



Hickory Grove Christian School Athletics

Athletic Participation Agreement and Eligibility Requirements

To: Parents/Guardians of prospective HGCS Athletes
Re: Athletic Participation and Eligibility Requirements

Hickory Grove Christian School upholds a proud, honored tradition in academics and athletics. The Athletic Department at HGCS is excited in the potential for your child to be a member of our athletic program. Athletic teams provide students a chance to grow in multiple areas, including physical fitness, sportsmanship, work ethic, and teamwork.

Thank you for your interest in the Lion Athletic Family. We look forward to working together.

The attached information packet includes the following sections:

- Student and Parent/Guardian Pledge of Participation
- Athletic Participation and NCISAA Requirements
- Student Athlete Contract
- Assumption of Risk Information
- Parent/Guardian Pledge and Student Pledge

EACH PAGE MUST BE INITIALED AND THE FINAL PAGE SIGNED BEFORE A STUDENT ATHLETE CAN BECOME AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF ANY TEAM. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding any information enclosed, please contact the prospective coach or the Athletic Office.

Student and Parent/Guardian Pledge of Participation

Participation: All teams at Hickory Grove Christian School are expected to play hard in the true spirit of competition; however, there is a different emphasis at each level of play:

- Middle School (grades 6-8): The athlete is provided a learning experience and the opportunity for basic, individual skill development. Team concepts of play are introduced. During the season, participation is emphasized over winning. Team members are encouraged through active participation in games.
- Junior Varsity (grades 7-10): The athlete improves skills while learning team concepts that are more complex. At this level of increased physical development and better competition, there is an equal emphasis on winning and participation.
- Varsity (grades 7-12): The athlete is advanced in skill and physical development. Emphasis is placed upon individual and team potential. The athlete's playing time is determined by how it will best serve the team and is completely at the discretion of the coach.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for any athletic activity (practices or games), the athlete:

- Must have a physical on file with the athletic department. (A physical is only valid for 365 days from the date of the examination.)
- Must possess a 2.0 (77) academic average from the previous semester. If these requirements are not met, the student will be suspended from any athletic participation throughout the current semester.
- Must be present at school on the day of a practice or game. To be present a student must be at school by 11:30 am. A student who leaves before 11:30 am will be considered absent and, therefore, unable to participate in the activities for the day.
- Must not practice OR play if ineligible.
- When a sport season begins, Hickory Grove teams are the first athletic priority. Absences because of AAU, Club Sports, or Recreation Sports are unexcused and may result in discipline, including removal from the team. Athletes should not miss practices or games because of other extracurricular activities.
- Player will not be an official member of the team until the Player's Fee has been paid.

Misdemeanor Policy: Any student charged with a misdemeanor other than a traffic/moving violation will be immediately ineligible. The ineligibility may last until the charges are dropped or sentencing for the violation is complete. At the end of the sentencing a student may appeal to the Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal for possible reinstatement.

HGCS Student Athlete Sportsmanship Pledge: As a student athlete, I am a role model. Using inappropriate language, taunting, baiting, or the use of unwarranted physical contact directed at opposing players, coaches, and fans are contrary to the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship my school, my conference, and the NCISAA expects of its members. I accept my responsibility to model good sportsmanship that comes with being a student athlete.

HGCS Parent/Guardian Sportsmanship Pledge: As a parent/guardian, I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students. I will show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support and uplift the teams involved. Using inappropriate language and taunting are contrary to the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship our school, our conference, and the NCISAA expects of its members. I accept my responsibility to model good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student athlete.

HGCS Sportsmanship/Ejection Policy: The following types of behavior will result in an ejection from an athletic contest: fighting, taunting or baiting, profanity, obscene gestures, disrespectfully addressing an official or an opponent.

- First ejection: One game suspension in all sports (ejection for fighting doubles the penalty: two games in all sports).
- Second ejection: Suspended for the remainder of the sport season.
- Third ejection: Suspended from **all** athletic competition for 365 days from the date of the third ejection.

