



KIPP Nashville Regional Athletic Handbook

KIPP Nashville College Prep Elementary
KIPP Kirkpatrick Elementary
KIPP Academy Nashville Middle School
KIPP Nashville College Prep Middle School
KIPP Antioch College Prep Elementary School
KIPP Antioch Global Elementary School
KIPP Antioch College Prep Middle School
KIPP Antioch Global Middle School
KIPP Antioch Global High School
KIPP Nashville Collegiate High School

Table of Contents

Welcome	4
Mission and Philosophy of KIPP Nashville Athletic Department	5
Description of the Program	6
Affiliation	6
KIPP Nashville Regional Athletic Programs	6
Varsity and Sub-Varsity Athletics 9th - 12th Grade	6
Middle School Athletics 6th - 8th Grade	7
Elementary School Athletics	8
Eligibility	8
Athletic Vision and Priorities	9
Effective Parent/Coach/Player Relations	9
Facilities/Fields/Equipment Care	10
Locker Room Policy (if applicable):	10
Uniforms	11
Eligibility	11
Age	11
Grades	11
Athletic Director's Discretion	12
Student Athlete Morale	12
Transfer Students	12
School Attendance	13
Dress Code	13
Guidelines Athletic Trips (including summer camps and practices)	13
Transportation	14
Team Transportation Requirement	14
Playing Time Policy	15
School-Based Behavior in KIPP Nashville Athletics	15
Community Engagement Expectation	15
Athletic Team Tryouts (For Middle School & Varsity Athletics)	16
Student Athlete Commitment	16
Technical Fouls & Ejections	17
Spectator Ejections	17
Service Project Requirement for Reinstatement	17
Project Overview	17
Presentation Requirements:	17



Practice	18
Preseason Meetings/Games and Practice Schedules	19
Final Forms	18
Athletic Spectator & Parent Guidelines	19
Health and Safety	20
Drug/Substance & Alcohol Policy	20
Prohibited Substances	21
Drug Testing	21
Consequences for Violations	21
Appeal Process for Positive Test Results	22
Alcohol Use and Consumption Policy	24
Consequences for Policy Violations	24
Weather Policy	25
Athletic Awards	25
Hazing Policy	25
Athletic Participation Fees	26
KIPP Nashville Athletics Parent Agreement	27
KIPP Nashville Athletics Student-Athlete Agreement	29



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Welcome

KIPP Nashville is proud to offer a wide range of athletic opportunities for students across all of our campuses in Nashville, Tennessee. Our foundational goal is to ensure that participation in sports is fully accessible to everyone, completely free of barriers related to socioeconomic background, gender, or race. We are deeply committed to creating an inclusive environment where every student has the opportunity to participate, challenge themselves, and thrive.

For us, athletics is a vital catalyst for student development. Our programs are intentionally structured to meet students where they are, whether that means building core skills on our elementary and middle school developmental teams, or pushing the boundaries of performance in high-level varsity competition. Through these experiences, we aim to nurture well-rounded scholar-athletes who love the thrill of competition, display outstanding sportsmanship, and serve as positive influences among their peers and within their broader communities.

As we embark on this upcoming season, we look forward to partnering with our families, coaches, and staff to support our students both on and off the field. We lead with integrity, compete with character, and inspire excellence to make athletes today and leaders for life.

Erric T. Adams Jr., RAA

Regional Athletic Director

KIPP Nashville Public Schools



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Mission and Philosophy of KIPP Nashville Athletic Department

At KIPP Nashville, we lead with integrity, compete with character, and strive for excellence in everything we do. Through a culture rooted in growth, shine, and teamwork, we empower our student-athletes to develop as leaders and well-rounded individuals. Our athletic programs are committed to fostering a competitive spirit that shapes not only athletes for today, but leaders for life.

The KIPP Nashville Athletics Department aspires to provide a **World-class experience** to every scholar athlete. A world-class experience is one in which every athlete:

- Is coached through the core values of **Growth, Shine, and Team**
- Is encouraged to give 100% effort, on and off the field
- Is developing leadership skills grounded in **integrity**
- Is learning to **compete with character** and respect for others
- Is inspired to **strive for excellence** in all they do
- Is displaying **joy** at both practices and games
- Is building a strong understanding of the sport
- Is growing both as a player and as a person with the mindset of being an athlete today and leader for life

At KIPP Nashville, we recognize that coaches are at the heart of making our mission and belief a reality. Our goal is to equip every coach with the tools and support needed to thrive as a transformational leader within KIPP Nashville Athletics Department. We are dedicated to building a strong, athletics-driven culture where coaches, parents, fans, officials, community partners, and scholar-athletes unite to achieve our shared vision.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Description of the Program

Affiliation

KIPP Nashville Public Schools competes as a member of Tennessee Secondary Sports Athletic Association (TSSAA). In any case where one of our teams competes in a league (i.e. Charter Athletic League, MNPS Leagues, Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association), we will operate under the rules and regulations set by the governing body of the league.

KIPP Nashville Public Schools will abide by the rules set forth by the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) for all sports.

