ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.
2 Timothy 2:5

Revised 8/7/24

KNIGHT'S MISSION

The King's Academy Knight's (TKA) athletic program was established in 2005 for the benefit of TKA students who are interested in participating in competitive sports programs. We strive to provide consistent biblical reinforcement through athletic competition. Parents work with us to help their child build character and a strong work ethic through athletics and encourage them to accept growing responsibility as they mature. We provide a vital athletic experience that facilitates confidence in one's ability and discipline. We seek to help build strong, yet humble servants for Christ.

Student athletes participating in the Knight's athletic program learn life lessons and skills that will equip them for the world beyond high school athletics. It is our desire to provide the best opportunity to those who wish to play at the next level. Winning is a desired goal, but it is not the most important goal. The most important goal is to honor and glorify God through athletics. "It is possible to win a game yet lose our ability to shine light into a dark world."

We offer middle and high school sports including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross county, football, golf, soccer, softball, swim, tennis, track & field, and volleyball. Our team name/mascot is the Knights, and our colors are navy, silver and white. Our website is www.thekingsacademy.org/athletics/

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our Statement of Faith is based on fundamental Christian beliefs that we strongly support as the foundation of our organization. The King's Academy does not promote or endorse any particular denomination. We desire to remain united in the salvation and love of Christ, avoiding any dissension that may be caused by denominational distinctives.

All athletes wishing to participate in this program must affirm our beliefs, be compliant and participate during prayers and displays of patriotism. Players and families must not be disruptive of our right to conduct these traditional and ceremonial events and to uphold the tenets of our Christian faith.

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (II Timothy 3:15; II Peter 1:21). The Bible speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, and is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of The King's Academy's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our School Board is The King's Academy's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.
- We believe there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).
- We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33)
- His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35)
- His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26): His miracles (John 2:11)
- His vicarious and atoning death (I Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9)
- His resurrection (John 11:25; I Corinthians 15:4)
- His ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19)
- His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11).

- We believe that men are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace and through faith alone we are saved (John 3:16-19; 5:24; Romans 3:23; 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28, 29).
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26, 28).
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a Godly life (Romans 8:13-14; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).
- We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)
- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography, is sinful. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)
- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of The King's Academy.

TKA ATHLETIC STAFF

Chris Camp joined The King's Academy as the Athletic Director in August, 2021, after serving as the Assistant Athletic Director since January 2020. His primary responsibility is to serve as the department head over all athletics and ensure compliance with all GAPPS and TKA policies as well as the overall direction of the program. Chris loves sports. He grew up in Woodstock and played football and basketball at Etowah High School. Chris then attended Kennesaw State University where he graduated with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree. He has coached youth, middle and high school sports for 20 years including several years coaching in our Knights basketball program. Chris can be reached at: ccamp@thekingsacademy.org.

Lakyn Hager joined the King's Academy as the Assistant Athletic Director in April 2024. She comes to us with a great foundation of athletic knowledge including a Bachelors degree in Sports Administration (with a minor in Business), and a Masters degree in Sports Administration and Leadership from Reinhardt University. She was a high school and college athlete and has previously taught at a Christian school as well as serving as a program director at a local youth camp. Most recently she has served on staff at TKA as an assistant in our high school. Lakyn can be reached at: lhager@thekingsacademy.org

Victoria Matteson joined the King's Academy in 2014 as the part-time Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director. Victoria and her husband Paul have three adult children who attended and graduated from The King's Academy and participated in athletics. Her primary role is to assist the Athletic Director with the day-to-day administrative duties to ensure compliance with league rules and deadlines. vmatteson.asst@thekingsacademy.org

Roni Redd joined the TKA Athletic Department in 2022 to provide administrative support to Knight's Athletics. She has worked at TKA for seven years in various capacities as an Assistant in the preschool, elementary classroom, and front office. Roni's family has been a part of Knight's Athletics since 2013 and actively involved in football, soccer, track, and cross country. rredd@thekingsacademy.org

