

SPORTS AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH ATHLETICS



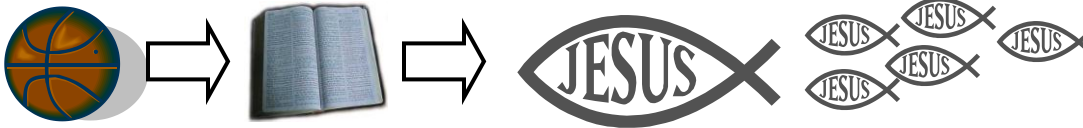
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OVERVIEW

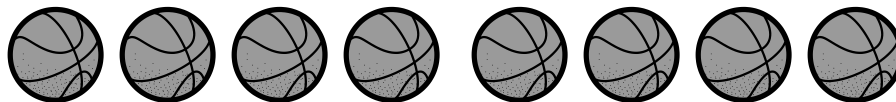
SPORTS AS A VEHICLE FOR DISCIPLESHIP



SPORTS AS A TOOL FOR FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION



SAMPLE SPORTSMANSHIP DISCLAIMER



PLEASE REMEMBER

Games are a great place to fellowship with other parents and friends and to enjoy the excitement of competition. Help us ensure a positive atmosphere by:

- honoring the calls of officials by not yelling at or correcting them,
- welcoming all of our guests graciously,
- cheering loudly **for** players (rather than **against** opponents), and
- gently encouraging others to do the same.

Please alert the coach or Athletic Director to any parents, students, or other fans, who are inappropriately disruptive during games.

Want to yell at the ref? Answer these questions first:



1. Have you ever seen a ref change his call because an angry parent or fan objected?
2. Do you also speak up if a bad call goes in your team's favor?
3. Have you ever felt uncomfortable sitting near a fan who kept yelling at the ref?
4. When you're at work, do you enjoy people yelling at you about your mistakes?
5. You don't want to look like this guy, do you?

At our school, we understand that when the game is close and exciting, it is hard not to speak up when we think the official missed the call. But over the years, we have seen very few situations where a referee's call cost a team the game. It is usually the missed lay-ups, turnovers, missed free throws, poor defense, etc. that did it. The bad call is just the easiest to blame. What's more, for almost every bad call that goes against a team, there is usually at least one that goes in its favor. Few fans argue over those.

Although team coaches have the responsibility and permission to speak to the officials if they notice a pattern of calls that gives the opponent an unfair advantage, they are only to do so in the most respectful and least distracting way possible. It is never appropriate or beneficial, however, for fans to speak to or yell at the refs. Usually that just gets ugly.

Thanks for helping make today's game a fun one for all.

The King's Christian School
ATHLETIC CONTRACT
for Athletes and Parents

(Revised: 9/2006)



Prior to participating in any athletic event (practice or game), both the student and his/her parent(s) must sign the following contract, indicating their understanding of and promise to abide by the policies of The King's Christian School and its Athletic Department.

Students, please read and sign below:

1. I have prayed about this decision and I believe that the Lord wants me to participate in this sport this season.

signature: _____

Sport: _____	Date: _____
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2. I have read the entire Athletic Handbook, and I understand the philosophy and policies contained in it. I agree to abide by these policies.

signature: _____

3. I understand that a high level of commitment is needed for the team to be successful. Therefore, if I am selected to the team, I will not quit before the season is completed.

signature: _____

4. I understand how important communication with my coach is. If I have a question or disagreement with my coach, I will discuss it with him/her only. I will do this in private. If at any time, I am going to be absent from or late to a practice or game, I will give my coach a written parent's note well in advance.

signature: _____

5. I have completed the necessary forms (health, transportation, etc.). They are signed and attached.

signature: _____

Parents, please read and sign below:

1. I/We have prayed about this decision and I/We believe that the Lord wants my/our son/daughter to participate in this sport this season.

signature: _____

signature: _____

2. I/We have read the entire Athletic Handbook, and I/we understand the philosophy and policies contained in it. I/We agree to abide by these policies.

signature: _____

signature: _____

3. I/We understand that a high level of commitment is needed for the team to be successful. Therefore, if our son/daughter is selected to the team, I/We will not allow him/her to quit before the season is completed.

signature: _____

signature: _____

4. I/We understand how important communication with the coach is. If I/We have a question or disagreement with the coach, I/We will discuss it with him/her only. I/We will do this in private. If at any time, my/our son/daughter is going to be absent from or late to a practice or game, I/We will give the coach a written note well in advance.

signature: _____

signature: _____

5. I/We have completed the necessary forms (health, transportation, etc.). They are signed and attached.

signature: _____

signature: _____

THE KING'S CHRISTIAN SCHOOL KNIGHTS BASKETBALL



Dear Parent(s),

On behalf of the Athletic Department at King's and our coaches, I would like to welcome you to the [insert year] Men's High School Basketball "family." We are glad to have your son on the team and we look forward to seeing and talking with you throughout the season.

