

NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF
HOMESCHOOLS



NOAH JAGUARS

Athlete & Parents Handbook

2011

www.NOAHJAGS.org



Parents & Student Athletes,

Welcome to NOAH!

In March, 1998, 17 families met together to form an organization of volunteers that would provide a basketball program for homeschool families in Northeast Oklahoma. The desire of those founding families was for NOAH to be an umbrella organization for *all* competitive sports serving Home schooled athletes. Since 1998, NOAH has experienced an explosion in growth and sports offerings! Today, those sports include:

Basketball	Baseball	Tackle JH & HS Football	Tennis
Golf	Girls Volleyball	Girls Softball	Shooting
Flag Football	Soccer	Tackle Youth Football	Girls Cheerleading

Because we are unapologetically a Christian organization, our Board Members, Athletic Directors, and Coaches are required to sign a Statement of Faith as well as a Code of Conduct. Prior to your season starting, you are encouraged to find time to visit with your coaches and the supporting staff that will be working with your child. It is vital that your family feels comfortable and confident prior to committing to the season. We want you to know that each coach has the best interest of all the athletes under his/her coaching, at heart. We are excited about what God is doing through NOAH and glad that your family is becoming part of it!

Go Jags!!

NOAH Board of Directors

PARENT/ATHLETE HANDBOOK

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY OF THE COMPETITIVE NOAH ATHLETIC PROGRAM

NOAH serves the home school community of Northeast Oklahoma. Our objective is to bring glory to God through the gift of competitive athletics and to come alongside your family and encourage, uplift, and support you in your efforts to raise Godly young men and women through the platform of athletics

NOAH ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Student-athletes must be home schooled to participate in NOAH athletic programs.

Home schooled is defined to mean that a student's education is parent-directed. As such, the parents shall be involved in their child's education by assuming the role of principal or headmaster, thereby:

- (1) Setting the date and requirements for high school graduation.
 - (2) Selecting and approving course materials and study schedules.
 - (3) Selecting tutors, correspondence courses, videos, computer courses and similar resources for their child's education.
- The Oklahoma Virtual Home School is a program directed by a Public School District. Therefore, students enrolled in Oklahoma Virtual Home School are not eligible for participation in NOAH Athletics.
 - There are a number of home school tutorial institutions in Northeastern Oklahoma. Based on information provided, the NOAH Board has reviewed and approved students attending the following institutions as eligible for participation in NOAH Athletics:
 1. Cornerstone Tutorial Center
 2. Faith Central Christian Academy
 3. One Hope Tutorial Center
 4. Augustine Christian Academy (if enrolled part time)
 5. Regent Preparatory (if enrolled in the 9th grade or above, part time)
 6. C.E.A. Christian Education Alliance

NOAH ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Continued)

The NOAH Board will review requests from additional institutions on an as needed basis.

- Clearly, full time enrollment in a traditional public or private school is not homeschooling because the child's education in such schools is not parent-directed.
- It is understood that students may have the opportunity to take dual-credit college courses, (Concurrent Enrollment), particularly in their junior or senior years. NOAH encourages such enrollment by homeschooled students and the definition above shall not be construed to mean that such students are not homeschooled if the participating college admitted the homeschooled student as a high school student.

** Students are limited to no more than 6 credit hours of concurrent enrollment per semester.*

- There may be additional and/or different sport specific eligibility guidelines for end-of-the-season, regional or national tournaments. Please be sure to see the sport specific addendum to this handbook for further information concerning eligibility in those tournaments.
- As of September 1st, 2009 all NOAH private school athletes on a Fall 2009 or prior season (Fall 08 / Spring 09) roster are eligible to continue participation in NOAH up to their High School graduation date, i.e., "grandfathered" into the NOAH program.

**Participation must be continuous, without interruption.*

Where there is a question of eligibility due to the definition of homeschooling, the NOAH Board shall review the matter and render a decision in writing in a timely manner to the affected party. The Board reserves the right to modify this policy/definition if needed, as the homeschooling movement continues to grow and change.

NOAH ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

(Continued)

II. Student-athletes must meet the below age guidelines:

- Elementary
 - Athlete must **not** be 13 years or older on September 1st of this year.
- Junior High
 - Athletes must **not** be 15 years or older on September 1st of this year.
- High School
 - Athletes must **not** be 19 years or older on September 1st of this year.
 - Athletes may not have already participated in any formal high school graduation ceremony.

