



NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF HOMESCHOOLERS  
NOAHJAGS.ORG

## Our Mission

NOAH is a homeschool organization with the specific objective of providing athletic and educational services to the homeschooling community. These services are provided to promote a positive Christian atmosphere for all who participate. Our desire is to maintain a high standard of character, competition, and safety for all our participants. NOAH welcomes ALL homeschooled students who wish to participate in our programs.



## Our History

In 1998 the Oklahoma homeschool community was a dynamic and growing entity that consisted of numerous grassroots organizations dedicated to assisting families choosing to educate their children at home. One of the greatest needs was an organization that provided athletic programs to student-athletes. The Northeast Oklahoma Association of Homeschools (NOAH) was founded to realize this need and has become an umbrella organization for a plethora of sports. Contributions and gifts to NOAH are tax-deductible.

On March 8, 1998, 17 families assembled to form NOAH. NOAH is a 501(c)3 organization that was created to provide homeschool students with the opportunity to develop athletic abilities while building character in a distinctly Christian environment. NOAH's desire is to maintain a high standard of character, competition, and safety for all participants. A board of nine directors conducts the business of governing and managing the organization.

In July of 1998 NOAH leased a "home" gym at Town and Country School located on 101st Street near Yale Ave. in south Tulsa. The athletic program began in October of 1998 with three varsity, two junior high, and four elementary basketball teams, and a cheerleading squad. In the spring of 1999 NOAH participated in its first National Homeschool Basketball Tournament. NOAH desires to perform at the highest level of competition and regularly competes against teams from public and private schools, as well as other homeschool organizations.

The expansion of NOAH athletic programs began with the addition of high school golf in 2000. Elementary flag football was added in the fall of 2001 and was followed by elementary baseball in 2003. The baseball program expanded to junior high in 2004 and varsity in 2005. Soccer began in 2004 with an elementary girls' team and expanded to varsity girls and boys in 2005. One of the most exciting additions to the organization was tackle football. The junior high team began competition in 2004, followed by junior varsity in 2005, and the first ever eleven-man homeschool varsity football team in 2006. The varsity football team competed against a variety of opponents, including a class 6A public school. Softball, Tennis, Shooting Sports, Track & Field, and Volleyball were the most recent additions.

NOAH currently serves over 400 homeschool athletes and welcomes all homeschool students who wish to participate in its programs. (If you are interested in seeing a sport added or would like to help establish a new sport, contact us.)

*TEAM COLORS ARE ROYAL BLUE, WHITE, AND BLACK.*

*OUR MASCOT IS THE JAGUAR.*

*NOAH IS CONTINUING TO EXPAND INTO BOTH NEW SPORTS AS WELL AS EXPANDING CURRENT SPORTS TO BROADER GROUPS OF ATHLETES.*

**"PROVIDING HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS OPPORTUNITIES  
TO DEVELOP ATHLETIC ABILITIES WHILE BUILDING  
CHARACTER IN A DISTINCTLY CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT"**

# Welcome to NOAH!

In March 1998, seventeen families met together to form an organization of volunteers that would provide a basketball program for homeschooled 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.

NOAH is unapologetically a Christian organization; our board members, athletic directors, and coaches are required to sign a Statement of Faith in addition to a Code of Conduct. Prior to the start of the season parents are encouraged to meet with the coaches and staff that will be working with your child. It is vital that your family feel comfortable and confident prior to committing to the season. We are excited about what God is doing through NOAH and glad that your family is becoming a 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 schooled 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 men and women through the platform of athletics.

## NOAH Eligibility Guidelines

### I. 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 parents must be involved in their child's education by assuming the role of principal or headmaster, thereby:

- Setting the date and requirements for high school graduation.
- Selecting and approving course material and study schedules
- Selecting tutors, correspondence courses, videos, computer courses, and similar resources for their child's education.

NOAH does not accept public and/or government funding.

It is understood that students may have the opportunity to take dual credit college courses (concurrent enrollment), particularly in their junior and senior years. NOAH encourages such enrollment by homeschooled students and the definition above shall not be construed to mean that such students are not home schooled if the participating college admitted the home schooled student as a high school student.

- Freshman, Sophomore, & Junior HomeSchool Student-Athletes may take up to 2 concurrent courses per semester.
- Seniors may up to 3 concurrent courses per semester.
- Freshman, Sophomore, & Juniors that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/ Concurrent Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of three (3) High School Courses per semester.
- Senior that are taking advantage of Dual Credit/Concurrent Enrollment Programs are required to take a minimum of two (2) High School Courses per semester. High School Courses can be electives (like Physical Education, etc.) High School Courses can be taken through Co-Ops or any other eligible parent directed definition.

Where there is a question of eligibility due to the definition of home schooling, the NOAH board will review the matter and render a decision to the affected party. The Board reserves the right to modify this policy/ definition if needed, as the home schooling movement continues to grow and change.



## II. Student Athletes must meet Age Guidelines

After a student begins attending the seventh grade, that student generally is limited to participating in athletics during that school year and the five school years that follow consecutively after that school year. After a student begins attending the ninth grade, that student generally is limited to participating in athletics during that school year and the three school years that follow consecutively after that school year. A student must have completed the eighth grade to participate in high school athletic competition open to students in grades nine through twelve, unless approved to participate at that level by the NOAH Board of Directors. While an athlete may petition the Board to play at the high school level, only sub-varsity participation (e.g. junior varsity) will be allowed, and the Athletic Director of the sport must support the athlete playing at a higher level than their actual grade level, taking into account the effects on the athlete's current grade level team and the sub-varsity team where they may be allowed to play.