Before the season gets heavily underway, I wanted to drop you a note just to share a little of our philosophy of Basketball and to let you know some of our thoughts regarding the upcoming season. I encourage you to read the following at your leisure and maybe take a few moments to discuss it with your son, as he is hopefully aware of it by now.

A Perspective

First and foremost, I believe that Basketball is ministry. It is an opportunity for a group of young men to use their God-given, athletic ability for the glory of Christ. While many teenagers might feel uncomfortable sharing the gospel with a stranger on the street, the game of basketball can open doors to witnessing opportunities and break down barriers that many other tools cannot. Each time we take the court, we have the opportunity to show to every opponent, parent, referee, fan, cheerleader, and guest what Christianity is all about (please note Paul's words concerning "outsiders" in Colossians 4:5-6). In a world where unfortunately athletics too often bring out the worst in people (anger, resentment, selfishness), it is my desire that your son's participation this season will bring out the best of his character--integrity, hard work, a commitment to team, and a desire to serve the Lord in his thought, speech, and play.

Basketball at King's is different.
It should be.
Here are just a few of many examples.

The World's Philosophy

Play hard for yourself; elevate yourself.

The opponent is the enemy.

Referees are usually wrong and should be questioned whenever possible.

Our Philosophy

Play hard (Colossians 3:17) but for your Savior, "...so that in everything, **HE** might have the supremacy." (Colossians 1:18b)

The opponent is either a brother in Christ who should be edified (Ephesians 4:29-32), or an unbeliever who needs a witness (1 Peter 2:12). In either case, he is more important than you (Philippians 2:3).

Officials are in a position of authority and treating them with respect is another means of witnessing (please see 1 Peter 2:13-25 and remember that many referees are unsaved).

A Word About Commitment

As a member of this year's High School squad, your son is expected to sacrifice for the team. This includes his

1. goals --team goals come before individual goals
2. time --time he could have chosen to spend elsewhere (ie. some social events)
3. comfort --running sprints isn't always pleasant 😊

However, part of our philosophy of Basketball is making sure that each of our players realizes that ***commitment to the team never involves sacrificing (1) his relationship with Christ, (2) his responsibility to his family, (3) his academic performance, or (4) his physical safety.***

Rather, it is our desire to train your son to be a...

CHRISTIAN STUDENT ATHLETE

in that order.

1. CHRISTIAN:

Each of our players has professed a saving knowledge of and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This affects his position on the team in two ways:

Priorities: A player's relationship with Christ needs to come first in his life. Anything--friends, schoolwork, entertainment, and yes, even basketball--that takes a more important place in his life or draws his attention away from the Lord is an idol (Exodus 20:3-4) and is therefore sinful.

--The Role of Family to the Christian Student Athlete--

A major part of understanding a proper, Biblical concept of priorities, is realizing that the home is an institution of God. Basketball is not. A Christian cannot neglect his own family's needs and maintain a healthy spiritual walk. (See Colossians 3:20 and Jesus' example of hypocrisy in Matthew 15:3-6).

If an important family event prevents your son from attending a practice, please do not hesitate to let me know in advance. It will not be held against him.

Actions: As a believer, your son is expected to act accordingly. Granted, none of us are perfect or even close, but a distinguishing feature of the kind of player we want is his *desire* to grow spiritually and willingness to take action toward that end. For this reason, I do not tolerate speech or behavior which demeans others or embarrasses the player, his family, his school, or most importantly, his Savior.

Throughout this season, during practices and games, we will be studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. Your son will also be memorizing Philippians 2:1-16. As a team we will be holding each other accountable for the memorization, but more importantly, we will hopefully be using God's word to penetrate our lives and effect positive change in our speech, thoughts, and behavior.