Caitlin Keith is our **Junior Knights Athletic Assistant**. Junior Knights is a new venture providing sports programs geared to our elementary students (K-5th grade) offering Basketball, Cheerleading, Running Club, and Soccer for this age group. Caitlin comes to us with a wealth of knowledge from her own sports experience as well as administrative expertise from her previous career path. She also brings the perspective of a parent of this age group which is very helpful as we develop sports at this level. ckeith@thekingsacademy.org

In loving memory of Michelle Rutledge who faithfully served The King's Academy as the Director of Athletics from 2008 until 2021. In her many years at The King's Academy, she served as a school parent, swim coach, cheer committee member, fundraising coordinator, and operating board member. Michelle was well versed in all aspects of athletics and excelled at her job, especially as she represented our school to the community and athletic leagues with which we were affiliated. Michelle leaves behind a rich legacy for our school and community.

LEAGUE POLICIES

The Knight's athletic program is a member of **GAPPS (Georgia Association of Private and Parochial Schools) for Middle School sports and GIAA (Georgia Independent Athletic Association) for High School sports**. The Knight's program has worked hard to earn and maintain a reputation of excellence and high character among the King's family, GAPPS members and the local community. TKA athletes and coaches are "Ambassadors" for the Knight's on and off the field. Therefore, coaches will have high expectations of each athlete which includes, but is not limited to, attendance, work ethic, a positive and willing attitude, Christ-like behavior, good sportsmanship, and respect for their coach and teammates.

ACADEMIC AND AGE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to tryout, practice or participate in any interscholastic activities, a student must be academically eligible as set forth in the GAPPS/GIAA manual. Students gain or lose eligibility on the first day of the subsequent semester. A student has eight (8) consecutive semesters or four (4) years of eligibility from the date of entry into the 9th grade. The Athletic Director will verify the

academic eligibility of TKA enrolled athletes and high school AES. GAPPS verifies academic eligibility of middle school AES athletes.

TKA enrolled students gain eligibility to participate in TKA Athletics once it has been determined that they meet all GAPPS/GIAA standards of academic eligibility, age limits, semesters in school, and transfer rules (when applicable) as outlined in the GAPPS/GIAA By-Laws manual.

High School: Students must pass 5 unit subjects per semester. Of the 5 unit subjects, 3 units MUST be in the following subject areas: English, Foreign Language, Science, Social Science, Mathematics, Religion, or Business Education.
Middle School: GAPPS allows member schools to determine academic eligibility for middle school students. At TKA, we have determined that a student athlete in 8th grade or below can only fail two classes to remain eligible to participate.
A student's gender is determined by the sex noted on the birth certificate issued at the time of birth. Girls may participate on boys' teams when no girls team is offered in that sport or activity by GAPPS. Boys may not participate on girls' teams even when there is no corresponding boys' sport or activity.

To participate in high school sports, a student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding his/her year of participation. To be eligible to participate in middle school sports, a student must not have reached his/her 15th birthday prior to September 1st in the year of participation. All student athletes will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility.

ATHLETIC EVENT SCHEDULING

It is our practice not to have athletic events after school on Wednesdays so that our students are free to attend church activities on these evenings. However, if the situation warrants, we will occasionally allow for practices or rescheduled games to take place on Wednesdays as long as they end by 6pm.

CONCUSSION POLICY

The state of Georgia passed the "Return to Play Act of 2013" that went into effect on January 1, 2014. TKA coaches are required to pass a GHSA concussion training and submit a certificate of completion. Athletes who exhibit symptoms of concussion should be removed from practices and contests until they have been evaluated by a medical professional. Athletes must turn in a signed clearance from a medical professional to the AD before they can return to play.