KIPP Nashville Regional Athletic Programs

Varsity and Sub-Varsity Athletics 9th - 12th Grade

KIPP Nashville offers a comprehensive athletics program for high school students, providing opportunities for both varsity and sub-varsity competition. Varsity Athletics at KIPP Nashville are designed for students who have demonstrated the integrity, character, and excellence required to meet higher academic and athletic expectations. These teams typically compete in both home and away games throughout the season. While all interested students are encouraged to participate, most varsity and sub-varsity teams operate through a tryout and selection process. Team placements are based on effort, attitude, skill level, and experience of the sport. Our high school athletic programs compete in the TSSAA and strictly follow all TSSAA rules and regulations.

Sports are offered during the **fall, winter, and spring seasons**, with specific offerings determined by student interest and participation levels. In addition to team practices and games, in-season varsity student-athletes are



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

expected to engage in **strength and conditioning** as assigned by their coaches during the designated off-season. Optional training opportunities are also available during off-seasons, within the limits set by TSSAA guidelines.

The following sports are available for High School athletes (try-out-based):

Volleyball (Fall): Girls

Volleyball (Spring): Boys (Emerging Club)

Cross Country (Fall): Girls & Boys

Boys Soccer (Spring)

Girls Soccer (Fall)

Track (Spring): Girls & Boys

Basketball (Winter): Girls & Boys

Flag Football (Spring): Girls

Cheerleading (Winter)

Middle School Athletics 6th - 8th Grade

The Middle School Athletics program will offer various opportunities for students by sport, based on developmental appropriateness and readiness. Fifth grade is not governed by the TMSAA. Coaches will combine fundamentals, teamwork, and sportsmanship in practices and play. Though all interested students are encouraged to play, if an excessive number of students are interested in playing, a tryout and team selection process will be utilized. Students will be placed according to effort, attitude, skill, and experience. Sports are offered in three seasons, fall, winter, and spring, and vary by participation number and interest. Sports labeled “Co-Op” are partnered with KIPP schools within our network.

KIPP Nashville Middle School competes in the Charter Athletic League (CAL). This is a league for charter middle school athletics. We adhere to the conference scheduling guidelines to provide our scholar-athletes the opportunity to participate in all sports seasons.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

The following sports are available for Middle School athletes in grades 6th through 8th grade (try-out based):

Cross Country: Boys & Girls

Soccer (Spring): Boys

Volleyball (Fall): Girls

Track & Field (Co-Op) (Spring): Boys & Girls

Soccer (Fall): Girls

Cheerleading (Winter)

Basketball (Winter): Boys & Girls

Flag Football (Spring): Girl

Elementary School Athletics

The Elementary School Athletics program provides students with opportunities to learn and participate in sports while building confidence, teamwork, and fundamental skills. The focus at this level is on building fundamental skills, fostering a love of the game, and learning the basics of teamwork and sportsmanship. Coaches emphasize skill development, participation, and positive attitudes during both practices and play. KIPP Nashville will also have a direct partnership with Mid State Sports, which will help support program development, provide additional resources, and enhance the overall student-athlete experience.

While all interested students are encouraged to participate, a tryout and team selection process may be used if interest exceeds capacity. When necessary, students will be placed based on effort, attitude, and readiness, with an emphasis on growth and learning. Once teams are assigned, the priority remains on developing fundamentals, encouraging teamwork, and reinforcing good sportsmanship in every aspect of the program.

Eligibility

Elementary school participants will retain their eligibility as long as they are in good standing for both attendance and behavior. Good standing for attendance is generally defined as an attendance rate above 90%. The school principal has discretion to consider additional attendance data when making an eligibility decision. Good behavioral standing is generally defined as no out-of-school suspensions during a given sports season. The school principal has discretion to consider additional behavioral data when making an eligibility determination.

The following sports are available for Elementary school athletes (try-out based)



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Cheerleading (Winter): Co-Ed

Soccer (Spring): Boys

Soccer (Spring): Girls

Basketball (Winter): Girls

Basketball (Winter): Boys

**Please note that each elementary school may offer sports and athletic opportunities that differ from those outlined in this handbook; families should connect with their school's designated Athletic Coordinator and Principal for the most current information regarding available programs and participation requirements.*

Athletic Vision and Priorities

KIPP Nashville Athletics is dedicated to achieving excellence both on the playing field and in the classroom. We are committed to actively involving our entire community, including student athletes, alumni, coaches, faculty, staff, families, and partners, to cultivate a deep sense of school pride and unity.

Effective Parent/Coach/Player Relations

Commitment to Student-Athlete Success

Our athletic program is built on the foundation that every student-athlete's experience is a top priority. Through strong relationships among parents, coaches, partners, and players, we are confident this goal can and will be achieved.

Parent Responsibility and Conduct

While we fully respect the important role parents play in their child's life, participation in athletics requires parents to entrust coaches with the responsibility and authority to guide their student-athlete during the season. Parents are expected to model respectful and responsible behavior toward coaches, student-athletes, opposing teams, and officials at all times.

Communication Procedures

If parents have questions or concerns, we ask that they follow the proper communication process. Please wait 24 hours after a competition before reaching out to the head coach to discuss any issues. If concerns remain unresolved, parents are encouraged to contact the Athletic Director. All parent communications will be shared with the Athletic Director to ensure transparency and support.