2. STUDENT:

Academics come before athletics. Any student who does not meet the academic requirements of the

high school cannot play. Beyond basic eligibility, however, is the realization that in his studies, as in athletics, the student athlete has been gifted by God. Yes, some are gifted more than others but *ALL* are required to give careful, diligent, and wholehearted effort to their current “career”--that of a full-time student. (See again that Colossians 3:17 refers to “whatever” we do not just those things we enjoy).

Over the years, the vast majority of student athletes have found that their grades actually improve during the sports season. This is usually due to the higher level of motivation and the necessity to budget time much more wisely (ie. planning ahead for study and assignments, rather than waiting until the night before).

3. ATHLETE:

As a member of the High School Basketball Team, your son will be pushed to use his body for benefit of the team and for the glory of God. The Bible (I Timothy 4:8), research, and common sense all attest to the benefit of physical training. In order to excel physically, one must be willing to experience the discomfort that always accompanies exertion. “No pain-no gain” it is sometimes called. However, there are two kinds of pain: “**good pain**”--the natural fatigue and soreness that is evidence to hard work (the body letting you know that it is growing stronger) and “**bad pain**”--that which accompanies injury (the body letting you know that something is wrong). Players are encouraged to play through the former. I do not endorse a program that ignores or encourages its players to hide the latter.

As coaches, we also realize that despite the common teenage self-view of invincibility, the undeniable laws of biology dictate that teenage athletes do, in fact, need sleep ☺. We strongly encourage our players to get to bed early often and to plan ahead for academic projects to avoid “all-nighters.” The effects of these have a way of lingering well beyond the next night’s sleep.

Nutrition is also important. High sugar/fat diets may taste good and vending machines are handy, but ultimately, performance suffers. Encourage your son to eat well, as will I.

Some Practical Matters

Teams and Playing Time:

Our High School Basketball Program consists of two levels of play: Varsity and Junior Varsity. Our goals for each team are fully explained in our school’s athletic handbook, but stated briefly they are:

Varsity Goals in order of importance:	Junior Varsity Goals in order of importance:
1. To honor Christ by being a testimony to others. 2. To develop personal, Christian character in each player. 3. To win as many games as possible.	1. To honor Christ by being a testimony to others. 2. To develop personal, Christian character in each player. 3. To develop basketball skills for future Varsity years. 4. To win as many games as possible.

In light of these goals, please pray for wisdom for our coaches as we continually decide how best to reach these goals with the young men we work with this year. At practices and at games we are making many decisions about roles on the team and playing time. For this reason, it is in the best

interest of the program to vary who will dress for Varsity and who will dress for Junior Varsity on a game-by-game basis. For clarity, we will call the divisions “Varsity A”, “Varsity B”, and “Varsity C.” Those players listed on Varsity A will only dress for Varsity games; those players listed on Varsity C will only dress for Junior Varsity games; those players listed on Varsity B (often called “swing players”) may dress for either Varsity or Junior Varsity games, depending on the schedule. As the season progresses, players may be moved “up” or “down” based on four things: **attitude** (good or bad), **work ethic** (100% effort or 50% effort), **basketball skill** (better players will move up), and **benefit to the program** (this season or future seasons). Obviously, any movement up or down will be communicated to your son in advance, so that he knows which schedule to follow.

Game time is always a complex and sensitive issue and one that we do not take lightly. Unfortunately, in today’s society, many athletes and parents do not realize that playing time in a game is only the tip of the iceberg of the basketball experience. Each athlete benefits from and contributes to the overall experience in **many more ways than just playing in the games**. At the Varsity level, since our third highest goal is to win, then as a Varsity coach, I have to continually decide, throughout each minute of the game, which players will best help our team reach that goal at that particular part of the game. For Junior Varsity games, Mr. Kerr must decide who will benefit from more or less game time as well as how the future program overall will benefit. A player who feels he is not getting enough playing time will usually understand why, but if not, he should talk to his coach directly.



Games:

I encourage you to attend as many games as possible, as they promise to be exciting.

>> Remember <<

Games are a great place to fellowship with other parents and friends and to enjoy the excitement of competition. Remember, though, that many who attend are unsaved and are looking for what makes Christian athletics different. Help us ensure a positive atmosphere by:

- honoring the calls of officials by not yelling at or correcting them,
- welcoming all of our guests graciously,
- cheering loudly **for** our players (rather than **against** our opponents), and
- encouraging others to do the same.