We highly recommend that all athletes, particularly athletes participating in football, cheerleading, soccer, baseball, softball, and basketball, have a base-line concussion test. Children's Health Care of Atlanta offers online scheduling for their "Baseline ImPACT" Concussion Test at: https://www.choa.org/medical-services/concussion/impact-testing or call 404-785-KIDS (5437), A representative from CHOA will contact you to schedule testing. Baseline Testing may be offered occasionally at The King's Academy at the start of the fall and spring sports seasons.

FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY

Flash photography is prohibited at all indoor League state playoffs events unless permission is obtained from League on a case-by-case basis. Flash photography at outdoor GAPPS state playoff events is at the discretion of the onsite game officials. Coaches are encouraged to trade films with opponents in a professional manner.

LEAGUE COMMUNICATION

All communication with the league must come from the member school's Athletic Director. Coaches and parents may refer to the league manual on the GAPPS web site, www.gappsports.com for questions regarding middle school eligibility and rules. Contact the AD for clarification on GIAA Rules & Regulations. At no time, without permission from the AD, should a coach or parent contact the league office.

NOISE MAKERS

Artificial noisemakers are prohibited at all indoor events. Artificial noisemakers are allowed at outdoor events except for air horns, whistles, or other similar devices that simulate the sounds of clock horns or officials' whistles. Illegal artificial noisemakers will be confiscated when visible and/or used.

PUBLIC PROTESTING

Any school or member of a school that uses a GAPPS event for their own purpose of staging a public protest is out of compliance with the sportsmanship section of the GAPPS manual and subject to league discipline which could include immediate ejection from the league.

GAPPS SPORTSMANSHIP

GAPPS & GIAA member schools are required to conduct all relationships with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship. Players, coaches and fans are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship before, during and after a contest. The student section is expected to treat both teams and the officials/referees with respect while cheering enthusiastically for their team. Taunting or other acts of intimidation toward the opposing team or individual player or official is strictly prohibited. Singling out a player or official by name, number or physical characteristic is strictly prohibited. Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in warning, ejection and/or fines.

The **GAPPS sportsmanship statement** should be read before every GAPPS game: *"GAPPS and its member schools have made a commitment, to promote good sportsmanship by students, athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GAPPS sanctioned events. Please represent your school with the highest regard. Any profanity, degrading comments and intimidating actions directed at officials, competitors, or other spectators will not be tolerated and are grounds for automatic ejection from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's GAPPS event. All fans and spectators must remain in the stands and/or designated areas and are not permitted to enter the playing arena at any time."*

*The **GIAA sportsmanship statement** is to be read at all GIAA games and events where a speaker system is available.* "The GIAA encourages and promotes sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Disruptive behavior of any kind, including but not limited to protests, demonstrations, profanity, racial, ethnic, or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions, will not be tolerated and may be grounds for removal from the event, as well as a possible cause for dismissal from the event."

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST PREVENTION ACT

On July 1, 2019 SB 60 went into effect requiring the Department of Education to post guidelines and relevant information on the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest on its website for students participating in interscholastic athletic activities, their parent or guardians, and coaches. Under the Bill, any student who passes out either while participating in or immediately after an athletic activity who has a history of fainting during or after the activity must be removed at that time until they are cleared in writing by a healthcare provider.

SPORT'S PHYSICALS

GAPPS & GIAA By-laws state that students are required to have a current physical examination form on file in the Athletic Department prior to participating in any athletic try-outs, practices, voluntary workouts, or games that indicate the student is physically approved for participation.

1. Physical evaluation forms should be dated on or after April 1 of the preceding academic year and will be accepted for the entire next academic school year. This is in an effort to ensure that our athletes will be fully covered by insurance for their entire sport season, and when moving from one sport season to the next.

2. Physical forms must be valid for the entire sports' season. Students will be asked to provide a current physical form if it expires at any time during the season.

3. GAPPS & GIAA requires member schools to use the latest edition of the Pre-participation Physical Evaluation form approved by the American Academy of Pediatrics. League respective forms can be downloaded from the TKA website under Athletics/Forms.

