

Joshua 1:9 Learning Center

Athletic Handbook

2026–2027

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Table of Contents

Mission Statement
Athletic Philosophy
Athlete Code of Conduct
Parent Code of Conduct
Coaches Code of Conduct
Athletic Teams
Playing Time
Fees to Participate
Donations
Quitting
Student-Athlete Eligibility & Grades
Transportation
Dress Code
Athletic Awards
24-Hour Rule of Dispute
Social Networking Policy
Attendance on Game Day
Team Communications Policy
Booster Club & Fundraising Policy
Injury & Emergency Protocols
Anti-Hazing Policy
League & Governing Body Policies
Athlete Risk & Medical Clearance
Statement of Commitment

Mission Statement of Joshua 1:9 Learning Center

Joshua 1:9 — “Always be strong and courageous. Do not be dismayed or discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

The mission for Joshua 1:9 Learning Center is for students, staff, and families to grow in wisdom, faith, truth, and character while innovatively building competent, energetic, and loving Christ-centered leaders. We believe in teaching our students to Love God, Love Others, Love Yourself, and Love Learning.

Athletic Philosophy

Matthew 5:16 — “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

We believe that student engagement in sports is important not only for their physical and emotional development, but also for their spiritual growth. Athletics are a privilege and responsibility—a powerful way to represent Christ and our school. Our sports program exists to glorify Christ by using our gifts, showing humility in victory, grace in defeat, and honoring others on and off the field.

We believe athletics provide powerful opportunities—both in preparation and competition—to apply God’s principles in real, meaningful ways. Our goal is for student-athletes to exemplify Christ in every aspect of their lives by learning to Love God, Love Others, Love Themselves, and Love Learning through athletics. Through victories and defeats, practice and teamwork, our dedicated coaches guide students to connect athletic experiences to their daily walk with the Lord.

This athletic handbook establishes standards by which our athletes are expected to live and compete. Parents, coaches, and athletes are expected to review the handbook and uphold the athletic vision of Joshua 1:9 Learning Center.

Athlete Code of Conduct

1 Corinthians 12:12 — “For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.”

- Athletes represent our school and community and are expected to act with integrity and intention in all areas—behavior, language, academics, and personal life.
- The athlete will maintain a good reputation and abide by school standards and expectations.
- The athlete is expected to prioritize grades and schoolwork. Failure to maintain satisfactory grades and academic participation may result in a loss of playing time or suspension from the team.
- The athlete is expected to arrive on time for practices and games, follow the coach’s expectations, be prepared, and be properly dressed.
- The athlete is expected to show respect and friendliness to teammates and opponents. Failure to meet these standards may result in reduced playing time.
- The athlete will always maintain good sportsmanship and self-control. The athlete will not engage in fighting or attacking an opponent. Penalties will include suspension from a game and possible removal from the team.

- Foul language will not be tolerated. Athletes must not engage in heckling, harassment, or unkind speech toward opponents, coaches, teammates, or officials.
- Athletes may not commit to a sport and then quit. An athlete who quits a sport after already being committed will be required to sit out the current and following seasons of sports.
- Athletes should not expect equal playing time. Coaches determine participation based on team needs. Disrespect toward teammates regarding playing time may result in a warning or removal from the team.
- Athletes are expected to honor their commitments to a sport. Any athlete who withdraws from a sport after formally committing will be required to sit out for the remainder of the current season, as well as the following season for all sports.

Parent Code of Conduct

Ephesians 4:29 — “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

- Parents are expected to review the athletic handbook with their athletes.
- Parents are encouraged to support the coaching staff and reinforce their principles.
- Parents are encouraged to be good role models and conduct themselves with integrity and good sportsmanship.
- Parents are required to make every effort to ensure their child arrives on time to practices and games.
- Parents are not allowed to approach the coaching bench/area during games.
- Parents are encouraged to be positive towards their athlete, the coaches, opponents, and teammates.
- Parents are not permitted to ridicule, harass, or insult officials or opponents.
- If parents have an issue with a coach, they are required to speak with the coach before approaching administration. They are encouraged to follow the 24-Hour Rule of Dispute. If possible, meet face-to-face. Be respectful and courteous.
- Parents should not coach their child from the sideline.

