



Oakbrook Knights Athletic Policy Handbook  
2011-2012

Mission: To glorify God through a relentless pursuit of excellence.  
Vision: To be the school of choice for scholar athletes.

## Philosophy

### Student-Athlete:

Oakbrook is a rigorous academic institution; our athletes are students first. Oakbrook's student-athletes will relentlessly pursue excellence in and out of the classroom. Student athletes are responsible for balancing the commitments of the classroom with the commitments of the sport. We expect them to be proactive with their teachers, and maintain academic rigor in season and out.

### Athletic Skills:

Coaches are responsible for teaching and expecting athletes to properly execute the fundamentals of the game. Athletes are responsible to make a commitment to practice these skills, to attend all practices, and to respect the authority of the coach. Competition and game experiences teach athletes to recognize situations, make decisions, and take responsibility for consequences.

### Teamwork:

Working together as a team, even in the "individual" type sports, will be encouraged at every opportunity. Each athlete must be eager, not just willing, to sacrifice personal interests or glory for the welfare of the team.

### Sportsmanship/Character:

Good sportsmanship covers the concepts of fair play, respect for those in authority, and integrity on and off the playing field. Oakbrook strives to be known for fielding competitive, well-disciplined and well-coached teams who know how to win with humility and lose graciously.

### Excellence:

Athletic Excellence is attained when the athlete knows that he/she did everything within the limits of his ability to become the very best that he or she is capable of becoming. While winning events is important and a goal for all teams, success in coaching or playing will not be based on the number of athletic events won or lost. Winning is a by-product of the enjoyment/success of developing athletic skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

### Program Goals:

In all sports offered at the School, the three levels of competition, Middle School, Junior Varsity and Varsity, are part of the same program coordinated by the varsity head coach. The Middle School and Junior Varsity interscholastic teams are designed to help students learn the various sports, determine their level of commitment to team based athletics and prepare them for varsity competition. Although all efforts will be made to secure playing time for every student, student athletes are expected to do their part in earning playing time through proper attendance, attitude and work habits. Other specifics regarding the goals of our program include:

#### Middle School-

The program is designed to meet the developmental needs of its participants. The purpose of the program is to develop skills, sportsmanship, and behaviors that are part of being on a team. The coaches are instructed to make every effort to get each child in every game or to develop a rotation of players for different games that will ensure quality playing time in as many games as possible.

#### Junior Varsity-

Team and individual skills are reinforced in preparing student athletes for the more competitive varsity schedule. Playing time is determined by the coach with a goal of providing most students with quality playing time in as many games as possible.

#### Varsity-

The varsity teams play a competitive schedule including both independent and public schools. Our commitment to excellence requires that we field the best team available from among our student athletes. Varsity selection is based on skill and maturity of the student athlete. Each student athlete's skill level is reevaluated at the beginning of the season for team membership. Scheduling and playing time considerations are based on what best prepares the team to pursue season long excellence. Student athletes wishing to play two different sports during the same season may do so only with the approval of the athletic director and the respective head coaches and must make a firm commitment at the beginning of the season to one of the teams in case of a conflict. In many cases, it may not be possible for a student athlete to participate on two teams during the same season.

#### Fellowship of Christian Athletes:

Oakbrook supports a growing and active Fellowship of Christian Athlete (FCA) organization. The mission of FCA is "to present to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church."

#### Athletic Awards

The following Athletic Awards are awarded at the Annual Knights Athletic Banquet in early May.

#### Silver Sword

Oakbrook's annual Silver Sword is awarded to the athlete who demonstrates sportsmanship and Christ-like attitude on and off the court/field/course, not just during the season but throughout the school year. The award is not based on popularity or playing ability or attitude based on playing and not playing. The athlete is a team leader who demonstrates the attitude and character that we believe is an example of Jesus Christ. This character includes a commitment to one self and to the team, one who encourages others, often sacrificing his or her well-being for the sake of the team and one who has earned the respect of teammates and classmates. Teams and coaches present nominations for the

Silver Sword Award to the “Knights of the Round Table” whose membership is Silver Sword Award winners.