III. Annual Physical Examination

- NOAH requires all athletes to undergo an annual physical examination by a licensed medical practitioner. Each sport an athlete participates in will need a copy of a current* physical examination on file.

** NOAH defines "current" as having an athletic physical exam on file that is dated no longer than 12 months from the last scheduled competition of the season/sport that he or she is registering for.*

IV. Student Athlete in "Good Standing"

1. Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian/Private School, or another homeschool team because of dismissal or expulsion must sit out one year and be in disciplinary "Good Standing" with the NOAH organization at the time of beginning participation in any NOAH sport.
2. All student-athletes must be in financial good standing, up to date and current with any past due NOAH fees prior to beginning practice in a new sport.

EXPECTATIONS

NOAH Leadership, Coaches and Supporting Staff

Parents and other coaches can expect the following from NOAH Coaches and their Supporting Staff:

- To encourage your child to live for the greatest cause of God's glory rather than living for the next great comfort that comes along.
- To seek to take the adversity and lessons of the GAME and teach lessons that will build character and enlarge the heart, mind and body for real life.
- To coach and care for your child as if he or she were our own.
- To be a positive role model for your child.
- To coach your child to be the best player that he or she can be.
- To provide motivation for your child to develop strong work habits.
- To provide motivation for your child to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- To continually encourage your child "to do the right thing" at all times.
- To promote an atmosphere of caring and respect.
- To provide the discipline that it takes for your child to be a part of the *team* concept.
- To respond appropriately to concerns.
- To attend church regularly.
- To abide by the NOAH Coaches Code of Conduct.

EXPECTATIONS

Players

NOAH coaches and supporting staff as well as all other players, especially those younger players who look up and admire you expect you:

- TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN – Your actions are a reflection on the entire team, coaches, NOAH organization and home school community.

You will be expected to demonstrate first class behavior; you must be in absolute control of your attitudes and actions and be willing to take full responsibility for them.

- TO BE UNSELFISH - In all you do, always look for ways to yield to and serve your teammates, not desiring or displaying self-centered or self-glorifying attitudes and / or actions.
- TO BE CARING – The concept of togetherness is the foundation of our team; a close meaningful relationship must exist between players and players and players and coaches.
- TO BE A LEADER – Set positive examples by your actions in the following areas:

Practice performance , Game performance , Demonstration of sportsmanship , Role modeling with youngsters, Being courageous and loyal in adversity, Being tough enough to stand up for what is right, Being tough enough to avoid the use of drugs, steroids, alcohol, & tobacco.

- TO BE A GOOD STUDENT – You must maintain acceptable work in your academics while striving for the highest level of academic achievement. If you are not making your grades you will be expected to do whatever it takes to get caught up so that your academic failures do not harm yourself, the team, and your teammates.
- TO BE A HARD WORKER & DISCIPLINED– The coaches will not tolerate half-hearted effort This is a trait that is not inherited; it is learned. You must learn to do what is right in all situations. The coaches will teach and you must be willing to learn.
- NOAH Encourages all players to attend church.

Parents

NOAH coaches and Support Staff, as well as other NOAH families expect you:

- To volunteer and serve the program
- To uplift, encourage and support the coaches, team and individual players
- To be in attendance at all of your son/daughters games that you possibly can
- To demonstrate and promote good sportsmanship
- To take a stand against the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and steroids by your son/daughter and other team members
- To express concerns in private and at the appropriate time and to the appropriate coach

During or directly after a game/competition is not the appropriate time, “sleep on it for a night” is a good habit.

Always speak first to the one your concern is about or with

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your coach, then speak to the athletic director

If you, the athletic director and coach are not able to reach an agreement then you may go to the NOAH Board of Directors by written request. The request will be reviewed by the Board and if accepted, a time will be scheduled to meet with you

- To not question coaches in regards to roster assignment, player position assignments and/or game-time play in a derogatory manner or inappropriate time
- To not condemn, complain or criticize the coaches, players, team or NOAH organization
- To abide by the NOAH Parents code of conduct.
- NOAH Encourages all families to attend church.

NOAH SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

Players and coaches shall at all times represent themselves, and the NOAH organization with honor, proper conduct, and good sportsmanship. Competitive rivalries are encouraged but disrespect for opponents lessens the value of the rivalries. Confine the competitiveness of contest to the field. Behave properly on the sidelines and in the locker rooms before and after the contest. Players and coaches shall comply with the rulings of the officials.

