

LIGHT KY Homeschool SPORTS Handbook

Guiding Scriptures

1 Timothy 4:8 “For bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Leadership

LIGHT KY Homeschool Board Members:

Chairperson: Dennis and Amber Weiskircher

Secretary: Damon and Janette Johnson

Treasurer: Dave and Misty Dailey

At-Large: Tim and Jennifer Martin, Steve and Emily Moyer, Jacob and Amanda Scott

LIGHT Coaches

HS Boys Basketball: Dave Dailey

MS 14U Boys Basketball: Tim Martin

MS 12U Boys Basketball: Jacob Dunn

HS Cross Country: David and Kaylee Walterhouse

Elementary and MS Cross Country: Robbie and Tonya Deering

Girls JV and Varsity Volleyball: Amanda Scott

Girls MS Volleyball: Hannah Ahern

HS Track: Robbie and Tonya Deering

Sports Offered

Girls Volleyball MS, JV and Varsity

Boys Basketball 12U, 14U, and Varsity

Cross Country Elem., MS and HS

HS Track

League Affiliation

LIGHT Sports opponents are from KCSAA, KHSAA and other Homeschools.

Coach Agreement

The coaches of **LIGHT** sports seek to challenge the athletes to learn every phase of their sport at a higher level. The athletes will be taught a multitude of skills designed to equip them with the tools that are necessary to not only be successful now, but to prepare them for the next phase of their lives, athletically and spiritually. **LIGHT** sports coaches will provide players with the best possible training and development and thus enable them to achieve their full potential. They will strive to teach good sportsmanship, respect for others and adherence to all rules of play and league requirements. Above all, they will strive to be godly mentors of the athletes and consistent positive representatives of Jesus Christ and **LIGHT** KY Homeschool.

*Supplemental materials may be distributed as needed, but the details regarding processes, requirements, etc. contained in this **LIGHT** Sports Manual will take precedence.

Player Agreement

The players of **LIGHT** Sports are athletes who:

1. Learn and apply Biblical principles and teachings to their lives
2. Represent Jesus Christ and **LIGHT** Sports through their conduct and character
3. Desire to become better athletes and are willing to work hard at the sport they choose
4. Respect the authority of coaches, referees, parents and teachers
5. Show respect to all teammates and opponents regardless of real or perceived differences
6. Readily accept discipline
7. Attend practices faithfully and inform coaches of absences in advance
8. Exhibit, through competition and attitude, that the team and the team's objectives always take precedence over individual goals and accolades
9. Take responsibility for their actions
10. Work on their fitness and skills outside of regular practices
11. Desire to learn principles and lessons that will extend beyond the field/court of play into every phase of their lives.

Player Fees and Fundraising

All LIGHT Sports players must be in good standing as members of LIGHT KY Homeschool.

Annual LIGHT KY Homeschool dues and player fees must be received (by the Coach, a LIGHT Board Member, or the LIGHT Athletic Director) prior to game participation.

Participation fees will vary based on the particular sport. Coaches will submit their suggested player fee to the AD or LIGHT Board for approval at least two weeks prior to releasing information to potential players and their families.

All players are expected to participate in fundraising activities or pay fundraiser fees out of pocket, which aids in fostering a team mentality and team spirit.

Financial Guidelines

1. Each LIGHT Sports coach should submit a budget request prior to the beginning of the season (Based on that sport's previous year's expenses plus any plans to purchase new equipment or uniforms).
2. Player fees should be set in such a way so as to cover normal operating expenses (gym rental fees, referees, concessions inventory, tournament fees, travel expenses, etc.).
3. Coaches and/or team parents should obtain preapproval before making purchases to ensure that there are adequate funds to cover those purchases.
4. Coaches and/or team parents must provide receipts in order to be reimbursed.
5. Except for extenuating circumstances, certain fees (such as referees, gym rental fees, tournament fees) should only be paid by check or card. This creates a necessary paper trail to accurately track expenses.
6. Teams may develop sponsors to offset costs and potentially decrease player fees now that LIGHT has been incorporated and has been given a not for profit status. Donors will be given receipts for their tax-deductible contributions.
7. Player fees will not be refunded for any student who quits a team during the season. Fees may be refunded prior to the payment deadline.

Player's Standard of Conduct

LIGHT players must consider that their “light shines before men” and that as a result their conduct should glorify the Lord.

They will keep the guidelines for the organization/conference in which we are playing.

Much is expected of our athletes beyond their playing skills. They need to keep practices as a priority, participate in the whole season, and work to improve their physical conditioning and skills. They also need to be good examples to those who are younger than they are and must be successful in their academics.