#### Block “O”:

Student Athletes Participating on a Varsity Sport will earn a Block “O” at the Athletic Banquet. Student athletes will receive the Letter only once during an Oakbrook athletic career. Varsity student athletes will thereafter receive a gold service bar each letter year.

#### Coach’s Award

Varsity coaches recognize and thank the athlete who consistently demonstrates hard work, commitment, discipline - the key character traits the coaches have worked to instill throughout the team. This person may also be nominated for Silver Sword.

#### Sportsmanship Award

Middle School athletic teams and coaches select one athlete from each team who represents their team and Oakbrook’s Athletic Philosophy by:-Consistently demonstrates respect for authority on and off the field (includes coaches, other teams coaches, referees, parents in public, teachers, administration, fellow students, other team athletes)-Displays attitude to win with humility and lose graciously-Demonstrates good character and judgment not only at practice and competition but also school and within the community. Each team may also have team banquets at the end of the season and coaches may recognize each player’s contributions to the team.

2011-2012 Athletic Offerings for Grades 5-12 (some sports will not be available to 5th graders)

#### Fall:

Boys Soccer - Middle School and Varsity, Girls Volleyball – Middle School and Varsity, Cross Country – Grades 6-12, Swimming – Grades 5\*-12, Competitive Cheerleading Grades 7-12

#### Winter:

Girls Basketball – Middle School and Varsity Boys Basketball – Middle School, JV, and Varsity Cheerleading – Middle School and Varsity Wrestling - Middle School and Varsity

#### Spring:

JV Baseball, Girls Soccer – Middle School and Varsity, Golf - Middle School and Varsity, Strength and Conditioning - Varsity 9-12, Boys Soccer- Varsity

\*Denotes Most Meets for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be exhibition.

All students are encouraged to participate in the athletic program and all efforts will be made to ensure that a student can participate. In cases where teams are limited in size, the athletic department is committed to selecting an appropriate team in a fair and impartial manner. In the case where a student is not chosen for the team of their choice, the athletic department will work with the student to help identify other

areas of athletic interest and potential participation. Middle school teams are for students in grades 5-8. Varsity teams for swimming and cross country are for students in grades 6-12. Varsity teams for all other sports are for students 9-12. Eighth graders may participate on a varsity team with parents and Athletic Director permission. (See Inherent Risk and the SCISA Agreement for Participation.) Our varsity teams are a member of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) conference and will participate in tournaments at the end of the year. Middle school volleyball and basketball will compete against the same schools that high school teams compete and will have an end of the year tournament. Middle school for soccer and golf will participate in the CMSC conference. Running club for 1-5th graders meet on Tuesday afternoons at Oakbrook along with Fun Runs scheduled throughout the season.

#### Criteria for Athletic Participation

All Oakbrook Parents and Students interested in participating in Oakbrook Athletics for the 2011-2012 School year must attend the Athletic Parent Meeting August 11, 2011 at 6:00 pm in the Gymnasium. All athletes must be full-time students at Oakbrook Preparatory School. All athletes must be academically eligible to participate on an athletic team. SCISA Academic Requirements state that a student in grade 9-12 must take and pass at least four (4), one unit CORE Courses or any five (5) one unit courses each semester to be eligible. Students below the 9th grade playing a varsity sport must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester. At Oakbrook, students must maintain an overall C-average and any student failing a course will be evaluated by the School Director and Athletic Director. For middle school academic eligibility, any student failing a class or not maintaining a C average will be evaluated by the Middle School Director and Athletic Director. Failure by the Athlete to maintain Oakbrook's Academic standards by following the above guidelines for class average or to follow his/her teachers' syllabus and classroom instruction with regard to daily work, projects, tests, quizzes, etc. during the season will have a parent conference with the Class Teacher and Athletic Director to facilitate determining academic eligibility for the remainder of the season.

**Eight Semester Rule:** A student has Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters of eligibility from the time he/she first enters the ninth (9th) grade.