Supporting Coaches and the Program

Coaches are committed to supporting student-athletes by teaching essential skills, fostering character



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

development, encouraging commitment, and promoting health and wellness in a safe environment. We expect that parents who allow their student-athlete to participate will also support the coach and contribute positively to the team environment.

Parents and guardians are expected to comply with the Parent Agreement. Student-athletes are expected to comply with the Student-Athlete Agreement.

Facilities/Fields/Equipment Care

Athletic equipment and facilities are for the use of athletic teams only, unless permission is given by the Athletic Director or Principal.

Students are expected to respect, maintain, and care for the facilities and equipment they use. All damage to facilities or equipment should be reported to the Athletic Director and the Regional Athletic Director as soon as possible.

Students will need to seek permission from a coach or Athletic Director before entering storage areas, locker rooms, athletic facilities, or offices.

All equipment/facilities shall be handled with respect. No hanging on rims/nets, backboards, braces, or soccer goals. No sitting on balls, etc., is permitted.

Only tennis/basketball shoes are permitted on the gym floor for athletic practices. Gym rules are displayed outside the space.

Use of equipment should be limited to the sport for which it is intended. All equipment should be returned to the proper storage area after use.

Direct supervision by a coach or Athletic Director is required before a student enters the weight room.

Facilities may only be used with prior permission from the Athletic Department. Proof of liability insurance will be required, and there may be a fee for use. An administrator must be present for facility use and is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

Locker Room Policy (if applicable):

- A coach or administrator will always supervise locker rooms when students are present.
- Locker rooms must be kept clean after every practice and game.
- Taking photos or videos in the locker room is strictly prohibited under any circumstances.
- Horseplay or roughhousing in the locker room is not allowed at any time.
- Students are responsible for their personal belongings. Locks will be provided to all athletes.
- Glass containers are not permitted in the locker room at any time.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

- Any student-athlete involved in damaging a home or away locker room will pay for the repairs personally and face appropriate consequences as a result of the choice made.
- In some cases, a locker room may be shared by multiple school teams that compete in separate seasons (ex. Girls Volleyball & Girls Basketball). The Athletic Director and coaches will work together to coordinate the assignment of lockers for all team members.

Uniforms

Uniforms are to receive the utmost care. The cost to replace damaged and/or lost uniforms and/or equipment will be the responsibility of the athlete to whom it was issued. Families will be charged for unreturned uniforms.

Eligibility

Age

KIPP Nashville will abide by the rules in place for the athletic leagues. The Athletic Director will clear all players with the leagues before using a player not covered by the league's guidelines. Depending on league requirements, players may be required to provide a copy of their birth certificate.

We will follow the TMSAA/TSSAA guidelines for age participation (cannot turn 19 years old before August 1 of Senior Year). Our student-athletes have four years of eligibility once they start ninth grade.

Grades

KIPP Nashville places an emphasis on academic and athletic excellence. All student-athletes must meet the requirements established by the TMSAA/ TSSAA and the KIPP Nashville Athletic Department in order to participate in an athletic event, practice, or game.

- To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn **six credits** the preceding school year if **24 or more credits are required for graduation**. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. This eligibility is determined at the beginning of the school year in August.
- A student shall not participate in athletics during any semester unless he/she is duly enrolled on or before the 20th day of the semester. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the attendance requirements in the school last attended.
- KIPP Nashville requires that students meet a minimum **2.0 GPA** in order to participate in athletics. This eligibility is checked at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the first semester.
- KIPP Nashville student-athlete grades are checked during the season weekly. Students who fall below 2.0 during the season will not be allowed to participate in games until they have a minimum of 2.0. ****This policy is specific to KIPP Nashville Public Schools ****
- KIPP Nashville will never knowingly allow a student-athlete who doesn't meet the educational requirements established by the athletic association to participate in school based athletics.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

- KIPP Nashville reserves the right to rule a student ineligible for academic reasons if it is determined that the student has not met the academic rigor required by our organization.

At KIPP Nashville, we are committed to supporting the diverse academic needs of all our student-athletes. Students who receive academic accommodations or modifications through a 504 Plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP), or Multilingual Learner (ML) services will be held to the academic expectations outlined in their individualized plans.

Student-athletes with approved learning plans remain eligible to participate in athletics as long as they are actively working toward the goals and benchmarks detailed in their plans and demonstrating adequate academic progress. Progress will be monitored and reviewed in close collaboration with the student's support team, including case managers, ML coordinators, special education staff, and other relevant school personnel.

This approach reflects KIPP Nashville's commitment to maintaining high expectations while providing the individualized support each student needs to thrive. Our goal is to ensure that all student-athletes have equitable and meaningful opportunities to participate in athletics while staying on track academically.

Athletic Director's Discretion

In special or unique situations not directly addressed by standard eligibility policies, the KIPP Nashville Athletics Administration reserves the right to make final determinations regarding a student-athlete's eligibility. These decisions will be made thoughtfully and collaboratively, with input from the Athletics Director, Regional Athletic Director, Head Coach, school-based administration, and, when appropriate, members of the academic support staff.