The following standards must be observed for one to continue as an active member of LIGHT Sports:

1. You must be a member of LIGHT KY Homeschool.
2. Drugs, alcohol, and smoking are prohibited at all times.
3. Be on time to team commitments.
4. Take proper care of all equipment including uniforms.
5. Treat coaches, teammates, officials, opposing players, and fans with courtesy and respect.
6. If players are involved in a dispute, they will follow the biblical principles found in Matthew 18; discuss with the relevant person first, and then meet with a coach until the issue is resolved.

Parent's Standard of Conduct

1. Parents are to also remember that their “light shines before men” and have their behavior glorify the Lord. They need to be sure to set a Godly example for their student in how they speak and act in regards to sports.

2. Parents are to be involved in the sport that their student participates in by volunteering; making certain that their student keeps up with practices, uniform cleaning, and fundraisers. In addition, parents need to make sure that their student is academically successful.

3. Parents also need to follow the Matthew 18 principle: first go to the person you have an issue with and if necessary ask a coach or athletic director to help resolve an issue if you are unsuccessful on your own. Do not pull others in or gossip. Parents and coaches are allies in leading students toward the Lord and teaching them how to deal with life's disappointments.

4. Allow the coaches to coach your student without additional instructions from parents during practices and games.

5. Parents are expected to read, sign, and adhere to the Parental Involvement Requirements document in the supplemental materials section of this manual. It should be turned in to the Athletic Director or the coach of your student's particular team(s). One form may be used for multiple students and sports and will need to be submitted annually.

Athletic Director & Coaches

Athletic Director

The A.D. will operate under the authority of the LIGHT Board of Directors. He/She will act as a liaison between the coaches, parents and the Board of Directors.

All operations of the A.D. should be focused on and for the consideration of the entire athletic program.

Athletic Director Responsibilities

1. Operate the Athletic Department within the limits of a budget approved by the LIGHT Board of Directors and seek approval of any spending that exceeds the pre-determined amounts.
2. Evaluate any volunteers that may be providing team transportation or coaching. Perform basic background checks on any volunteer that may have unsupervised interaction with student athletes during LIGHT sporting events.
3. Secure facilities, scheduling, hiring referees, order equipment and oversee the coordination of volunteers necessary to operate home games smoothly.
4. Implement policies established by the LIGHT Board of Directors.
5. Confirm players are members of LIGHT KY Homeschool.
6. Work to secure SPONSORS for the LIGHT Sports programs.

Coaches

The LIGHT Coaches will operate under the authority of the Athletic Director. They will be representatives of LIGHT Sports and will conform to the standard of conduct described in this handbook.

Head Coach Responsibilities

1. Lead by example. LIGHT Coaches should be committed to their team. They should be set the standard by being punctual and attend most team related activities.
2. Must establish and maintain good communications with parents and student athletes, concerning scheduling games, practices and standards of conduct.
3. Distribute and collect uniforms and equipment that is property of LIGHT Sports and turn in to the A.D. at the end of the season. Explain care of uniforms when distributed.
4. Instruct parents and student athletes how to properly care for the uniforms.
5. Communicate needs or concerns to the A.D. in a timely manner.
6. Exemplify a dependence on God to the student athletes by prayer during all activities.
7. Reflect the love of Christ when offering correction.
8. Set a good example by respecting authority.

Assistant Coaches

1. Set a good example by being punctual and supporting the Head Coach.
2. Regularly attend team related activities.
3. Communicate to the Head Coach any observations or concerns in a timely manner.
4. Assist the Head Coach with the implementation of practice and game plans.
5. Follow example of Head Coach by, praying, reflecting the love of Christ when offering correction and respecting authority.

Playing Time

LIGHT Eagles is a ‘pay to participate’ organization. This is different from a ‘pay to play’ organization. As such, the LIGHT Eagles payment assures that each player, with dedicated effort and attendance, regardless of skill level, will receive attention and training at practice and other dedicated activities. Payment does not assure anything with respect to playing time in officiated games.

Playing time in officiated games is completely the coach’s decision. The coach may elect to play or not play certain players based on many factors. These include, but are not limited to, such things as the opponent, the game situation, combination of skills needed, attitude, emotional/physical state of players, and practice attendance. No player is guaranteed any playing time, and occurrences may even arise where an individual player does not enter the game at all.