Coaches Code of Conduct

Galatians 6:9 — “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

- Coaches are required to act as a Christian role model in actions, language, and attitudes.
- Coaches are required to abide by the school’s mission statement and athletic philosophy.
- Coaches are encouraged to pray before and after practices and games. They are encouraged to share their faith and Biblical wisdom.
- Coaches will emphasize the development of Christ-like character over teaching the skills of the specific sport.
- Coaches are required to promote integrity, good sportsmanship, and Christ-like character over winning.
- Coaches are required to respect officials and act with friendliness towards the coaches of opposing teams.

- Coaches are expected to model good character by displaying humility during victory and grace in defeat.
- Discipline issues with one player should be discussed privately—not in front of the team. Correction should be done in a caring and instructive manner.
- Coaches should maintain an open-door policy with players and parents. Coaches should be available to meet with parents or players regarding questions or concerns.
- Coaches are required to treat individual players fairly and maintain an inclusive environment. Coaches are also required to use their judgment regarding playing time and are tasked with managing the overall short-term and long-term health of the sports at Joshua 1:9 LC.
- Coaches are to maintain professional boundaries with athletes, parents, teachers, and administration.
- Coaches are expected to be good stewards of the equipment relevant to their team.

Athletic Teams

As Joshua 1:9 Learning Center grows, we will add sports programs based on student interest. If there are not enough players for a team, participation fees will be refunded.

Fall:

- Co-Ed Soccer
- Girls' Volleyball

Winter:

- Boys' Basketball

Spring:

- Boys' Track
- Girls' Track

Playing Time

Athletes should not expect equal playing time. Coaches will prioritize what is best for the program both in the short-term and long-term. Coaches are encouraged to look for opportunities to develop all athletes. Joshua 1:9 Learning Center seeks to appoint coaches who are inclusive and developmentally minded toward all sport participants.

Fees to Participate

During enrollment, students pay a \$200.00 sports fee for the first sport and \$150.00 for each additional sport. If there are not enough players to make a team, relevant sports fees will be refunded.

Donations

Donations allow for enhanced athletic opportunities and resources. All donations to the athletics at Joshua 1:9 LC directly benefit student athletes and the athletic programs. Donations can be submitted on the school webpage or in person at the school office.

Quitting

Athletes are expected to honor their commitments to a sport. Any athlete who withdraws from a sport after formally committing will be required to sit out for the remainder of the current season, as well as the following season for all sports. An athlete may be permitted to quit after attending the first practice. After the first practice has commenced, quitting will not be permitted without penalty. For example, if a student signs up for the soccer team in the fall and quits, they will not be permitted to participate in winter basketball. An athlete who quits is not permitted to rejoin the team until the following season. The exception would be a serious injury, illness, or family emergency.

Student-Athlete Eligibility & Grades

Colossians 3:23 — “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

At Joshua 1:9 Learning Center, academic excellence and athletic participation go hand in hand. Student-athletes are scholars first. Eligibility to participate in athletic activities is a privilege conditioned on meeting the following academic and behavioral standards.

Academic Requirements

- Athletes must maintain passing grades (70 or above, or a “C” or better) in all enrolled courses to remain eligible for athletic participation.
- Grades will be reviewed at the end of each nine-week grading period. Athletes who receive a failing grade in any subject will be placed on academic probation and suspended from competition until grades improve to a passing level at the next progress check.
- Athletes on academic probation may continue to attend practices at the coach’s discretion but may not participate in games or competitions.
- Athletes who fail two or more subjects will be suspended from all athletic activities until the next grading period and will not be reinstated until passing grades are achieved and verified by administration.
- Academic eligibility is evaluated each grading period. A student who becomes ineligible due to grades may be reinstated mid-season if grades improve and are verified by administration.

Behavioral Eligibility

- Any student-athlete receiving an in-school or out-of-school suspension will be ineligible to participate in games or competitions during the period of suspension.
- Repeated behavioral violations may result in removal from the team at the discretion of the coach and administration.

Registration & Clearance Requirements

- Prior to participating in any practice, tryout, or competition, every student-athlete must have on file: a completed registration form, a signed athletic handbook acknowledgment, a current emergency contact and medical information form, and a signed parental consent form.