In short

- Elementary  
Athletes must NOT be 13 years or older on September 1st of the current year.
- Junior High  
Athletes must NOT be 15 years or older on September 1st of the current year.
- High School  
Athletes must NOT be 19 years or older on September 1st of the current year.  
Athletes must NOT have participated in any formal High School graduation ceremony.
- Athletes shall NOT have participated in excess of 4 years of High School athletics.
  - Once an 8th grade athlete is declared as a 9th grade athlete, they will have four, consecutive years of eligibility, unless otherwise approved, on a case-by-case basis, by the NOAH Board.

There may be additional and /or different sport specific age eligibility guidelines for end of the season, regional or national tournaments.

## III. Annual Physical Examination

NOAH requires all athletes to undergo an annual physical examination by a licensed medical practitioner. If student athlete will be participating in more than one NOAH sports program then a copy of the physical examination must be submitted for each sports program in which the student athlete is enrolled.

## IV. Student Athlete "Good Standing"

Any student who transfers from a public school, Christian or Private school, or another home school team because of disciplinary reasons must wait one (1) year from the date of the dismissal before they are eligible to participate in any NOAH activity. If a parent wants to seek an exemption to this policy for their student athlete the parent must:

1. Submit a written request of appeal to the NOAH board through the sports Athletic Director;
2. Appear before the NOAH board, if the board agrees to hear the exemption with the student athlete, athletic director, and coach(es);
3. Submit to the NOAH board's decision to approve or deny the exemption request. All NOAH families must be in good financial standing, up to date and current with any past due NOAH fees prior to beginning a NOAH activity.







Type	Description	NOAH Eligibility Status
Public ISD and private school on campus	Educational program dictated by ISD and under State direction	Ineligible
Homebound online educational program	Education programs dictated by parents and classes sometimes directed by parents in home or in another location	Ineligible, Program eligible subject to board approval
College Classes (University, Community, Technical	Educational Program dictated by the College	Concurrent Enrollment Eligible (See eligibility guideline section for details)
Distance Learning Educational Programs	Diploma tract educational programs dictated by a non-public school sponsor, classes directed by parents at home	Ineligible
Distance Learning Educational Programs	Non-Diploma tract educational programs dictated by a non-public school sponsor, classes directed by parents at home	Eligible
Homeschool Tutorials/ Enrichment Cooperatives	Education programs dictated by parents and classes sometimes directed by parents in home or in another location	Eligible
Private Schools* allowing Homeschool student enrollment	Education programs dictated by school with oversight of Oklahoma Private Schools Accreditation Commission (OPSAC) or like commissions	Eligible if student is enrolled part time. *NOAH Board Approval

# Expectations

## NOAH Leadership, Coaches and Supporting Staff

Parents and other coaches can expect the following from NOAH Coaches and their supporting staff

- 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 physically, mentally, and spiritually.
- To continually encourage your child.
- 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 NOAH Coaches Code of Conduct.

## Players

NOAH coaches and supporting staff, other players, and parents can expect from the player:

- To be a good citizen — a player's actions are a reflection of NOAH, the home school community, the coaches, and your team.  
A student athlete is expected to demonstrate first class behavior; you must be in 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 coaches.
- To be a LEADER — Set positive examples by standing up for what is right and avoiding the use of drugs, steroids, alcohol, and tobacco. Displaying leadership characteristics by your actions in the following areas:
  - Practice Performance
  - Sportsmanship
  - Role Model
  - Courage & Loyalty
- To be a GOOD STUDENT — A student athlete must maintain acceptable work in their academics while striving for the highest level of academic achievement.
- 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 regularly.

## Parents

NOAH coaches and supporting staff, players, and other NOAH families can expect from parents:

- 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 student athlete's games that you possibly can.
- To demonstrate and promote good sportsmanship
- To take a stand against the use of the following by student athletes:
  - Illegal drugs
  - Steroids
  - Alcohol
  - Tobacco
- To express your concerns in private to the appropriate coach and at the appropriate time
  - During or directly after a game or competition is not the appropriate time. "Sleeping 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 by written request. The request will be reviewed by the NOAH board and if accepted, a time will be set to meet
- 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 Parent's 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 the 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 ruling 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 the 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
  - The 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 the findings.

## Parents & 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 tryouts, especially at the high school level. In the event of tryouts, 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. The selection of a roster is a difficult process with many variables which can be both objective and subjective. 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 tryout, 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. 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 question 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 with 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. Even at the competitive high school levels, NOAH is comprised of a completely volunteer coaching staff, which creates certain limitations in regards 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 sports. Involvement and relationships that are built over consistent time, as well as the lessons in the 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.

## Safety

NOAH is here to provide opportunities for athletics for home schooled students, and we want this to be done safely. As such we ask our coaches to commit to get basic understanding of concussion and heat injury prevention. We would also like our athletes and their families to review the information so that they recognize symptoms of concussions and heat injury before they result in a major problem.

# 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 that 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.
  - I will dress myself modestly and represent NOAH honorably.Coaches and ADs may provide further guidance.
- NOAH head coaches or ADs may require you to cover or remove inappropriate or excessive tattoos and piercings.
- Out of 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 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.