4. The physical exam must be conducted by a licensed medical physician, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Nurse Practitioner or a Physician's Assistant. The exam must be signed by an M.D., D.O., or by a Physician's Assistant or an Advance Practice Nurse who has been delegated that task by an M.D. or D.O.

Physicals may be done at a health care provider's office, CVS/Walgreens/Piedmont Urgent Care and/or other places that offer sports physicals.

KNIGHTS POLICIES

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION STUDENTS

GAPPS member schools may use homeschool students (Alternative Education Students, aka, AES) if they do not have enough enrolled students to form a team. Public School enrolled students are NOT permitted to participate on TKA Athletics sports teams, including online/virtually enrolled public school students. Athletic and academic eligibility of all AES athletes must be verified by the TKA Athletic Department and GAPPS/GIAA before participating in any TKA Knight's sponsored activity (ie: workouts, tryouts, practices, games).

- AES students must live within 30 miles of the member school
- The King's Academy will become the AES student's "home base" for all sports
- AES students must complete the AES Application
- AES students will pay a $40 AES fee to TKA

- High School AES students who transfer from one GIAA member school to another GIAA member school are subject to Transfer Rules. Transfer rules do not apply to MS athletes.
- AES seniors will be required to sign a TKA Senior Exit Form, which serves as a binding contract that their participation with The King's Academy's athletic program has ended.

AES APPROVAL PROCESS (For AES (homeschooled) students only)
Please refer to the AES Approval Process found on the TKA Athletics website under forms.

CODE OF CONDUCT

All athletes and coaches are required to sign a Code of Conduct. Athletes and coaches are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct throughout the entire season. Our desire is to honor Christ and each other in our relationships and reflect His character.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

As Christians, we should seek to resolve conflict in an appropriate and Christ-honoring way, attempting to resolve all concerns or disputes promptly, respectfully, and peacefully. Parents should address concerns directly with the coach before discussing them with other students and parents. *Use of email by "REPLY ALL" or social media to resolve a dispute is not the biblical approach to conflict resolution and will not be tolerated.* Parents are encouraged to schedule a conference in private away from the athletic event and on a separate day if possible. If a resolution does not occur from a parent and coach conference, a parent or coach should contact the Athletic Director to schedule a conference between all parties.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraisers may be established during the year by the coaches or parent volunteers as needed. Families must agree to participate in any group fundraising activities or pay an equivalent net monetary amount as established by the program. All fundraising ideas and projects must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

ALL STAR PLAYER FEES

All-Star players will be required to pay the full All-Star fee if they choose to participate in the All-Star Game. The team's budget will reimburse the All-Star athlete ½ of the fee after the game. Players should email the AD to request reimbursement.

GATE FEES

Gate fees are determined by GAPPS/GIAA. Member schools may charge up to the maximum amount allowed. During regular season events, the host school must honor GAPPS, GHSA & GISA/GIAA passes which shall admit the bearer and one other person. For state playoff events, the host school shall honor only the GAPPS/GIAA pass and valid media credentials. Law enforcement personnel in uniform and bus/van drivers are to be granted free admission.

Free admission to regular season Knight's home games will be given to those listed on the TKA Knight's Gate Pass List. A copy of the list will be provided to the Volunteer Coordinator for basketball, football, and volleyball.

KNIGHTS' GATE PASS LIST (Free Admission to ALL Knight's Regular Season Home Games)
• GAPPS, GHSA & GISA/GIAA Pass Holders
• Knight's Coaches

• TKA Executive Board Members & Spouse
• Athletic Department Personnel & Spouse
• Law Enforcement in Uniform
• Valid Media Credentials, Bus/Van Driver
Limited Free Admission to Knight's Regular Season Home Games:
• Spouses of Knight's coaches and children 18 and under living at home will receive free admission to regular season Knight's home games to the sport their spouse coaches.
• Committee Members (Team Manager/Treasurer, Volunteer Coordinator, Communications, Concession Managers or any others designated by the AD) receive free admission to regular season home games of their team.