The Head Coach plays a key role in this process and is responsible for consistently communicating academic eligibility updates to student-athletes while also helping them stay in good standing or take steps to regain eligibility if needed.

This process ensures that all decisions are student-centered, equitable, and aligned with KIPP Nashville's commitment to academic and athletic excellence.

Student Athlete Morale

If a coach or administrator determines that a student-athlete is not contributing positively to team morale, the student may be placed on behavioral probation and/or dismissed from the team. A parent-student conference will be scheduled with the Athletic Director and the respective coach to discuss the action taken.

Transfer Students

Student-athletes are subject to TMSAA/TSSAA rules on transfer students to determine their eligibility once enrolled at KIPP Nashville.



School Attendance

Please refer to the KIPP Nashville Student & Family Handbook for the student attendance policy.

Dress Code

Student-athletes follow the dress code rules established by KIPP Nashville Public Schools throughout the school day.

*Please refer to your respective KIPP Nashville School handbook on dress code requirements.

Sports bras must always be worn with a tank top or shirt over them, including when changing in any area visible to others. Spandex or swimsuits worn without shorts are only appropriate during active practice or competition.

Athletes are expected to wear shorts or warm-up bottoms when entering or leaving these spaces. Additionally, male athletes are not permitted to be shirtless at any time during athletic events, practices, or games.

All student-athletes arriving at off-campus sites will be required to be in dress code at all times unless otherwise determined by the head coach, athletic director, and Regional Athletic Department.

Guidelines Athletic Trips (including summer camps and practices)

All rules are set up for the well-being of the players and the school. Student-athletes traveling for athletic events must have a completed Emergency Contact Form on file. If driving, they must also have their vehicle registered with the high school.

1. All student-athletes are to represent KIPP Nashville with school pride at all times.
2. There is to be no screaming or yelling on the bus. All students are to be seated and not move around when the bus is moving.
3. For all grades, any personal electronic items (including smartphones) brought are subject to be taken at the discretion of the supervising coach or administrator. A student listening to unacceptable music or watching inappropriate content will lose the privilege of having those devices on any other trips for the rest of the school year. If music or content is in doubt, ask for approval in advance.
4. When boys and girls are traveling in the same vehicle, they will not be allowed to sit together.
5. The driver of the bus has the responsibility to transport our students safely. It is imperative to follow their requests.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

6. On overnight trips, the Athletic Director and/or coach will assign rooms to each student. Students are required to stay in the rooms with the team. They will not be permitted to stay with parents and/or others outside of the coaching staff unless prior approval is given by the Athletic Director.

7. Lights out on overnight trips involve everyone on the trip. The term “lights out” means that all students are in their assigned rooms with the lights off, in bed, going to sleep, and electronics off. The coach and/or Athletic Director will set the lights-out time.

8. All dress code rules should be followed on away trips.

Transportation

Team Transportation Requirement

All student-athletes are required to travel to away games using school-provided transportation if it is available. Exceptions must be pre-approved by the athletic director prior to the trip. By registering your student for a sport that includes travel, you are granting permission for them to use school transportation.

- **Cleaning Responsibility**
Teams are responsible for cleaning the school vehicle before exiting the bus at the conclusion of the trip.
- **Accountability for Damages**
Any damage caused to school vehicles due to horseplay or negligence will be the financial responsibility of the individual(s) involved.
- **Riding Home with Parents**
Student-athletes are permitted to ride home from away games with their parents or legal guardian. Parents must sign their student out with the head coach before departing.
- **Riding Home with Another Adult**
A student-athlete may ride home with another adult (not their legal guardian) if prior written permission is provided to the head coach before the game that day.
- **Riding with Other Student Drivers**
If a student-athlete plans to ride with another student driver, both sets of parents must provide written consent to the athletic director prior to the travel date. This may be submitted as a season-long agreement if recurring transportation is anticipated.

Failure to adhere to handbook guidelines as it relates to transportation will result in appropriate disciplinary action determined by the Athletic Director and the Regional Athletics Director.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Playing Time Policy

Participation in extracurricular sports is a privilege, not a guaranteed right.

Playing time is determined at the coach's discretion. Coaches will make decisions based on what is best for the team, considering factors such as practice performance, attitude, and conduct. Varsity sports are highly competitive, and not all student-athletes are guaranteed playing time.

School-Based Behavior in KIPP Nashville Athletics

Student-athletes cannot participate in any games or practice while they are suspended from school.

Any suspension that involves the team and/or major infractions may result in that student-athlete being dismissed from the team according to the discipline policies in the school based handbook and KIPP Nashville Student and Family handbook.

A player with major or repeated school disciplinary issues, in- or off-season, will meet with the Principal, Athletic Director and Coach. Additionally, the player may also be permanently removed from the team for the remainder of the season. The Head Coach, under the guidance of the Regional Athletic Director & Athletic Director, will have roster decision discretion regarding students who have had major disciplinary issues and/or repeated disciplinary issues during the athletic seasons to determine team status moving forward.

Community Engagement Expectation

To support the development of student-athletes as leaders both on and off the field, all KIPP Nashville athletic teams are required to participate in two community service events annually:

1. In-Season Service Event – Each team must complete at least one organized community service activity during their official season.
2. Off-Season Service Event – Each team must complete an additional community service activity during the off-season.