Coaches

- A coach who is ejected from a NOAH contest must leave the premises immediately.
- A coach who is ejected from a NOAH contest will automatically be suspended for, at least, the next NOAH contest.
- The NOAH Board of Directors will review the report and any appeals. The NOAH Board reserves the right to uphold, overturn, or increase the suspension based on findings.
- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players. Some examples of intolerable behavior include: Unsportsmanlike conduct, not playing within the rules of the game, use of profanity, discriminatory slurs

Players

- Any player who is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct during a NOAH contest will automatically be suspended for, at least, the next NOAH contest.
- Ejection of any player from any contest requires a written official report from the Athletic Director, to be filed with the NOAH President and the Board of Directors within 24 hours of the ejection, detailing the incident.
- The NOAH Board of Directors will review the report and any appeals. The NOAH Board reserves the right to uphold, overturn, or increase the next contest suspension based on findings.

Parents and Spectators

- Any parent or spectator who acts in a disruptive or abusive manner will be asked to resolve the situation or be removed by a game official, host security, game administrator, or coach. Removal can result in future game suspensions and/or dismissal from NOAH organization.

COMPETITIVE ROSTER SELECTION

Depending on the number of athletes, and the current structure of the sport, there may be a need for try-outs, especially at the High School level. In the event of try-outs, some athletes will be selected to fill the team roster, while others will not. This process will be the sole responsibility of the head coach supported by his or her assistants and the athletic director. This selection of a roster is a very difficult, objective process with many variables taken into consideration. Potential ability, commitment, and coach-ability are tops on the list, but by no means exhaustive. If an athlete is not invited/selected to the most competitive roster, the coaching staff and/or Athletic Director will seek to guide and direct the family to a level of play best suited for the athlete to grow and develop his or her skills.

With or without a try-out, once an athlete has been selected for a team roster, he or she will be given the privilege and opportunity to fill a role on the NOAH team. Being extended the invitation to join a NOAH roster means that the coaches and supporting staff of that team recognize the ability, either potential or realized, for the athlete to develop into a competitive player. By no means should the athlete or family construe the acceptance of this roster selection process as a guarantee to a starting position. The head coach may at anytime make roster changes based on the needs of the teams and the players he or she oversees. Examples would not be limited to, but may include moving a JV athlete up to a Varsity roster or a Varsity athlete down to a JV roster.

COMPETITIVE GAME TIME AND PLAYER POSITION ASSIGNMENT

Competitive game time and player position assignments, like the roster selection process is a very difficult and objective process determined by the head coach and supported by his or her assistants and the athletic director. Three primary criteria are taken into account in assigning player's positions and awarding game time:

1. The coaches evaluation of the athlete
2. The needs of the team
3. The desire of the athlete

If an athlete has questions and/or concerns regarding position assignments and/or game time play, the athlete is encouraged to speak directly with his or her coach.

**DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS
FOR
NOAH COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS**

If at any time, a family decides or identifies that they have a child that would like to pursue the more competitive high school levels of competition within NOAH, it is highly encouraged that those families, in conjunction with the head coach, take advantage of any additional coaching, training, camps and instruction that the family can budget time and finances for. Even at the competitive high school levels, NOAH is comprised of a completely volunteer coaching staff, which creates certain limitations in regards to the needs of a highly competitive athlete or team. As our program evolves and grows, NOAH continually seeks to find ways to offer additional coaching, training, camps and instruction.

TWO AND THREE SPORT COMPETITIVE ATHLETES / FAMILIES

NOAH encourages multiple sport involvement for those families that feel that they can manage their time and financial budgets while benefiting from the great gift of Sport. Involvement and relationships that are built over consistent time, as well as the lessons in humility and service to others are great benefits that your entire family will experience through your association with NOAH.

NOAH will always encourage the mindset of “finish-what-you-start” and will never penalize or discriminate against a player/family for staying committed to a sport through the end of the season when the next, upcoming sport overlaps.

NOAH Code of Conduct

For Athletes.....

I will participate with all diligence, giving my best effort at all times by:

- Attending required participants' meetings, clinics, practices, and competitions and arriving on time.
- Letting the appropriate coach know well ahead of time of any absences.
- Refraining from harsh criticism of my teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials, speaking with respect to all adults.
- Maintaining the required academic standards set by my parents.
- Appealing concerns through the proper chain of command; my coach, then athletic director, then Board of Directors.
- Playing fairly and following the rules of my sport during practice and competition.
- Respecting facilities and equipment at home, while traveling, or at a host site; leaving them in as good or better condition than I found them.
- Meeting my financial responsibilities in a timely manner. (No pay – No play)
- Showing respect for myself and teammates by abstaining from alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, pornography, homosexuality and other sexual sins and endeavoring to be a law abiding citizen.

