



HORIZON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2025-2026

**STUDENT-ATHLETE
HANDBOOK**

**“Christlike”
Philippians 2:1-11**

Athletic Director: Jalen Posey
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Horizon Christian School
7702 Indian Lake Road
Indianapolis, IN 46236
317-823-4538

MEMBER OF THE ICSAA
(Indiana Christian School Athletic Association)

Our Sports

Fall

Cross Country	Doug Brown	dbrown@structurepoint.com
Soccer	Sean Conboy	seanconboy22@gmail.com
Jr. High Soccer	Chris Anderson	chrisjanderson@live.com
Girls Varsity Volleyball	Jalen Posey	jposey@hcsindy.org
Girls Jr High Volleyball	Rick Poloma	TBD

Winter

Boys Varsity Basketball	Drew Anderson	drew,anderson222@gmail.com
Boys Jr. High Basketball	T.J. Baldonado	tbaldonado@hcsindy.org
Boys Elementary Basketball	Brandon Booher	TBD
Girls Varsity Basketball	Justin Schaefer	jschafer@hcsindy.org
Girls Jr. High Basketball	TBD	
Boys Wrestling	Chris Anderson	chrisjanderson@live.com

Spring

Softball	Jennifer Hathaway	TBD
Jr. High Softball	TBD	
Track & Field	Kristen McGaughey	kristenmcgphotography@gmail.com

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Introduction

Dear HCS Parents and student-athletes,

The Horizon Christian School Athletics Handbook is a guide of reference for coaches, student-athletes, and parents. This hand book will concern the policies that are put in place to govern athletics at Horizon Christian School.

Athletics is a very important step in the development of our student-athletes. Sports are a very large part of our everyday lives and, while it is a large piece of the puzzle for a student-athlete, it is not everything. Balance is key and our goal is to teach our students the values of having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, being involved in church, maintaining a healthy family life and striving for academic excellence.

Interscholastic athletics is completely voluntary. Students are not required to participate and they do not need it to graduate. In stating that, competition in athletics is a privilege and not a right. Along with this privilege is the responsibility to conform to standards established for the Horizon Christian athletic program. This privilege may be revoked if the student-athlete fails or refuses to comply with these rules.

There is a lot in this handbook to read and consider, but please read through it carefully. A lot of issues can be nixed by simply knowing what the guidelines and policies are. As we continue to grow as an athletic program, inevitably, there will be changes. It will be most helpful to you to be aware of the policies and procedures of the program.

If there are any questions or concerns about anything you read in this hand book please feel free to contact me at jposey@hcsindy.org or 317-823-4538, ext. 123

Thank you for supporting the Horizon Christian Athletics Department and our goal to create and sustain Kingdom Seekers. We could not do anything as a program without your involvement. I am looking forward to a great school year and I am excited to see how each of you use your talents to Glorify God and serve others.

Sincerely,

Jalen Posey

Director of Athletics
Horizon Christian School

Mission Statement

Horizon Christian Athletics is committed to creating and sustaining a program that makes Kingdom Seekers.

We believe that POISE embodies what it means to be a Kingdom Seeker

P - Purpose Driven

O - Others Focused

I - Intentional

S - Servant Leadership

E - Excellence

Ultimately, our goal is to produce athletes who play freely on the court and the field because their identity is found in Christ and not in the things of this world.

Purpose & Vision

- Demonstrate the Love of God to teammates, coaches, officials, and spectators.
John 13:35
- Shape and mold Christian character through team camaraderie and adversity.
Romans 5:1-5
- Excel athletically, physically, mentally, and spiritually both on and off the court.
Colossians 1:28
- Demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship & integrity, regardless of circumstance.
Proverbs 11:3
- Have a sincere faith, good conscience, and a pure heart.
I Timothy 1:5

Basic Program Information

Chain of Command

1. Athletic Director

Responsible for overseeing the athletic department.

The Athletic Director reports directly to the Head of School.

2. Head Coach

Responsible for student-athletes participating on their specific team.

Head Coaches report directly to the Athletic Director.



3. Students

Report directly to their team coach.