Any student interested in trying out for a team must be at the first practice of the season. The coach must be notified ahead of time if the student is going to miss the first practice for an excusable reason (illness, death in family, etc.) All Parents are required to attend the Teams' Parents' Meeting at the beginning of the season. Each coach will set the date and communicate to the parents the team rules for practice, play time, code of conduct and other information. Once a student has joined a team, he/she has committed to that team until the last game is completed. If an athlete quits a team, his/her case will be presented to the Athletic Review Board comprised of Faculty, Parents, and fellow Athletes to determine eligibility for Athletics for the remainder of the school year. Athletes must be at

every practice for the whole practice unless excused for: doctor and dentist appointment, personal sickness, death in the family, previously scheduled church commitment. One must notify the coach as soon as possible of any conflicts. Failure to notify the coach will result in punishment from the coach as set forth in his/her team rules. Any uniforms or equipment issued to an athlete are the athlete's responsibility. Lost or damaged equipment and/or lost uniforms will be invoiced to the athlete. Athletic uniforms are only to be worn for games, not practices or any other activity. In order to participate in a practice or game for that day, the student must be in school for at least four classes of that day or participate in an approved school activity. Exceptions must be approved by the Athletic Director prior to missing classes. These exceptions include scheduled doctor, dentist appointments and school sponsored activities.

#### Athletic Bus Policy

Athletes must abide by the school's policies and procedures for transportation. Any practice held off of Oakbrook property is still considered a part of the school. When student drivers drive other students, a permission slip from each student's parent or guardian will be required to go to and from practice or in town games. Transportation for away games will be organized by the coach or Athletic Director. The Athletic Department will use the bus for away games when possible. At other times, parents may be asked to drive players to away games. When parents are driving, the drivers will travel in a caravan group. When teams are riding the bus, all players are required to ride to and from the game on the bus. No Exceptions unless for a medical emergency. When both boys and girls teams are riding on the bus, the girls will occupy the front half of the bus and the boys will ride in the back. No more than two persons per seat. Moving while the bus is in motion should be kept to a minimum. The bus will stop for meals on trips as needed. For longer trips, the AD will make arrangements with the restaurant beforehand. Players may eat on the bus. The bus will be cleaned of all trash upon return.

#### Athletes' Code of Conduct

Student athletes are expected to be responsible for their behavior both on and off campus, (including on social media such as Facebook and twitter) and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the high expectations for all Oakbrook students. Therefore, any behavior that reflects poorly on the Oakbrook Community, Honor Code, and Athletic Department will result in punishment outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Student athletes should demonstrate honesty, self-discipline and integrity and serve as role models for other students, particularly for younger students. Student athletes must be respectful of the judgment and decisions of coaches and officials. Student athletes must also respect teammates and opponents. The athletic director and/or head coach will handle any disagreements with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or fans. Profanity will not be tolerated at any time during the season. Coaches are expected to refrain from the use of profanity and should deal very firmly with any offense by the student athlete.

## Hazing

Any type of hazing will not be tolerated by the Oakbrook Preparatory Athletic Department, coaches and the school administration. Hazing will be dealt with swiftly and could result in suspension or dismissal from the team along with other discipline action according to the handbook.

## Substance Use

The Oakbrook Prep community believes that students should be alcohol and drug-free and actively supports programs and initiatives that aim to reduce risky behavior and unhealthy lifestyle choices. At the least, we must be assured that our students do not use, are not in possession of, or are not under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on this campus or at school-related events. A student who disregards this guideline shows the greatest disrespect for our community and violates its trust to such a degree that he/she will be asked to leave the School. If the School becomes aware of a student's alcohol or illegal drug use outside of school, the School may make any number of recommendations dependent on the nature of the incident, its legal disposition, the danger posed to others, and the impact it has on the Oakbrook Community.

Courses of action may include a required professional assessment of drug or alcohol dependence, counseling for the student and family, possible suspension or withdrawal from the school community, dismissal, or expulsion. The School believes parents and students should take seriously the issue of substance use by our young people, and it will take steps to educate, to support non-users, and to do all in its power to help youngsters make wise decisions.