Expectations:

- Activities must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director and Regional Athletic Director



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

- Coaches and Athletic Directors are responsible for coordinating logistics and ensuring full team participation.
- Events should promote teamwork, character, and community connection.
- Service hours may be documented and used toward graduation or leadership awards.

Examples of Acceptable Events:

- Volunteering at local food banks or shelters
- Hosting youth sports clinics
- Participating in neighborhood clean-up initiatives
- Assisting at school-sponsored events or drives

This initiative aligns with KIPP's mission to cultivate not just excellent athletes, but responsible citizens and role models. Teams not fulfilling this requirement may face eligibility impacts or administrative review from the Regional Athletic Director.

Athletic Team Tryouts (For Middle School & Varsity Athletics)

If there is an excessive number of students interested in participating, a tryout or placement period may be held. Coaches will assess student-athletes based on attitude, skill, experience, team needs, and prior playing experience. Once teams are finalized, players will be notified in person on the day of tryouts whether they have made the team.

Student Athlete Commitment

Commitment: Once a student-athlete is selected for a team, they are strongly encouraged to complete the season. If a student-athlete decides to quit, a meeting will be arranged with the head coach and Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

If a student-athlete quits during a season, they may lose the opportunity to participate in another sport until the current season concludes.

Note: All Parents and student-athletes need to understand that they may not be placed on a particular team; they may not make the starting team; they may not play at all in a game.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Technical Fouls & Ejections

Receiving a penalty by any student-athlete in a contest may result in the removal of that student-athlete from the game/match for a period deemed necessary by the head coach.

Any student-athlete receiving an ejection in any sport will be required to meet with the Athletic Director before competing in the next game/match. Consequences will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director and may include suspension from play, which is predetermined by the state association (TSSAA).

If a student-athlete displays a consistent attitude or behavior contrary to the purpose of the athletic program at KIPP Nashville, they may be removed from the team.

Spectator Ejections

Any parent, guardian, family member, or spectator who is ejected from a KIPP Nashville athletic event by a game official, administrator, or event supervisor will be immediately removed from the venue and suspended from attending future KIPP Nashville athletic events. In addition, the individual will be responsible for paying a **\$250 reinstatement fee** prior to being considered for reinstatement of spectator privileges. Payment of the fee does not guarantee reinstatement, and KIPP Nashville reserves the right to impose additional disciplinary actions, including extended or permanent bans from athletic events, based on the severity of the incident. Reinstatement decisions will be made by the Regional Athletic Director and school administration.

Service Project Requirement for Reinstatement

As part of the disciplinary process and pathway to reinstatement, student-athletes may be required to complete a reflective service project. In this instance, the following project must be completed in full before reinstatement eligibility will be considered:

Project Overview

The student-athletes are required to collaboratively create and deliver a presentation on the themes of Sportsmanship and Setting the Bar for Excellence as a KIPP Nashville scholar athlete.

Presentation Requirements:

The presentation must thoughtfully address the following guiding questions:

- Why does sportsmanship matter, and why is it important to you to be a scholar-athlete?
- What is the importance of self-control in athletics and in life?



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

- What does it mean to be a student-athlete and role model at a KIPP Nashville Public School ?
- What key lessons are you taking away from this incident?
- What steps will you take moving forward to ensure this does not happen again?

This presentation will serve as the final step in the reinstatement process. Successful completion, including a demonstration of sincere reflection and growth, is required for eligibility to return following the number of games suspended by the TSSAA.

Practice

Practices are important to each team's success, and attendance will be required by all sports offered at KIPP Nashville.

A student-athlete should not be absent from a practice (except in the case of illness) without prior permission from the coach. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to inform the coach when they will not be able to attend practice and the reason why.

The individual coach will handle unexcused absences from a practice. Three unexcused absences may result in removal from the team.

Students participating in Varsity Athletics should be picked up by a parent or legal guardian within 15 minutes following the conclusion of practice or games, home or away. Excessive tardiness could result in removal from the team.

Participation in multiple sports during the same season requires a meeting between the student athlete, family, and athletic staff. This is done to protect all parties involved. In most cases, due to the level of commitment needed on sports teams, participation on two teams in the same season at the same time is prohibited.

Preseason Meetings/Games and Practice Schedules

Prior to each season, team meetings will be held to discuss the upcoming season for elementary, middle , and high school teams, when needed. Attendance at these meetings is strongly encouraged.

Practice and game schedules will also be discussed at this meeting.

Current schedules may be found at <https://kippnashvilleathletics.org>



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Final Forms

- It is required that all students have a final forms account at the middle school and high school level. All athletic physical paperwork should be uploaded directly to the scholar's final form account.
- The athletic department WILL NOT take any physical copies of paperwork and will instruct you to upload to Final Forms.
- Step-by-step help is provided at all sports pre-season meetings and a guide to setting up your account can be found here: <https://kipp-tn.finalforms.com/>

Athletic Spectator & Parent Guidelines

All parents are expected to abide by the guidelines in the Parent Agreement, whether a signed copy is on file in the Athletic Department or not.