4. Parents

Communicate directly with the student's team coach.

Athletic Programs

1. Junior High: Grades 7-8 (6th grade if necessary)

- a. If numbers allow, there will be two teams. The teams are divided by skill level.
- b. Students gain valuable experience as they learn the importance of commitment, hard work, and perseverance
- c. Coaches stress fundamentals to help students grow and develop habits.

2. High School: Grades 9-12

2. Our High School athletic teams are, in some cases, composed of two separate levels; **Junior Varsity** (If numbers allow) and **Varsity**. The varsity level is the level that competes for ICSAA State championships.
 - i. **Junior Varsity** - This level is designed for students to continue to sharpen their skills and learn fundamentals. Junior Varsity Competitions are meant for players to gain valuable sport specific experience.
 - ii. **Varsity** - for students with highly developed skills. Varsity students can compete at the ICSAA state championships. On Varsity teams, coaches are expected to play the most capable athletes and do everything possible to be successful without compromising the athletic department's values. (see II)

Athletic Department Policies

1. Start with a prayer, end with a prayer

- a. Everything we do is to give God glory. One way we will do this is by starting and ending every team activity with a prayer. It is the Head Coach's responsibility to organize a team prayer before and after every team activity.

2. Participants

- a. Who can play
 - i. Students of Horizon Christian School
 - ii. Homeschool students
 - 1. Both students and homeschool students are held to the exact same academic and behavioral standards.
 - iii. Students of other schools are not eligible to try out for any Horizon team, but may be given consideration on an invitation only basis, as needed.

3. Requirements of Representing Values

- a. At Horizon, we recognize that playing sports is a privilege, not a right. Therefore student-athletes are held to a very high standard. Each student-athlete must always act in a way that represents the values of Horizon Christian School.
- b. The standard of behavior placed on student-athletes extends to parents. Each parent is expected to display a character that properly represents the values of Horizon Christian School. Parents are expected to positively encourage athletes, and promote hard work, commitment, and perseverance.

4. Communication

- a. Parents and athletes should expect the Head Coach to clearly communicate his/her philosophy, expectations, and schedule of team events.
- b. Parents and athletes are expected to clearly communicate concerns, scheduling issues (well in advance), and specific issues regarding the health or well-being of athletes.
- c. In the event of an issue, the following protocol should be followed:
 - i. First - The athlete must communicate with the Coach.

- ii. If the issue is not resolved, the parent will communicate with the Coach.
 - iii. If the issue still remains at this point, the parent may contact the Athletic Director.
 - iv. The Athletic Director may call a meeting, with those involved, to resolve the issue.
- d. Items to discuss with the Coach:
- i. The treatment of your child
 - ii. How your child can improve
 - iii. Concerns about your child's health and well being
- e. Items to not discuss with the Coach:
- i. Your child's playing time
 - ii. Coaching strategy
 - iii. Other student-athletes or parents

5. Social Media

- a. Student-athletes must understand that anything posted on social media is public information, regardless of the privacy settings on your account(s). Anything posted on any social media must represent the values of Horizon Christian School.
- b. Things **NOT** to be posted on social media:
- i. Explicit language
 - ii. Comments reflecting negatively on teammates, coaches or opponents
 - iii. Violent pictures
 - iv. Partial or full nudity
 - v. Inappropriate gestures
 - vi. Any version of sexual harassment
- c. The Athletic Director and/or Head of School reserve the right to take disciplinary action in the event of any inappropriate post.

6. Attendance

- a. Practice and Competition

- i. Each athlete is expected to attend every practice and game. Any absence or tardiness must be clearly communicated with the Head Coach well in advance. Remember, if you're not early, you're late!
- b. School Attendance
 - i. Good attendance in school is required to remain eligible.
 - 1. Students cannot miss more than 12 days per semester. *(See HCS Student Handbook for specific requirements & clarification)*
 - 2. Student-athletes must be in attendance at least half a school day to remain eligible for play.
 - 3. Students who leave school early due to illness are not permitted to compete that same day. *(See HCS Student Handbook for a list of excused absences)*
 - 4. Students may not have more than 7 unexcused tardies in a semester in accordance with the student handbook.
 - 5. After the 3rd tardy, the Coach will be notified, and discipline (sprints, pushups, etc.) will be at the discretion of the Coach. *(See HCS Student Handbook for specific requirements & clarification)*