- Athletes with known medical conditions, allergies, or physical limitations must disclose these to the coach and administration prior to the first practice.
- Administration reserves the right to require a physician's clearance before an athlete is permitted to participate.

Transportation

Transportation arrangements for away games and events will be communicated by the coach at the start of each season. Parents are responsible for transporting their athlete to and from practices unless otherwise arranged. For school-organized transportation to away events, athletes must ride with the team unless prior written approval has been granted by administration. Athletes may be released to their parent or legal guardian following an event upon written request submitted to the coach in advance.

Dress Code

Team appearance reflects our core values. Athletic uniforms must adhere to the Joshua 1:9 Learning Center student handbook dress code whenever possible. If exceptions are necessary due to the nature of certain uniforms, every effort will be made to ensure they remain modest and closely aligned with the school's dress code.

Athletic Awards

Coaches are responsible for planning an end-of-season gathering and presenting awards to athletes. Coaches are required to present the awards designated by the administration. Awards will recognize all or any of the following: general participation, effort, Christ-like character, skill, and stats.

24-Hour Rule of Dispute

Matthew 18:15 — "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother."

Should a dispute arise, wait 24 hours, then contact the coach directly. If possible, meet face-to-face. Be respectful and courteous. If the concern is not resolved through direct conversation with the coach, the matter may then be brought to administration. Disputes should never be aired on social media or in front of other athletes, parents, or spectators.

Social Networking Policy

As representatives of Christ and our school, student-athletes are held to a high standard. Social media posts that reflect negatively on the team, coaches, or school are subject to disciplinary review. Student-athletes are expected to use social media to build others up and uphold a Christ-like reputation. Coaches should avoid one-on-one electronic communications with athletes. All digital communications should be transparent and ideally include parents.

Attendance on Game Day

Athletes are required to attend at least half of the school day on game days. Any absence on a game day must be arranged in advance and approved by the coach.

Team Communications Policy

Proverbs 15:22 — “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Clear, consistent, and Christ-honoring communication between coaches, athletes, and families is essential to the health of our athletic program. The following guidelines govern how communication is conducted at Joshua 1:9 Learning Center.

Pre-Season Communication

- Before each season, coaches are required to distribute a parent/athlete information letter that includes: the season schedule (practices and games), team expectations and rules, contact information for the coach, uniform and equipment requirements, and any fees or volunteer expectations.
- Coaches should hold or offer a brief pre-season parent meeting—in person or via video call—to introduce themselves, share the team vision, and answer questions.

Approved Communication Channels

- All written communication between coaches and families must occur through school-approved channels such as school email, an approved team communication app (e.g., GroupMe, TeamSnap, or Remind), or printed notices sent home.
- Coaches shall not communicate with student-athletes through personal social media accounts, personal text messages, or direct messages on social platforms. All messaging should be transparent, group-based, and visible to parents.
- When a coach must communicate individually with an athlete, a parent or guardian should be copied on the communication.
- Parents and athletes are encouraged to check communication channels regularly. Coaches should allow a reasonable response window (typically 24–48 hours) for non-urgent messages.

In-Season Updates

- Coaches should provide timely updates regarding schedule changes, cancellations, or location changes as soon as possible.
- Coaches are encouraged to provide brief, positive team updates or highlights through the approved communication channels to keep families engaged and informed.

Parent-Coach Conferences

- Parents who wish to discuss concerns regarding their athlete should first allow 24 hours after a game or practice before reaching out to the coach (see 24-Hour Rule of Dispute).
- Appropriate topics for parent-coach conversations include: the athlete's development and skill improvement, the athlete's attitude and behavior, concerns about the athlete's physical well-being, and schedule conflicts.
- Inappropriate topics for parent-coach conversations include: other athletes' playing time, other athletes' personal conduct, and coach strategy or game-time decisions made during competition.

- If a meeting with the coach does not resolve the concern, the parent may then request a meeting with administration. Grievances should never bypass the coach without first attempting direct resolution.