Be respectful during opening prayers, moments of silence, and/or the National Anthem. Remember to practice good and fair sportsmanship as you support our teams.

Remain off the playing surface (courts or fields) before, during halftime, and after the games/matches. Please keep all children in the stands and away from the team's benches and ends of the fields or courts. Any parent, guardian, or spectator who enters the playing surface during gameplay will be subject to immediate removal from the facility. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of players, officials, and all attendees, and will be strictly enforced.

ABSOLUTELY NO coaching from the sidelines will be tolerated, to your child or others on the team.

Always be courteous to the officials, referees, and umpires. Do not approach an official before, during, or after a game or match for any reason.

Respect the halftime shows or events at home or away sporting events.

All parents are encouraged to volunteer during games as needed (i.e. concessions, clock keeping, snacks, etc.) per the Athletics Parent Agreement.

Spectators found in violation of spectator guidelines or sportsmanship guidelines can be removed from the competition site and receive penalties including fines from TSSAA, loss of guest privileges to sporting events and/or suspension from attending TSSAA-sanctioned sporting events.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Health and Safety

Every student-athlete is required to have a medical form and proof of medical insurance on file in the athletic office before they will be permitted to practice or participate in the athletic program at KIPP Nashville.

Per Tennessee state law (Public Chapter 148, effective January 1, 2014), every student-athlete and parent/legal guardian is required to be educated and informed about the nature, risk, and symptoms of concussions/head injury.

If the student has no medical insurance, they will provide all other medical information minus the medical insurance information.

Medical forms, Concussion forms, athletic training room rules, and consent for Athletic Participation, Transportation, and Emergency Care forms can be obtained and signed via the **Final Forms platform**.

Any student-athlete who has been restricted from participation because of an illness or injury at any time before or during the season must secure a doctor's release and clearance from the athletic trainer to be eligible to participate again on a team/squad at KIPP Nashville.

Any student-athlete who has suffered a concussion must complete a return-to-play plan and be cleared by the head athletic trainer before returning to play. No exceptions.

In the event of an emergency, KIPP Nashville Athletics will follow and hold its own Emergency Action Plan for athletic events.

On-field injury without a recommendation for additional medical personnel - an injury that takes place on the field that is assessed and treated by the athletic trainer without recommendations for additional medical intervention.

On-field injury needing additional medical personnel - an injury that takes place on the field that is assessed by the athletic trainer with recommendations for additional medical intervention such as: an emergency department visit, call for an ambulance, follow-up with primary care physician, physical therapy evaluation, and/or follow up with orthopedic or specialist.

In most cases, injuries are minor and the athlete will be treated by the athletic trainer at the school. If an injury is more extensive or requires further medical evaluation, the athlete's parent/guardian will be contacted by the athletic trainer.

The decision for an athlete to return to athletic participation will be determined by an athletic trainer following the return to sport protocol. In the event that additional treatment was required by a physician, the physician determines when that athlete is safe to return to athletic participation. The athletic trainer is the individual who makes the final decision regarding the athlete's return to athletic activity.



Drug/Substance & Alcohol Policy

Our school is dedicated to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our student-athletes while fostering an environment of fair play and sportsmanship. To uphold these values, we have established the following Drug and Substance Abuse Policy:

Prohibited Substances

The use, possession, distribution, or sale of illegal drugs, marijuana, edibles, steroids, performance-enhancing substances, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping products is strictly prohibited for all student-athletes.

Drug Testing

Student-athletes are subject to random drug and substance abuse testing at various times throughout the year, including during the pre-season, in-season, and post-season periods. Testing may be conducted either on-site or off-site.

Consequences for Violations

First Violation

If a student-athlete tests positive for drugs or substances, or violates this policy in any other way, they will be immediately suspended from all practices, competitions, and voluntary activities for a period of 30 days, starting from the date the test result is received. If the violation occurs during the off-season, the suspension will begin at the start of the next sport season in which the student participates. The student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to meet with the athletic coach, athletic trainer, or school administrator to discuss the risks of drug use, available support services, and the potential consequences of future violations. At the end of the 30-day suspension, the student must submit to another drug test before being reinstated. A positive result will be considered a second violation.

Suspension may be waived if the student agrees to participate in a 4-session counseling program through Students Taking A Right to Stand (STARS) or a similar service. After completing the program, the student must undergo another drug test. A positive result will be considered a second violation.

Second Violation

The student-athlete will be suspended from all athletic activities for the remainder of the current season or the next full season. Additionally, the student will be required to participate in a substance abuse program and attend a meeting with the athletic director and their parents or guardians.

Third Violation

The student-athlete will be permanently suspended from all athletic activities for the remainder of their high



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

school career. They will also be required to participate in a substance abuse program and meet with the athletic director and their parents or guardians.

Violation or Refusal to Test

Any student who attempts to alter a sample, provides an invalid sample, or refuses to provide a sample as requested will be considered to have tested positive. In such cases, the student will face the same consequences as a positive test result, and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified.

Confidentiality

All drug test results and disciplinary actions related to this policy will be kept confidential, except when disclosure is required by law or school policy.