7. Academic Eligibility

- a. Grades will be checked beginning 4 weeks after the start of semester.
- b. Students must have:
 - i. GPA of 2.0+ (~C average)
 - ii. Zero classes with an F
- c. Probation & ineligibility

Students who participate in athletics are **students first**. They are expected to maintain passing grades in all of the classes on their schedules. The Athletic Director will check grades (at least) every 4.5 weeks.

- At the midpoint of each quarter and at the end of each quarter, the Athletic Director will check student athletes' grades.
- If the athlete has any failing grades (below 60%), then he/she will be on academic probation and athletic suspension for the next 4.5 weeks. He/She may not participate/play in any sports events. He/She may practice once a week.
- At the next checkpoint, if an athlete's grades are not raised to all being above 59%, then he/she will remain ineligible for the next 4.5 weeks until the next grade check.

- If a student desires to try out for a sport, then he/she may do so. However, his/her grades will be checked. If the grades are not all above 59%, then the student may make the team but not play until grades are checked at the next 4.5 week check.
 1. An ineligible athlete cannot recover eligibility in this period, regardless of changes in grades.
 2. If the athlete has recovered academic eligibility, the athlete returns to probationary status for a probationary period (see i).
- ii. Further:
 1. Athletes who become ineligible at the end of a semester remain ineligible during the break.
 - a. That athlete will not be able to play in any games over break.
 - b. They will be permitted in this instance to attend practices.
 - c. They will be ineligible for the first 4.5 weeks of the second semester

8. Lettering

- a. Preliminary Requirements
 - i. All players must be in good academic standing in order to be eligible to receive a letter.
 - ii. All players must be in good behavioral standing in order to be eligible to receive a letter. Determined by Head of School and Athletic Director
- b. Baseball
 - i. Position players must play in minimum of half of varsity games.
 - ii. Coaches' discretion for seniors
- c. Softball
 - i. Position players must play in minimum of half of varsity games.
 - ii. Coaches' discretion for seniors
- d. Basketball
 - i. A player plays in 50 percent or more of the total quarters in a season.

- ii. OR a player plays in 25 percent or more of the total quarters in a season and the team advances to the Final Four.
- iii. OR a role player has contributions so overwhelmingly productive to team success that the Head Coach determines that a letter is earned.

1. This requires specific approval by the Athletic Director.

e. Cross Country

- i. Regularly attends practices
- ii. AND competes in at least 2/3 of varsity races
- iii. AND is within the top 7 runners for the team in approximately ½ or more of the races
- iv. OR at Coaches' discretion
- v. Upper level runners (juniors, seniors) may be given greater consideration, even if not in top 7.

f. Soccer

- i. Varsity performer in at least half the minutes of one season
- ii. OR maintains Captainship through the entire season
- iii. Coaches' discretion for seniors

g. Cheerleading

- i. A cheerleader is an active varsity contributor (cheers in every contest, participates in all cheer activities)

h. Track and Field

- i. Competed in over 60% of varsity meets
- ii. OR Breaks a school record for normal events (excludes indoor and seldom-run relays)
- iii. OR Qualified for the Indoor State Championships/Outdoor Showcases
- iv. AND Scored points at the Regional championship meet
- v. AND Ranks in the top 5 in a relay at the Region Championships (relay team scores at least four points).
- vi. OR Coaches Discretion for seniors

i. Volleyball

- i. A starter or substitute that appears in approximately 60% the sets played over the course of a season.
- ii. Coaches' discretion for seniors

9. Quitting a Sport

- a. It should be the aim of every student-athlete to finish what they have started; however, should a student-athlete decide to quit a sport during the season, the student-athlete must:
 - i. Met with the Head Coach to discuss the reason(s) for quitting
 - ii. Turn in any uniform, gear, or apparel provided to that student
 - iii. Acknowledge and accept that quitting a sport during its season will also impact that student's opportunity to play another sport

10. Concessions/Gate Duties

- a. **Parents play a vital role** in aiding the athletic department to create an overall great experience in athletics.
- b. Parents must help at least **once** during their student's season.
- c. Sign-ups for concession stand and gate duties will take place before each season.
- d. Parents and other volunteers are responsible for working their assigned time or finding their own replacements.