INSURANCE

Knight's athletes are covered by a supplemental insurance policy. This policy is designed to assist with out-of-pocket expenses resulting from injuries sustained while participating in a TKA Knight's event. All claims should first be filed with the student's primary insurance carrier. Parents should email the Athletic Director to begin a claim against the Knight's supplemental policy. A portion of the expenses, not covered by the primary policy, may be covered by the supplemental policy provided through The King's Academy Knight's. Once a claim is filed, all communication is directly between the parent and the supplemental insurance policy.

MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

Parents are required to complete and sign a Medical Release form when registering for a sport online. This form releases The King's Academy from any claims or damages arising out of or relating to any physical injury while participating in TKA's athletic program. The form also authorizes coaches, assistant coaches, or parents acting in the capacity of activity supervisor to administer common first aid treatment on site and act as the agent of the parent to consent to emergency medical, surgical or dental examination or treatment in their absence.

MULTIPLE SPORT ATHLETES

TKA Student-athletes are encouraged to participate in multiple sports during a calendar year. **Athletes are prohibited from participating in more than one sport in the same season**. If a student-athlete participates in two sports where the seasons overlap each other, he/she should notify the coaches of both sports as soon as possible so that the coaches can communicate with each other about the availability of the athlete to participate in the second sport. If there is a disagreement between the two coaches about what is acceptable, the Athletic Director will make the final decision to determine availability. Please know that in most cases, priority will be given to the first sport.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers are crucial to the success of each sport's season. Coordinator positions may vary from sport-to-sport as determined by the needs of the sport and are selected by the Athletic Director and/or Head Coach. Parent volunteers receive no compensation for their service, but will receive free admission to the game they are working and must check in at the gate. Parent Volunteer roles are: Team Coordinator, Treasurer, Communications/TeamSnap Coordinator, Uniform/Equipment Manager, Volunteer/Game Day Coordinator, Stats Recorder, Fundraising Coordinator, Banquet Coordinator, and Concessions Manager.

1. The Volunteer Coordinator will communicate the volunteer positions needed and may use TeamSnap and/or Sign Up Genius for volunteer sign up. Sports that once required a volunteer deposit check will be replaced with waivers as part of the registration process.

2. Team Treasurer: submits gate & concession proceeds for deposit. Submits requests for reimbursement
3. Communication Coordinator: manages team calendar and email communications
4. Spirit Wear Coordinator: work with the TKA Brand Team following the TKA Athletic Spirit Wear guidelines

PLAYING TIME AND ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Playing time and position assignment are determined by the coaching staff. Playing time is not guaranteed and is at the coaches' discretion. Attendance, work ethic, experience at a position, and making sure the player can be effective and remain safe at their assigned position are considered when determining playing time. When a parent intervenes on behalf of their athlete, it hinders them from learning life lessons and skills. Therefore, athletes are encouraged to speak directly with their coach if they have questions about playing time and ways they can improve to earn more playing time.

Coaches will determine and communicate attendance expectations and consequences for violation of attendance policies at the beginning of each season. Athletes should communicate directly with their coach if they plan to miss a practice or game/meet/match in advance.

PUBLICITY AND BRANDING

At The King's Academy, we are proud of our brand identity and we believe that a strong and unified brand image plays an important role in the level of excellence and quality that we value. As with any brand, our logos, trademarks and branding graphics are valuable assets that must be protected. When used properly, they help us maintain the integrity of The King's Academy and The King's Academy Knights brands to ensure the consistent representation of our brand identity for years to come.

Production & Approvals: The design, development and/or ordering of any product representing TKA or TKA Knights must be authorized by the TKA Brand Team in order to ensure brand consistency in any application. ALL produced items (including "Wearables" – uniforms, gear, spirit wear and other branded apparel) reflecting any of our trademarks and brand logos must receive approval from the Brand Team prior to production. Email brandteam@thekingsacademy.org for Branding Policies & Procedures.