Recognizing that I am a representative of NOAH, I will abide by the following standards including but not limited to:

- I will dress myself modestly and honor the following dress code while representing NOAH.
 - No tank tops, spaghetti straps, crop tops or muscle shirts will be worn (with the exception of uniforms during games)
 - No shorts, skirts or dresses shorter than 6 inches from the top of the knee
 - No sagging pants or shorts
 - No sheer, clinging or tight fitting clothing
 - No inappropriate words or graphics on clothing
 - No extreme hair styles

- NOAH does not approve of tattoos, body or facial piercings, therefore all such must be removed or covered during any NOAH sponsored activity.
- Out of my respect for myself and others, I will refrain from inappropriate displays of affection towards individuals who are not members of my immediate family.
- No cursing, coarse, or foul or abusive language

For Parents.....

I will participate with all diligence, giving my best effort at all times by:

- Attending the required parents meetings, and seeing that my student athlete attends required participants' meetings, clinics, practices, and competitions helping them to arrive on time.
- Refraining from harsh criticism of the team, opponents, coaches, and officials, speaking with respect to all adults.
- Assisting my student athlete to meet the NOAH Code of Conduct for Athletes.
- Appealing concerns through the proper chain of command; the coach, then athletic director, then Board of Directors.
- Accepting responsibility for the proper behavior of my student athlete. If I am unable to change inappropriate behavior, then I will remove my student athlete from participation in the organization so as not to be a detriment to other participants or the organization.
- Respecting facilities and equipment at home, while traveling, or at a host site; leaving them in as good or better condition than I found them.
- Meeting my financial responsibilities in a timely manner. (No pay – No play)
- Participating in fund-raising projects, and completing various tasks to help meet the needs of the organization.
- Showing respect for myself by abstaining from excessive use of alcohol, use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, pornography, homosexuality and other sexual sins and endeavoring to be a law abiding citizen.
- No cursing, coarse, or foul or abusive language

In the event that a judgment needs to be made concerning our activity, We will respect the determination of the NOAH Board of Directors.

NOAH Athlete Information, Release and Medical Authorization

School Year: _____ New Returning Date of last athletic physical exam : _____

Athlete's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Athletic Grade: _____ Home School Tutorial , Name _____

Parent's Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Athlete's Home (____) _____ Work (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Parents' Home (____) _____ Work(____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Athlete's Primary e-mail: _____

Parent's e-mail: _____

Questions of Good Standing:

- Has your son/daughter been expelled or dismissed from a private, public or homeschool program in the past 12 months? No Yes If yes, please attach a letter of explanation.
- Are you current on all NOAH athletic fees? Yes No If yes, please attach a letter of explanation.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT TO CHRISTIAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Emergency contacts other than parent or guardian:

1. Name _____ Hm phone _____ Other phone _____

2. Name _____ Hm phone _____ Other phone _____

Permission : I give permission for my child to participate in this activity. I understand that there are risks associated with competitive sports. In the event he/she is injured, I waive and release all rights to any claim for damages against NOAH and its representatives. I further agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to this agreement shall be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries (complete text of the Rules is available at www.Peacemaker.net). Judgment upon an arbitration decision may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

Medical Release: In the event my child suffers sudden illness, accident, or injury and neither parents nor guardians can be contacted, I give permission for any emergency treatment that is deemed necessary by a licensed physician.

Family physician _____ Phone _____

Pertinent medical information (diabetes, allergies, medications, etc.):

Parent(s) Signature _____ Date _____

NOAH Jaguars Parent/Athlete Handbook
&
NOAH Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form

ATHLETE:

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms of the:

1. NOAH Jaguars Parent/Athlete Handbook
2. NOAH Code of Conduct for Athletes

I affirm that I meet all the eligibility requirements stated therein.

Athlete's Signature (Date)

PARENT(S):

We acknowledge that we have read and agree to the terms of the:

1. **NOAH Jaguars Parent/Athlete Handbook**
2. **NOAH Parent Code of Conduct**

We affirm that our child(ren) meet(s) all the eligibility requirements stated therein.

Father's Signature Date

Mother's Signature Date