11. Athletic Fees/Physicals

- a. Physicals
 - i. Required for all student-athletes
 - ii. Must be turned in before first game or date specified by Coach
 - iii. Missing physicals will result in ineligibility
 - iv. Physical forms available in the office and on athletics website
 - v. Athletic fee structure is re-evaluated yearly
 - vi. Athletic fees will be clearly communicated to parents well in advance
 - vii. Athletic fees are due before the first game
 - viii. Unpaid athletic fees result in ineligibility
 1. If problems pertaining to paying fees arise, please contact the Athletic Director as soon as possible.

12. Uniforms

- a. Students will be assigned specific uniforms at the start of each season.
- b. Jerseys may be worn only under allowed circumstances.
 - i. Jerseys may be worn at competitions.
 - ii. Jerseys may be worn at school on game days.
 - iii. Jerseys may not be worn at any other time without express permission of the Coach or the Athletic Director.
 - iv. Coaches have the freedom to create any policy pertaining to how an athlete uses his or her uniform and thus supersede this rule and its subpoints.
- c. Jerseys must be washed and hung up after every game so that the uniform looks presentable during competition.
 - i. Jerseys must be washed in COLD water, gentle cycle, turned INSIDE OUT, and AIR DRIED. They should not be washed in hot water or dried in the dryer.
- d. At the end of each season, uniforms are to be washed and turned in by the date determined by the Coach.
 - i. Late uniforms will incur a fee of \$1 per day.
- e. Lost or damaged uniforms will incur a charge of \$60.

13. Gameday Dress Code

- a. Jerseys are allowed to be worn in school on game days.
 - i. If the jersey is sleeveless, a black, white, or gray t-shirt must be worn under it.
- b. The Head Coach of each team reserves the right to implement their own policy for game day dress code.

14. Facility Usage

- a. In-season sports will always have priority for use of the athletic facilities.
- b. All usage of athletic facilities must be approved by the Athletic Director.
- c. Students may not use any facility without direct supervision of a Coach or School Employee.
- d. All equipment and facilities should be left in a better state than they were found.

Contracts

*Next two pages must be printed, signed, and turned into the High School office
before the first official competition.*

Student-Athlete & Parent Consent Contract

STUDENT-ATHLETE

I, _____,
acknowledge that I have read in detail and agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and
guidelines set forth by the Horizon Christian School Athletic Handbook. I understand that
it is a privilege to participate in athletics and agree to do my best to properly represent
myself, parents, peers, school and God.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN

I/We, _____,
being the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student-athlete acknowledge that I have read in
detail and agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and guidelines set forth by the
Horizon Christian School Athletic Handbook. I/We understand that it is a privilege for
my/our child to participate in athletics and agree to do my/our best to properly represent
myself, children, peers, school and God.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Uniform Check-Out

Student-Athlete Name: _____

Jersey #:

Jersey Size:

Shorts Size:

Team: MS JV Varsity

Date Given: _____

Sport uniforms are provided by the school during the sport's season. I understand it is my responsibility to care for the uniform assigned and return it to the school at the end of the sport's season. I understand that a \$60 fee will be charged for all uniforms lost.

I understand I can only wear the sports uniform during home and away games. It is not to be used for everyday wear as part of my personal wardrobe. Exceptions apply if approved by the Coach or Athletic Director.

I understand my uniform needs to be washed on a regular basis, after each game. It should be washed in COLD water, gentle cycle, turned INSIDE OUT, and AIR DRIED. It should not be washed in hot water or dried in the dryer. Proper care of our sport uniforms ensures durability and longevity. I understand that all uniforms must be washed and clean before returning them at the end of the season. I understand a \$60 fee will be charged if care isn't taken and the uniform needs replacing.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date