Booster Club & Fundraising Policy

2 Corinthians 9:7 — “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Joshua 1:9 Learning Center welcomes the generous support of families, community members, and local businesses to enhance the athletic experience for our student-athletes. All fundraising and booster activity must align with our Christ-centered mission and be conducted with integrity.

Booster Support

- Parents, family members, and community supporters are encouraged to participate as athletic boosters by contributing financially, donating goods or services, or volunteering time.
- All booster contributions go directly to benefit the student-athletes and athletic programs of Joshua 1:9 LC. No funds are used for administrative overhead without prior approval from leadership.
- Donations may be submitted through the school's website or delivered in person at the school office. Tax receipt documentation is available upon request.

Fundraising Guidelines

- All fundraising activities on behalf of the athletic program must receive prior written approval from school administration before being organized or advertised.
- Teams or coaches may not independently solicit funds, accept sponsorships, or enter into financial agreements on behalf of Joshua 1:9 LC without administrative authorization.
- Fundraising activities must be appropriate for a Christian school environment and consistent with our mission and values.
- All funds raised through approved athletic fundraisers are deposited into the school's athletic account and disbursed according to the needs identified by administration. Coaches should submit a written request for specific expenditures to administration for approval.
- Parents and athletes are never required to participate in fundraising activities, and no student-athlete's participation or playing time will be affected by a family's level of financial contribution.

Sponsorships & Partnerships

- Local business sponsorships and partnerships must be approved by administration and must be consistent with the values and mission of Joshua 1:9 Learning Center.
- Sponsorship acknowledgments (banners, program listings, etc.) must be reviewed and approved by administration prior to display or distribution.

Injury & Emergency Protocols

Psalms 46:1 — “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

The safety and well-being of every student-athlete is our highest priority. Joshua 1:9 Learning Center is committed to responding to injuries and medical emergencies promptly, responsibly, and with compassion.

General Injury Protocol

- Coaches must have a first-aid kit accessible at all practices and games. Coaches are expected to be familiar with its contents and basic first-aid procedures.
- Any injury sustained during practice or competition must be reported to the parent or guardian as soon as possible and documented by the coach. A written injury report should be submitted to administration.
- An athlete who is injured and receives medical attention must provide medical clearance from a licensed physician before returning to practice or competition.
- If an athlete appears to be injured and is unable to continue safely, the coach shall remove the athlete from activity immediately, regardless of the athlete's desire to continue.
- Parents are responsible for communicating all known medical conditions, current injuries, allergies, and physical limitations to the coach prior to the start of the season and as conditions change.

Emergency Action Plan

- In the event of a serious or life-threatening injury or medical emergency, the coach or supervising adult shall: (1) call 911 immediately, (2) send someone to meet and direct emergency responders, (3) notify the parent or guardian as soon as possible, and (4) notify school administration.
- Coaches should not move an injured athlete who may have sustained a neck or spinal injury unless there is an immediate life-threatening danger.
- No athlete shall be left unsupervised at a practice or game site following an injury.

Concussion Protocol

- Any athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion must be removed from play immediately. The phrase "When in doubt, sit them out" is the standard at Joshua 1:9 LC.
- A medical assessment by a licensed healthcare professional is required before any athlete suspected of having a concussion may return to practice or competition.
- Athletes may only return to sport after receiving written medical clearance from a physician. A graduated return-to-play protocol is strongly recommended, progressing from rest to full activity over multiple stages.
- Parents must be notified immediately any time a concussion is suspected.

Heat & Environmental Safety

- Given the heat conditions common to the Houston/Humble, TX area, coaches must monitor weather conditions, enforce adequate hydration, and provide rest periods during hot or humid weather.
- If the heat index reaches dangerous levels, outdoor practices or games may be modified, relocated indoors, or cancelled at the coach's or administration's discretion.
- Athletes should be encouraged to hydrate before, during, and after all practices and games. Athletes who show signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke must be removed from activity immediately and given emergency care.

Anti-Hazing Policy

Romans 12:10 — “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Joshua 1:9 Learning Center is a community built on love, dignity, and mutual respect. Hazing in any form is incompatible with our Christian mission and is strictly prohibited.