QUITTING A SPORT

TKA athletes are expected to commit to the team and the coach for the entire season. Quitting should be a last resort after all other options have been exhausted. Student-athletes should arrange jobs and any other activities so as not to conflict with practice and games. If a student-athlete is dismissed or voluntarily leaves the team, at any time during the season (once practices have begun), he or she is not eligible to participate in another sport until the season of the sport dropped is over, unless there is an agreement between the two coaches involved and approved by the Athletic Director.

SCHOOL WEATHER CLOSINGS

The King's Academy will independently make decisions regarding school closings due to inclement weather after consulting news outlets and local reports. Please consult the school's social media outlets on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, or check incoming emails or emergency notifications from the school to determine whether TKA may be closed for weather-related reasons.

All school closings or the need for a modified schedule due to weather will be posted on all TKA media outlets.

All TKA Knight's after school activities will be canceled when school is closed due to weather. Coaches must reschedule all games and cancel all after school practices during school closings. A coach may evaluate the temperature and road conditions on a day-to-day basis during a school closing and is permitted to offer an optional practice if conditions have improved with the approval of the AD. Athletes are not required to attend an optional practice during a school closing.

SEASON-END BANQUET

Sport's programs will host an end-of-season banquet to celebrate the accomplishments of the athletes. Parent volunteers are responsible for planning the end-of-season banquet. The gym or high school assembly room may be reserved by emailing TKA Facilities facilities@thekingsacademy.org. Include your Name, sport, space being requested, date and purpose of the event. It is recommended that a date be selected at the beginning of the season and put on the Team Snap calendar.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Each sport program will provide the following special awards at the season-end banquet to athletes on each team. Each award can only be given to ONE athlete (no ties) to maintain the integrity of receiving these awards. Coaches will determine the recipients of each award; however, players may vote by private ballot for the Armor Award before the coach makes the final decision. (Coaches may also add other sport-specific awards with pre-approval from the AD. The Athletic Department will order all awards from Creative Awards.)

Most Valuable Player Award: This award is more talent-focused, statistic based rather than character-focused, but both must be considered.

M. Rutledge Coaches Award: This award is more character-focused than talent-focused, but both must be considered. The coaches' award winner must not be a benchwarmer ("pity award") but must have had significant play time during the season. Leadership & reliability should be factors.

Armor Award: This award is primarily Christian character-focused, and the player must have led in contributing to the Christian spirit and wellbeing of the team.

Breakout Player of the Year Award (Most Improved): Player must have shown significant improvement in ability, attitude and/or effort from the beginning of the program to its end.

Best Offensive or Best Defensive Player Award: If MVP is a better offensive player, then a Best Defensive Player award can be given. If MVP is a better defensive player, then a Best Offensive Player award can be given.

SPIRIT DAY GUIDELINES

Students will enjoy TKA Club & Teamwear Spirit days once a month on the last Wednesday and Friday of the month falling in the same week (dates may be adjusted due to holidays and notice is provided in the school's weekly announcements.) Participation is voluntary. Students athletes are expected to follow the Spirit Wear guidelines as stated in the TKA Family Handbook.

Game Day Team Wear: Coaches may request permission for team members to wear their current year jerseys or team member shirts on a school day as a GROUP prior to significant events, game days, tournaments, or championships. We ask that these requests be reasonably limited and made

in advance so our assistants who monitor dress code may be given a heads up. Please email sbreaden@thekingsacademy.org with these requests.

Club/Team Outerwear on School Days: Students participating in current year TKA sponsored extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.) may wear their team/member outerwear (hoodies or jackets) to school as part of their uniform.

STUDENT ATHLETE LEAVE POLICY

Student athletes are expected to follow the TKA Student Leave Policy found in the TKA Family Handbook. (The full handbook is posted on FACTS in Resource Documents). When possible, students should make every effort to remain in classes until the end of the lunch period and leave between classes.