Athletic Participation and NCISAA Requirements

In order for a student to participate in the athletic program of Hickory Grove Christian School, the following requirements must be met:

1. Must be a full-time student.
2. Students must be in attendance for at least a half day on the day of practice or game to participate in the game or practice. The student must be in class before 11:30 am if arriving to school late. If leaving early, the student must not leave class before 11:30 am.
3. A student may participate in athletics in no more than six consecutive semesters or nine trimesters after initially enrolling in the 10th grade of any school, no more than four consecutive semesters after initially enrolling in the 11th grade of any school, and no more than two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters after initially enrolling in the 12th grade at any school, regardless of whether or not he/she remains continuously enrolled. A student transferring from one school to another mid-year would be considered to have used up one semester of athletic eligibility for that school year.
4. Student must be under 19 years of age on or before August 1 of the current school year.
5. Student must possess a 2.0 (77) academic average in order to participate in the HGCS athletics program.
6. Except as provided for in a particular sport under the Sports Specifics section of the NCISAA Handbook, participation by boys in girls' sports and girls in boys' sports in any event hosted and/or sponsored by any NCISAA school is prohibited.
7. Student must have received a medical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or family nurse practitioner within the past 365 days.
8. Student must not have a signed professional contract, have played on a junior college team or be enrolled and attending a class in college unless the course is part of HGCS curriculum.
9. Student must not be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct.
10. Student must not have graduated from high school.

Student Athlete Contract

Hickory Grove Christian School

I, _____, realize that participating in athletics at Hickory
(Name of Athlete)

Grove Christian School is a privilege. I also understand that I have certain responsibilities that must be maintained in order to represent my school. Conditions for participating in athletics are as follows:

1. I will fulfill all the eligibility requirements as set forth by the North Carolina Independent Schools Association.
2. I will be prompt in completing the required forms from the school and the Athletic Department.
 - Physical Form
 - Student and Parent/Guardian Pledge of Participation Form
 - Athletic Participation and NCISAA Requirements Form
 - Athletic Contract
 - Assumption of Risk Form
 - All forms required by the Athletic Trainer
 - Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization
 - Consent to Treat
 - Athlete's Concussion Form
 - Parent/Guardian Concussion Form
3. I understand the Player's Fee must be paid in full before I can become a member of any Hickory Grove Christian School athletic team.
4. I understand that once I begin a sport, I may not try-out for any other squad until that team's season is completed.
5. I understand that if I decided to quit a sport, I must do so in the manner described in this contract.
 - If quitting a team, I must notify the coach within 36 hours of the first practice or game to be missed.
 - I understand that all the equipment issued from the squad is to be returned before any separation from the squad. Equipment not returned will be charged to the student's fees.
6. I understand all uniforms and equipment issued are the sole property of the HGCS Athletic Department. It is my responsibility to launder, maintain, and keep in my possession all uniforms and equipment issued. I will return all issued uniforms and equipment in the same condition it was given to me. If I fail to return issued uniforms/equipment, or if the uniforms/equipment returned are in unsatisfactory condition, I will be responsible for paying to replace any and all uniforms/equipment lost or returned damaged.
7. I understand that all equipment issued and all bills incurred must be returned or paid before I will be allowed to participate in another sport.
8. I understand it is my responsibility to follow the training rules as set forth by the Athletic Department/Coach. Any violation that results in suspension must be reviewed by the Principal/Athletic Director before I will be allowed to return.
9. I understand that to letter in a sport I must fulfill all the requirements of the Athletic Department and the coaches of each team.

_____ Initial

10. I understand that if I am arrested or charged with a crime that my privilege to participate in the athletic program will be suspended until such time as the result of my case is adjudicated, of which will terminate my participation for the remainder of the season if found guilty. All violations of this policy will be reviewed by the principal and athletic director.
11. Squad members must be in school at least half the day on game/practice day to participate.
12. Members of a squad are to ride to away games together under the supervision of the head coach. All members are to ride back under the supervision of the head coach unless their parent received permission from the head coach in person at the end of the contest to ride with them.
13. I understand that I am a representative of the Athletic Department and that my actions reflect on the school, community, and my family. Any actions that bring discredit to me or these institutions will be dealt with by the administration and the Athletic Department and may include dismissal from the team.
14. I pledge to be a positive role model to my fellow student athletes/teammates and help them abide by all the rules and policies implemented by Athletic Department.
15. If I am removed from a team for disciplinary reasons, I may be prohibited from returning to any event involving that team or sport for the remainder of the season.
16. If I have a conflict with anything regarding athletics, I must follow the Proper Ladder of Conflict Resolution as follows:
 - I. Athlete to the Coach
 - II. Parent and Athlete to the Coach
 - III. Parent to the Athletic Director (Coach may be present)
 - IV. Parent to Principal
 - V. Parent to Head of School
17. It will be at the coaches' discretion to determine where the athletes will play. At practices, all players will be given the opportunity to improve. **Playing time in competitions is not equal, nor should it be. Playing time is not based solely on performance, but on teamwork and attitude as well, not to mention strategy.**

Assumption of Risk Information Warning to Students and Parents

SERIOUS, CATASTROPHIC, AND PERHAPS FATAL INJURY MAY RESULT FROM ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION.