Handling Disputes

If a concern arises around non-critical concerns such as ‘playing time,’ the first step a parent or parent associated with LIGHT sports should take is to wait 24 hours. Many organizations have successfully implemented a 24-hour rule for communications of various concerns, of which playing time is one example. This is not intended to be exactly 24 hours, yet the spirit is to wait until sometime the next day for discussion. This ensures the concern is real and not necessarily emotional. After 24 hours, if player or parent still has a concern regarding playing time, they should address those concerns with the coach. If an agreement cannot be reached, the AD should be involved. In addition, players and parents should always feel comfortable bringing non-playing time related concerns to the AD, the coach, or both together. In the absence of the AD, concerns may be brought before the LIGHT Board. All members should strive to handle the dispute according to the guidelines found in Matthew 18.

Supplemental Materials

The following documents will need to be completed and signed each year prior to your student’s participation in LIGHT sports.

LIGHT Sports Parental Involvement Requirements

A sports program not only consists of players and coaches, but also includes a team of backstage adults helping to organize, work, and fund the total program. This involvement is not to be burdensome to any one family, but is to be spread out among many families. “Many hands make light work” and many families make LIGHT also work to the glory of Christ! Our sports program requires funding to purchase equipment, pay gym rental fees, referee fees, and other expenses that the teams may incur throughout the season.

In the spirit of teamwork, we the parents of _____

Agree to the following: We will

1. Pay the LIGHT sports fee. The fee is assigned per sport. The fee is due prior to the first game/meet or at the coach’s discretion.
2. Volunteer at home games/tournaments. Volunteer should arrive at least 45 minutes prior to game time. Volunteers may work admissions, concessions, or clean up. There will be a sign-up sheet with opportunities to serve.
3. Participate in fundraisers. These may be scheduled outside of the calendar season, but are required. If you wish to opt out, you are free to do so by simply paying any additional funds. This amount is subject to change annually based on budget requirements.
4. Allow participant to play at his/her own risk. In sports, injuries do happen. Due to the limited amount of financial resources, LIGHT Sports and activities require that each individual assumes the risk and responsibility of participation in LIGHT Sports. Although not required, it is recommended that each player have some type of medical insurance in the event of an injury or circumstance that requires medical attention.
5. Release coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteers from any liability. LIGHT Sports relies on volunteers who are more likely to remain committed when they are free from liability. By signing this form, you are affirming that you will not hold liable any volunteers, coaches, or assistant coaches.

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

LIGHT Sports

Contract of Understanding and Release Form

LIGHT Sports is a collection of programs administered by volunteer adult program leaders to serve home-schooled students. The LIGHT Board supports the program leaders in facilitating their programs. However, it is the responsibility of the parents to make sure that the programs meet expectations.

All participants in LIGHT Sports programs have entered into a voluntary association with LIGHT Sports and are in a contractual relationship with LIGHT Sports based on the LIGHT Sports Handbook. Participants are also subject to all of the stated guidelines and expectations of the specific LIGHT Sports programs in which they participate. Therefore, adult leadership has the authority to discipline and/or remove participants from a particular activity if this is deemed appropriate.

By signing below, you are stating that you have read, agree with, and will adhere to the contractual relationship described in this document. You are also stating that you hold harmless, and remove from liability, all LIGHT Sports leadership, all instructors, all facilities, and all other parties involved in any way in a LIGHT Sports program or event.

By signing below, you also authorize LIGHT Sports leaders, instructors, and/or parent volunteers to act as an agent for you, if they are unable to reach you, to consent to any emergency medical treatment necessary either at a doctor's office or hospital.

Signature of Participant _____ **Date** _____

Signature of Parent _____ **Date** _____

Contact Information

Student Name _____

Date of Birth _____ Current grade in school _____

Home phone _____ Student cell _____

Mother's cell _____ Father's cell _____

Parent's email address _____

Student's email address _____

Have you ever been dismissed from an LIGHT Sports program or any school-related activity? _____ (If yes, please explain in the space below)

Are you currently homeschooled? (Circle one) Yes No

Are you a returning student to LIGHT Sports? (Circle one) Yes No

Has a sibling participated in LIGHT Sports activities in previous years? Yes No

Medical Information

Emergency Contact name _____

Phone number _____ Relationship _____

Medical Insurance Company Name _____

Member's name _____

ID # _____ Group # _____

Plan # _____

Primary Physician _____ Phone number _____

Does your student have any allergies to foods, medications or insects? Yes No

If so, please list _____

Does your student require any medication to be administered while participating in a LIGHT Sports activity? Yes No

If so, please list _____

Does your student have any chronic medical conditions that the LIGHT Sports staff should be aware of? Yes No

If yes, please list _____