Definition of Hazing

Hazing is defined as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act—occurring on or off school property, at any time—committed by a student, group, or team member that is directed against another student for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with, or continued membership on any team or group. Hazing includes actions that endanger the mental or physical health, safety, or dignity of a person—regardless of whether the targeted individual consented.

Examples of Hazing (not limited to):

- Physical abuse, forced exercise, or acts that cause pain or physical discomfort
- Forced consumption of any food, drink, or substance
- Verbal abuse, humiliation, ridicule, or degrading assignments
- Sleep deprivation, isolation, or forced exclusion from group activities
- Any act that demeans, degrades, or endangers an individual’s dignity

Zero-Tolerance Policy

- No student, coach, parent, or school employee shall plan, encourage, permit, condone, or engage in hazing of any kind. Apparent consent by the person being hazed does not excuse the behavior.
- Any athlete who participates in hazing may face immediate suspension from the team, removal from the team, suspension from school, and/or referral to appropriate authorities.
- Coaches or staff members who permit, encourage, or fail to report known hazing activity will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Reporting

- All students, parents, and staff are expected to report suspected hazing immediately. Silence in the face of hazing may be considered condoning the behavior.
- Reports may be made directly to a coach, teacher, or administration. Reports may be made anonymously. All reports will be investigated promptly and confidentially to the extent possible.
- No individual will be retaliated against for reporting suspected hazing in good faith.

Prevention & Education

- At the start of each season, coaches will review the anti-hazing policy with all athletes and discuss what constitutes hazing and the school’s expectations for team culture.
- Joshua 1:9 LC encourages positive team-building activities that foster unity, belonging, and Christ-like brotherhood and sisterhood—never at the expense of another person’s dignity.

League & Governing Body Policies

Romans 13:1 — “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”

Joshua 1:9 Learning Center participates in athletic competition as a Christian private school serving students in Preschool through 8th Grade. As we compete, we are committed to submitting to and respecting the rules of the leagues and associations we join.

League Membership & Compliance

- Joshua 1:9 LC will affiliate with appropriate private school athletic leagues or associations as our program grows. Specific league rules and eligibility requirements will be communicated to athletes and families at the beginning of each season.
- All coaches, athletes, and families are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations of any league or association in which Joshua 1:9 LC participates. League eligibility standards are in addition to—not a replacement for—the standards in this handbook.
- Coaches are responsible for familiarizing themselves with all applicable league rules, including eligibility, roster submission deadlines, sportsmanship standards, and protest/appeal procedures.

Texas Private School Associations

- As a Texas-based private Christian school, Joshua 1:9 LC may align with associations such as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) or similar governing bodies. The rules of the applicable association govern eligibility, transfer policies, and competition standards for enrolled member seasons.
- Administration will communicate any association-specific requirements—including physical examination requirements, age restrictions, and transfer eligibility windows—to families in advance of each sport season.

Sportsmanship Standards

- Athletes, coaches, and spectators from Joshua 1:9 LC are expected to model exemplary sportsmanship at all competitions—reflecting positively on our school and the name of Christ.
- Ejections from games, technical fouls, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, or disqualifications must be reported to administration and may result in additional school-level disciplinary action beyond any league-imposed consequence.

Scheduling & Officials

- Game schedules are coordinated through administration and the relevant league or governing body. Coaches must communicate schedule information to families promptly and accurately through approved channels.
- Coaches and athletes are required to treat all officials with respect. Arguing with or verbally abusing officials is not permitted and may result in disciplinary action.

Athlete Risk & Medical Clearance

Athletic participation comes with inherent risk of injury. By participating, athletes and parents acknowledge this risk, accept responsibility, and agree to abide by the safety protocols established by coaches and administration. Parents are responsible for communicating their child's injuries, medical conditions, and allergies to the coach.

Prior to participating in any practice or competition, all athletes must have a completed and signed "Athletic Participation & Medical Information Form" on file with the school. This form must be renewed each academic year and updated any time a significant medical change occurs.

Statement of Commitment

By signing below, the athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by all policies, expectations, and standards outlined in this Athletic Handbook. They understand that failure to comply may result in consequences up to and including removal from the athletic program.

Athlete Name (Print): _____ Grade: _____

Athlete Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____