SUPERVISION

Coaches and/or parents should ensure that no athlete is left unsupervised at any practice or game site. Parents should make every effort to pick up their athlete promptly. Athletes will be supervised for 15 minutes as they await pickup, after this time the coaches may need to leave, and a parent should remain behind until all athletes are picked up. Please notify the coach if you are going to be late picking up your athlete or if your child has other transportation arrangements.

TEAM AGREEMENT

Athletes and parents will be required to sign a Team Agreement when registering online. This agreement outlines the general expectations of athletes and parents in TKA athletics and ensures that both have read and agree to the terms of the Athlete Code of Conduct and the policies set forth in the TKA Athletic Handbook.

TEAM COMMUNICATION

Team Snap will be used for team communications. Each team has a private Team Snap account. Students and parents are required to join Team Snap to access rosters, schedules, stats, forms, photos and more. Participants may download the APP to their phones for easy access to all team communications.

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Teams are required to use the TKA photographer for mandatory team and individual photos. These photos will be used by the TKA Yearbook. The registration fee includes a 5x7 individual and team photo and download a hi resolution file of the individual photo for each athlete. A committee member or coach is responsible for contacting the photographer to schedule team photos. Gina Cellino ginacellinophotography@gmail.com

TKA SIGNING DAY

The King's Academy has many student athletes playing sports at the college level. We encourage athletes and parents to join us for TKA Signing Day each spring. This is a special day of celebration for athletes signing to play at the college level. A small reception will follow.

TKA SPORTSMANSHIP

Many hands work to provide memorable games, competitions and extracurricular events at TKA. It is a joy to see our students and families come out for Knights Athletics, JROTC, TKA Student Club, Academic Team activities and special class events. In order to set a good example in the community and create a safe and God-honoring environment at these events, the following guidelines should be noted:

- Students attending athletic and other competitive events related to The King's Academy remain under school behavior expectations and are subject to school discipline.
- No alcohol, tobacco products, vaping, or other controlled substances are allowed.
- No weapons of any kind allowed.
- No abusive or unruly behavior or offensive language allowed.
- No throwing of objects or any projectile onto the field, court, cheerleader section, or in the stands.
- Items such as confetti poppers, glitter, silly string, baby powder, flour (or other powder-like substances) are banned due to safety and maintenance concerns.
- No personal/portable audio systems allowed in the stands.
- Parents or adult guardians are responsible to attend and supervise their preschool, elementary and middle school students throughout the event.
- Clothing worn at events should reflect our faith-based school standards.
- Only authorized personnel are allowed on the athletic fields and on the court; spectators are prohibited at all times.
- School classrooms, office areas, and playgrounds may not be accessed during events unless designated for use by event organizers.
- All GAPPS/GIAA related rules and sportsmanship guidelines should be adhered to at GAPPS/GIAA sanctioned events.

TRANSPORTATION

Athletes are responsible for their own transportation to and from sporting events and are expected to arrive on time to all warm-ups, practices, and games. Athletes should have permission from their parents to ride with other teen drivers and/or coaches. Disciplinary action may be taken by the coach if an athlete consistently arrives late and violates attendance policies.

UNIFORM DRESS CODE

Knight's uniforms must meet all GHSA & GAPPS requirements. Practice and game uniforms are expected to be modest while at the same time relevant to the sport. All practice and game uniforms must be approved by the Athletic Director and TKA Branding Team before the order is placed to ensure there is a good balance between what is current and modest. Below are guidelines regarding modesty:

Male Athletes: Must wear a shirt at practices and games (swim team is the exception). Shorts must be worn properly. Not rolled at the waist or pulled down to reveal under garments.

Female Athletes: Sports bras must not be showing or must blend with the outer garment. Skirts and shorts should be modest in length and fit.