Please alert myself, Mr. Kerr, or our Athletic Director, Dave Eller, as to any parents, students, or other fans, who are inappropriately disruptive during games.

If you would like to take your son directly home from away games, simply have him inform me so that we can have an accurate count of who is riding the school transportation back to campus.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

My son's grades are slipping, should I pull him from the team for a while?

That is a decision that only you can make, but one that we will honor either way. While I believe our school's eligibility requirement is a fair one, I also believe that there are some students who should be doing much better in their studies than the minimum requirements. Playing sports is a privilege that can be a great motivator, but the athlete must also realize that his decisions are affecting many others. His absence from team practices and games hurts us all, not just himself. As a parent, you have to realistically assess your son's ability in a subject, his effort level, and if removing him from the team for a while will improve that grade. From our perspective, as coaches, we will say that it is difficult to plan for practices and games, if a player is continually on the team/off the team/on the team/etc, but again, we will honor whatever you decide is best for your son.

My son wants to quit. Should I let him?

Not without some serious questions. Quitting once you have made a commitment to something is a serious thing and it becomes easier and easier to do each time. Many adults are still suffering from a pattern of quitting started during childhood and their teenage years. Before your son joined the team, I asked him to seriously pray about his decision to play basketball this season. I asked him to think about it carefully and to talk to you about that decision. I had him share his feelings through four essay questions which he gave to me on the first day of practice. At that time, he was aware that he was committing himself to the program and to his teammates. The first serious question you should ask him is, "What has changed since then?" Certainly if something of a higher priority is suffering (spiritual walk, family commitments, academics) then quitting is an option (though usually not the only one). It has been my experience, however, that athletes who quit rarely have these things in mind. Usually, it is frustration over not getting enough playing time, or wanting to get a part-time job, etc. It is at this point that valuable lessons can be taught about commitment, honoring your word, sacrificing personal goals for team goals, etc.

The ref just made a terrible call. Should I say something?

That depends on your answer to a few questions.

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Have you ever seen a ref change his call because a parent or fan objected? | YES | NO |
| 2. Would you also speak up if a bad call goes in our favor? | YES | NO |
| 3. Have you ever felt uncomfortable sitting near a fan who kept yelling at the ref? | YES | NO |

I think you can see where I'm going with this ☺. Believe me, when the game is close, I know it is hard not to speak up when we think the ref blew the call. But over the years, I have hardly ever (and I mean *hardly ever*) seen a situation where the ref cost a team the game. It is usually the many missed lay-ups, turnovers, missed free throws, etc. that did it. The bad call was just the easiest to blame. What's more, for almost every bad call that goes against us, there is one that goes for us.

As a coach, I realize that it is my responsibility to speak to the officials if I notice a pattern of calls that give the opponent an unfair advantage, but I always strive to do this in the most respectful and least distracting way possible. It is never personal or vindictive. I can't think of too many occasions when it is beneficial for fans to speak to or yell at the refs. Usually that just gets ugly. One last question that I continually ask myself:

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 4. Based on how I've acted, would I feel comfortable sharing the gospel with the ref after the game? | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|

And Finally:

If for any reason, at any time, you wish to talk to me concerning anything, please do not hesitate.

contact information

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of the program!

In Christ,

Jonathan Nazigian
Acts 20:24

TEAM VERSE

I Timothy 4:8

"For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

TEAM PASSAGE

Philippians 2:1-16

NIV	KJV	DUE DATES	
<p>¹If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:</p> <p>⁶Who, being in very nature ^[1] God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature ^[2] of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!</p> <p>⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</p> <p>¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. ¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out ^[3] the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.</p>	<p>¹ If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,</p> <p>² Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; ¹⁶ Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.</p>	11/11	v 1-2
		11/14	v 1-4
		11/18	v 1-6
		11/20	v 1-8
		11/24	v 1-10
		12/1	v 1-13
		12/4	v 1-15
		12/8	v 1-16
<p>1. Memorize the passage gradually or all at once. Once you can say the whole thing, you are finished.</p> <p>2. Say your verses to your captain before 3:30 on the day it is due. Captains, say your verses to Coach.</p> <p>3. Each due date not met means 5 suicide-sprints for the individual and one for the team.</p>			