Oakbrook athletes are expected to treat coaches and teammates, along with opponents, officials, and visitors, with respect. We encourage athletes to play hard within the rules of the game, winning with humility and losing without excuses. Athletes are expected to respect the property and equipment of Oakbrook and our opponents. Always remember that as an Oakbrook athlete, you represent our school, our coaches, and your families as well as yourself in and out of school, including on social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

## Word to our Parents

Oakbrook Prep encourages parents to support their child in the child's athletic involvement. Please make sure your child is on time for practices and games. Your attendance at games is important to your child and your positive encouragement has direct impact on your child's performance. If at any time you or your child has a concern or question, have the child/athlete talk to his/her coach first. If your concern is not resolved, then you may call the coach yourself. Any concerns not resolved after talking with the coach may be brought to the Athletic Director to set up a meeting with all parties involved.

## Word to our Spectators

Oakbrook Prep welcomes athletic competition and school spirit for our teams and

we encourage parents, family, friends and students to attend athletic events and cheer our team. We view all expressions of school spirit as reflections of our school. Each of us has the responsibility to encourage Christian sportsmanship including cheering for our team's success and not our opponent's failures, welcoming a visiting team and their spectators, and showing respect for officials. Only members of the athletic team are permitted to sit on a team's bench. Only timers and score keepers may sit with at scorer's table/bench. No outside food or drinks. Concessions will be available for purchase at each Home Basketball game. Please throw away your trash after games. Athletes and coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. It is also essential that spectators exhibit good sportsmanship as well and adhere to the following guidelines during competition. Always cheer in a positive manner. Positive cheering leads to positive results. Do not talk to officials before, during, or after the competition. Keep all comments about officiating to a minimum. We want athletes to concentrate on what is about happen, not what has already happened. Please leave concern for the officiating to the Athletic Staff. Please do not communicate with our athletes from the start of warm-up until the end of competition, other than to cheer their efforts. We want our athletes to remain focused. Fans should be seated in bleachers or remain in designated areas away from the team and playing areas.

#### Guidelines for Game Officials and Game Management to use Regarding Lightning

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information to those responsible for making decisions about suspending and restarting games based on the presence of lightning. If at all possible, staff should monitor local weather conditions before and during events.

1. If the facility/school has an on-site lightning detection system, those warnings must be heeded.
2. In absence of an on-site detection/warning system, use the following \ criteria for suspension of play and resumption of play:
  - A. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
  - B. The 30-minute Rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
  - C. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
3. Schools should develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.

Heat Policy:

<http://www.scisa.org/athletics/Football/Heat%20and%20Athletic%20Participation.htm>

Each athlete must have three forms completed before participating in practice or games: a Medical Examination Form completed with physician's signature; SCISA Agreement for Participation; and Warning of Inherent Risk. Copies of these forms may be downloaded from SCISA's website at:

<http://scisa.org/athletics/forms/>

Please note that any unforeseen circumstance not mentioned in this handbook will be handled at the discretion of the Athletic Director with consultation from the Head of School. By participating in Oakbrook Athletics you and your student-athlete consent to the rules and policies stated above.

Oakbrook Knights Coaching Staff:

Fall: Girls Volleyball- Varsity - Erin Biggar Middle School - Skylar Gillespie

Cross Country- John Tucker

Swimming - Terrence McGee

Boys Soccer Varsity - Jonathan Burnett Middle School - Jeff McBride

Winter:

Girls Basketball Middle School - Marie Tewkesbury Varsity -

Boys Basketball Middle School - Will Welborn Varsity - George Burgess

Cheerleading Varsity- Christina Hyatt Middle School - Michelle Reinhardt

Wrestling - Dan Jablonski

Spring:

JV Baseball -Travis Casey

Girls Soccer Middle School - Skylar Gillespie Varsity - Elizabeth Myers

Golf Middle School - Lawrence Kind Varsity - Ron Cisler

Strength and Conditioning - Dana Gillespie

Boys Soccer – Varsity Coach Jonathan Burnett

Finally, participation in athletics and representation of Oakbrook is a privilege. This honor will only be extended to those athletes worthy of representing our school in a positive light during school, competition and in the community. We hope you and your student-athlete enjoy this year's athletic competitions at Oakbrook Preparatory School. As with any team, our students will only be successful with your support. So please be involved in your child's athletic participation. Contact his/her coach to find out how you can help support the team. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at [jonathan.burnett@oakbrookprep.org](mailto:jonathan.burnett@oakbrookprep.org). Thank you and GO KNIGHTS!!!

Coach Burnett