Education and Prevention

Our school will provide educational programs on the risks of drug and substance abuse to all student-athletes, coaches, and staff members. Students who violate the drug and substance abuse policy will be required to complete a Vaping Prevention Online Course.

Appeals Process

Student-athletes who test positive may appeal the test results within 7 days of notification. The appeal process will involve the school principal, Regional Athletic Director, Athletic Director, Director of Operations, Principal, Coaches, and other key stakeholders.

Appeal Process for Positive Test Results

1. Notification

- The student-athlete and parent/guardian are informed of the positive test result.
- The parent/guardian has **7 days** from the date of notification to file an appeal.

2. Submit Appeal

- A **written appeal** must be submitted to the **school principal** and Regional Athletic Director within the 7-day window.
 - Supporting documents (e.g., medical records) should be included.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

3. Appeal Panel Assembled

- A panel is formed, including the following school staff:
 - Principal
 - Regional Athletic Director
 - School Athletic Director
 - Director of Operations
 - Coaches
 - Other key stakeholders (as needed)

4. Appeal Hearing

- A meeting is held where the student-athlete presents their case.
- The panel reviews all evidence and asks questions.

5. Decision & Communication

- The panel makes a decision.
- The principal communicates the outcome within **3 business days** of the hearing.

6. Recordkeeping

- All appeal documents and outcomes are securely filed for records.

Compliance

All student-athletes, coaches, and staff members must sign a consent form acknowledging their understanding of, and agreement to comply with, this drug and substance abuse policy.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

KIPP Nashville takes the issue of drug and substance abuse very seriously, and we believe this policy will help protect the health and safety of our student-athletes. We are committed to enforcing this policy to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all involved in our athletic programs.

Alcohol Use and Consumption Policy

At KIPP Nashville, being a student-athlete is more than participating in sports. It is a privilege that comes with the responsibility of representing the school and community with character and integrity. In support of our commitment to the growth and well-being of every scholar-athlete, the use, possession, or consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited for all student-athletes.

This policy is in effect:

- Throughout the entire academic year, not limited to the athletic season.
- In all settings, including on school grounds, during school-sponsored events, and off-campus.
- Regardless of the student-athlete's age or legal drinking status in any jurisdiction.

This policy is designed to foster responsible decision-making, promote wellness, and ensure that every scholar-athlete has the opportunity to excel both athletically and personally.

Consequences for Policy Violations

First Violation

- Two-game suspension or exclusion from a competition.
- Completion of the Tennessee Drug and Alcohol Awareness Class (\$25) before being eligible to return to team activities. Link: [Tennessee Drug and Alcohol Awareness Class](#)
- Additional school-level disciplinary action may apply.

Second Violation

- A required meeting with the Regional Athletic Director, Athletic Director, coach, guardian, and student-athlete.
- Suspension from all athletic activities including both practices and competitions, for two weeks.

Third Violation



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

- A formal meeting with the Regional Athletic Director, Athletic Director, Director of Operations, Principal, coach, guardian, and student-athlete.
- Indefinite athletic ineligibility with a minimum suspension of four weeks from both practices and competitions.
- Referral to an alcohol or substance abuse resource program.
- Reinstatement will be considered only after an administrative review, which may include a written reflection, a parent or guardian conference, and evidence of behavior change.

This policy reflects KIPP Nashville's belief that athletic participation should support the physical, emotional, and social development of all students. By upholding these standards, we empower our scholar-athletes to lead by example and succeed in all aspects of their lives, both on and off the playing field.

Weather Policy

If school is cancelled at KIPP Nashville due to inclement weather, athletic practices and events may still take place at the discretion of the Athletic Director. Coaches will notify individual teams about sporting activities for the day.

If our opponent's school is closed due to inclement weather, the Athletic Director will consult with the administrators to determine whether or not play will resume and where.

All weather updates are available on BAND and shared on Instagram (@KIPP Nashvilleathletics). Information and updates will be released as soon as they are available.

KIPP Nashville will obey any heat and cold weather advisories issued by the TSSAA and the Tennessee Health Department.

Athletic Awards

Awards are presented at the athletic banquet. All team members will receive participation certificates for each sport. We believe that attending these awards ceremonies is critical for celebrating the accomplishments of the student-athletes and the team. In addition, the Athletic Department will present department-specific prizes (athlete of the year, team of the year, coach of the year, and team with the highest GPA). Additional prizes will be granted at the discretion of the Athletic Department.

Hazing Policy

KIPP Nashville Athletics has a zero-tolerance policy regarding hazing. Hazing is defined when an act is committed against a student or a student is coerced into committing an act that creates a substantial risk of harm to



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

the student or to any third party in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with any school group, club, athletics team, grade level, activity or organization. Our program is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all student-athletes.

Failure to follow the KIPP Nashville Athletics anti-hazing policy may result in disciplinary action as determined by the Athletic Director and Regional Athletic Director. In addition, parents or guardians will be alerted, and the incident will be reported to the school's administrative staff for further investigation.

KIPP Nashville Athletics fosters a team culture founded on integrity, character, and excellence. Any sort of hazing is prohibited in our curriculum.