By its nature, competitive athletics may put students in situations in which **serious, catastrophic, and perhaps fatal accidents** may occur.

Many forms of athletic competition result in violent physical contact among players, the use of equipment which may result in accidents, strenuous physical exercise, and numerous other exposures to risk of injury.

Students and parents must assess the risks involved in such participation and make their choice to participate in spite of those risks. No amount of instruction, precaution, or supervision will totally eliminate all risk of injury. Athletic participation by middle/junior and senior high school students also may be inherently dangerous. There have been accidents resulting in death, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and other very serious permanent physical impairment as a result of athletic competition.

By granting permission for your student to participate in athletic competition, you, the parent/guardian acknowledge that such a risk exists.

By choosing to participate, you, the student acknowledge that such a risk exists.

As the parent/guardian, I will hold harmless and release Hickory Grove Christian School, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, MAC Conference, and the NCISAA and each of their respective affiliates, officers, directors, employees, or representatives from any and all liability for all claims, demands, losses, damages and costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, that arise out of or in connection with any personal injury, property damage, and/or loss suffered by the student athlete in connection with the participation in the athletic program.

As the parent/guardian, I authorize the athletic program of HGCS to use photographs and video of the student athlete as it pertains to the sports team. I acknowledge the photos may be used in promoting the athletic program on facebook, the school website, school publications, church publications, community publications, seasonal videos, and/or team publications.

Students will be instructed in the proper techniques to be used in athletic competition and in the proper utilization of all equipment worn or used in practice and competition. Students must adhere to that instruction and utilization and must refrain from improper uses and techniques.

As previously stated, no amount of instruction, precaution, and supervision will totally eliminate all risk of serious, catastrophic, or even fatal injury.

If any of the foregoing is not completely understood, please contact your school principal, athletic director, coach or athletic trainer for further information.

Parent/Guardian Pledge

1. I pledge to use positive encouragement to edify my child because I understand that athletes do their best when they are encouraged.
2. I understand that fewer than 1% of youth sports participants receive college athletic scholarships and that the top three reason kids play sports are:
 - To have fun
 - To make new friends
 - To learn new skills
3. I pledge to refrain from calling out instructions to my child or approaching the bench during a game or breaks in a game. I understand that this is the coach's job. I will limit my comments during the game to encouraging my child and other players for both teams.
4. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my child's coach in front of my child, my child's teammates, or other team parents. If I have a conflict with the coach, I pledge to handle it in a Biblical manner and approach the coach directly, privately, and respectfully.
5. I will be on time to pick up my child from all games and practices. This shows respect for the coach, and it tells my child that he or she is my top priority.
6. I understand that I may be asked to help with admissions, concessions, or other volunteer opportunities to help raise funds for the Athletic Department.
7. It will be at the coaches' discretion to determine where the athletes will play. At practices, all players will be given the opportunity to improve. **Playing time in competitions is not equal, nor should it be. Playing time is not based solely on performance, but on teamwork and attitude as well, not to mention strategy.**
8. I understand all uniforms and equipment issued are the sole property of the HGCS Athletic Department. It is the responsibility of me and my student to launder, maintain, and keep in our possession all uniforms and equipment issued. I will return all issued uniforms and equipment in the same condition it was given to me. If I fail to return issued uniforms/equipment, or if the uniforms/equipment returned are in unsatisfactory condition, I will be responsible for paying to replace any and all uniforms/equipment lost or returned damaged.

Student Pledge

1. I will make my HGCS team/squad one of my top priorities and will not miss practices or games because of other extracurricular activities.
2. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my coach to my teammates or other students. I understand this can seriously damage team morale and chemistry and undermine my coach's ability to do his/her best. If I have a conflict with the coach, I pledge to handle it in a Biblical manner and approach the coach directly, privately, and respectfully.
3. It will be at the coaches' discretion to determine where the athletes will play. At practices, all players will be given the opportunity to improve. **Playing time in competitions is not equal, nor should it be. Playing time is not based solely on performance, but on teamwork and attitude as well, not to mention strategy.**



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Please sign and return completed packet to the Athletic Office

Parent Signature

I, _____, have read the Athletic Participation and Eligibility Requirements in its entirety. I fully understand what is expected of me as a parent/guardian of a student athlete at Hickory Grove Christian School.

Printed Name _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Signed Name _____
(Parent/Guardian)

Date _____

Student Signature

I, _____, have read the Athletic Participation and Eligibility Requirements in its entirety. I fully understand what is expected of me as a student athlete at Hickory Grove Christian School.

Printed Name _____
(Student)

Signed Name _____
(Student)

Date _____