Uniform and equipment items are property of The King's Academy Knight's except for items purchased by the athlete. Each student must dress in assigned practice and game apparel when participating in scheduled events. Some dress code issues may not be covered under specific guidelines of this packet. Therefore, please be aware that all decisions regarding dress code for TKA Knight's events and what constitutes a violation will ultimately be determined by the coaches and AD.

VARSITY LETTERING

Athletes in grades 9-12, who complete a season as a Varsity participant and meet the sport's lettering policy are eligible to receive ONE varsity letter regardless of the number of sports played. Eighth (8th) graders on a varsity team are not eligible for a varsity letter until they enter the 9th grade. If a student is injured during the season and unable to compete, the coaches should determine how the student can best serve the team as a Varsity participant. Varsity letters will be provided by The King's Academy to be presented at the end-of-season awards banquet. Sport-specific pins will be issued with the letter. Each subsequent year, varsity athletes will receive a bar pin signifying their continued participation in each sport. JV participants who play 50% or more of the varsity season *may be eligible to receive a varsity letter at the coach's discretion*.

Varsity letter jackets are offered to high school athletes and may be ordered from Creative Awards, 11299 Hwy 92, Woodstock. Contact Bill Lees to schedule an appointment to be fitted for and to place a letter jacket order. bill@creativeap.com 770-517-8444 Orders take 10-12 weeks to complete. If ordering for a Christmas gift, we recommend ordering no later than September 30th.

SPORT REGISTRATION

TEAM SNAP PRE-REGISTRATION

Athletes are required to PRE-register on TeamSnap before evaluations or tryouts (with the exception of Cross Country, Swimming, Golf and Track). Once athletes have been notified that they have made the team, they will complete the registration and payment through TeamSnap.

REQUIRED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

Students participating in athletics are required to fill out and submit the following forms:

Submit Annually

- Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation form (current and signed by a physician; not a camp physical form). GIAA form if HS; GAPPS form if MS. Physicals dated after April 1st will be good for the next academic school year.

ATTENTION: NEW FORMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES:

- HS: GIAA Student/Parent Concussion Awareness Form
- HS: GIAA Student/Parent Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form
- HS: GIAA Student/Parent Heat Illness Awareness Form

Submit One Time

- Birth Certificate (New athletes only)
- High School Affidavit of Eligibility (New HS athletes 9-12th)
- Middle School Affidavit of Eligibility (New MS athletes 6-8th)
- MS: GAPPS Concussion Acknowledgement Form (New athletes only)
- MS: GAPPS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form (New athletes only)
- HS AES: Senior Exit form (AES seniors only)

PARTICIPATION FEES

Participation fees will be due during registration. Fees may be paid in full by credit card or ACH or by selecting the payment plan option.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship funds may be available on a LIMITED basis as determined by each sport's budget. Scholarships are intended for athletes experiencing a true financial hardship. Athletes requesting a scholarship should submit a Financial Aid Application to the Athletic Director for review. The Athletic Director and TKA Administration reserve the right to determine what constitutes a financial hardship and how scholarship funds are distributed. The form can be downloaded at https://www.thekingsacademy.org/athletics/Forms.cfm

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship forms are available to athletes needing assistance paying for their registration fee. Athletes receive 70% of the sponsorship and 30% goes to the sport's athletic budget. Sponsorship forms are available on the website at www.thekingsacademy.org/athletics/forms. Sponsors must email their contact and company logo to socialmedia@thekingsacademy.org

WITHDRAWAL AND REFUNDS

Athletes must notify the Athletic Department when they withdraw from a sport's program to be eligible to receive a refund. Athletes who withdraw from a program with an outstanding balance will be ineligible for tryouts and/or participation in any sport's program until the outstanding balance is paid in full.

100% refund* when notice given prior to the first official day of practice based on league calendars. Once the season begins, whether or not a refund is given is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

**Non-refundable expenses incurred for equipment, insurance, uniform, camp fees or other expenses that cannot be recovered by the program on behalf of the athlete will be deducted from all refunds. Any exceptions to the refund policy must be approved by the Athletic Director.*