Athletic Participation Fees

Fees are charged to supplement, not cover, costs including coach stipends, uniform use, student-athlete gear, equipment use, facility use/rentals, bus transportation, league fees, and other miscellaneous expenses. Fees for athletic participation will be charged at the start of each season. Fees will be one flat fee for high school and one flat fee for middle school, regardless of one sport or multiple sports. Sports seasons include fall, winter, and spring. *Co-Ops still pay participation fees*

Students may pay their athletic team fees directly to their coach, the athletic director, or the front office using card payments via Square.

Varsity/High School Sports Fees

- One-time Sports Fee- **\$125 for the year**

Middle School Sports Fee

- One-time Sports Fee - **\$100 for the year**

Elementary School Sports Fee

- **Elementary school students will not be charged a team athletic fee. Instead, families will pay a registration fee directly to MidState Sports for participation in the league. This registration fee will serve in place of the traditional athletic team fee.**



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

KIPP Nashville Athletics Parent Agreement

- **Support KIPP Mission:** Parents are expected to support KIPP Nashville Public Schools, its mission and adhere to league rules and eligibility requirements.
- **Adhere to the Athletic Handbook:** Parents/guardians and student-athletes must follow the guidelines outlined in the Athletic Handbook, available at [KIPP Nashville Athletics Website](#).
- **Commitment to the Team:** Once a student-athlete joins a team, they are committed for the entire season. Withdrawal is only permitted with approval from the student, parents, coach, and Athletic Director.
- **Attendance and Punctuality:** Players must attend all practices and games on time. Arrangements for excused absences or tardiness should be made in advance with the coach.
- **Good Sportsmanship:** Parents should cheer positively for the team and players. Inappropriate behavior towards officials, opposing players, or coaches will not be tolerated.
- **Coaching Responsibility:** Coaching decisions and instructions come from the coach. Parents should avoid yelling instructions from the sidelines or stands.
- **Addressing Concerns:** Parents should wait 24 hours after a competition before addressing concerns with the coach in a respectful manner.
- **Maintain Positive Team Relations:** Avoid negative public commentary, as it can harm the team's overall morale and unity.
- **Effective Communication:** Open communication is encouraged, but the Athletic Department and coaches will not engage in discussions about the following: Other players, game strategy, and/or playing time.
- **Volunteer Assistance:** help is needed throughout the season. Parents are encouraged to assist during games as needed (i.e. team snacks, concessions, clock keeping, etc.)

Release Liability Clause Below:

I understand and agree that my child/ward may be transported in a school-owned vehicle or contracted or designated vehicle. This authorization will remain in effect while the above minor is en route to or from, or involved in participation in any KIPP Nashville program or activity unless revoked in writing by the under-signed and delivered to the aforesaid agent. I understand that neither KIPP Nashville nor its employees are liable for any injury sustained by my child while he/she is not on KIPP Nashville's property. I agree to release and hold harmless KIPP Nashville and its agents from any and all liability, loss, damages, claims, or actions for bodily injury, and/or property damage, in accordance with current state and federal law, arising out of participation in this trip. In cases of an emergency, I, the undersigned parent or guardian of the above minor child/ward, do hereby authorize the adult leaders, teachers, administrators, or other proper agents KIPP Nashville to act as agent for the under-signed to consent to any X-ray examination, anesthetic, medical or surgical diagnosis or treatment and hospital care for the above minor child which is deemed advisable and to be rendered under the general or special supervision of any physician or surgeon, licensed under the provision of the Medicine-Practice Act, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or dentist, at a hospital, school, or elsewhere. I agree to be responsible for the cost of such treatment. I understand that KIPP Nashville does not, in any manner, serve as principal, agent or partner of any travel agent, commercial carrier or lodging establishment which may provide services or accommodations to the participants. I have read and understand this release and voluntarily signed this document and participated in this event.

*Parent Agreements must be submitted before students will be allowed to participate. However, in the event that it is not on file, it is assumed that the parent agrees to its terms by allowing their child to play and by submitting the Athletics Medical



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence

Form for the school year.

I agree to and understand the policies stated above.

Print - Parent/Guardian Name Parent
Parent Signature Date

Sign - Parent/Guardian Name

Print - Student Name

Date



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence



KIPP Nashville Athletics Student-Athlete Agreement

As a student-athlete, I know I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash-talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I agree to hold myself to the highest standards of sportsmanship. I agree to pursue excellence in the classroom and in competition. I agree to demonstrate strong character and accountability for all of my actions. I embrace the unique perspectives we all bring to the KIPP Nashville athletic community. I agree to support my fellow student-athletes in their own pursuit of excellence. I know the behavior expectations of my school, my conference, and the TSSAA and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student-athlete.

I agree to comply with the KIPP Nashville Athletics Mission Statement and to uphold all KIPP Nashville commitments and responsibilities to my teammates and coaches.

Print - Parent/Guardian Name Parent
Parent Signature Date

Sign - Parent/Guardian Name

Print - Student Name

Date

Student-Athlete Agreements must be signed and returned to the Athletic Department before students will be allowed to participate. However, in the event that it is not on file, it is assumed that the student-athlete agrees to its terms.



Lead with Integrity. Compete with Character. Inspire Excellence