can worsen their symptoms when a concussion is suspected. When a concussion is suspected, we recognize that the student-athlete must see a medical professional. Furthermore, we understand that once a concussion is diagnosed student-athletes must adhere to all restrictions provided by medical professionals and may not participate in athletics in any way until they have been fully cleared by said medical professionals. We understand that all head injuries must be reported to both the Athletic Department and the Health Services Office at IACS regardless of whether or not a concussion is suspected.*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Student-Athlete's Signature

Date

Student Name (Printed)

*** This page must be completed for the IACS Athletic Department. This is in addition to any league concussion paperwork.**

CONCUSSION CERTIFICATION

****Parents and athletes must complete the following free concussion courses****

11.1.

1. Go to the website <http://nfhslearn.com>, and register as a parent with the NFHS.
2. "Purchase" the free course, "Concussion in Sports"
3. Complete the course print out the certificate of completion.
4. With an **different email address**, have your student-athlete register as an athlete with the NFHS.
5. Student-athletes will also go the website <http://nfhslearn.com/>.
6. Students take a different course from parent/guardians, titled "Concussion for Students".
7. Student-athletes will complete the course and print out the certificate of completion.
8. Pass in both copies of the certification to the Athletic Department with the rest of the respective season's paperwork.
9. This certification is good for one academic year (three seasons).

RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF INNOVATION ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK WITH RULES AND CODE OF CONDUCT.

I, _____ do hereby state I have received Innovation Academy Charter School's Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct. I further state by signing this below I, as a student-athlete, do hereby agree to and understand all rules, expectations, and policies set forth by Innovation Academy Charter School, its Athletic Department and coaching staff.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Student Name (Printed)

As a parent/guardian of the above student-athlete I, _____, do hereby state I have received a copy of, and agree to abide by the Innovation Academy Charter School's Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct. I further state by signing this below I, as parent/guardian, do hereby agree to and understand all rules, expectations, and policies set forth by Innovation Academy Charter School, its Athletic Department, and coaching staff.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Please return one copy of this handbook signed and initialed in all areas indicated and keep one copy for your records.