



FRANKLIN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

ATHLETICS HANDBOOK  
STUDENT-ATHLETES • PARENTS  
2026–2027

## WELCOME

Welcome to Franklin Academy Athletics.

Participation in athletics is an extension of the educational experience at Franklin Academy. Our athletic program exists to complement the school's academic mission by developing student-athletes who demonstrate integrity, discipline, perseverance, leadership, teamwork, and respect. While athletic success is valued, the ultimate measure of our program is the character and personal growth of our students.

At Franklin Academy, coaches are educators, parents are valued partners, and student-athletes are expected to represent our school with honor both on and off the field of play.

This handbook is designed to provide coaches, student-athletes, and parents with a clear understanding of the expectations, responsibilities, and procedures that guide our athletic program. It summarizes key policies and should be used in conjunction with the Franklin Academy Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook.

We are grateful for the commitment of our coaches, student-athletes, parents, volunteers, and supporters. Together, we strive to build a program recognized not only for competitive excellence, but also for outstanding character and sportsmanship.

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

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### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Chris Straits

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### CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIPS

High School – Diamond Nine (NCHSAA)

Middle School – CAMSC

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Franklin Academy Athletics is to develop student-athletes of character by promoting academic excellence, competitive success, leadership, sportsmanship, and personal responsibility in a safe, positive, and supportive environment.

Through athletics, students learn perseverance, accountability, teamwork, and resilience while preparing to become responsible citizens and leaders within their communities.

## ATHLETICS PHILOSOPHY

Franklin Academy believes athletics are an integral part of a student's educational experience. Participation in athletics provides opportunities to develop qualities that cannot always be taught in the classroom, including discipline, resilience, leadership, responsibility, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Our athletic program is founded on five guiding principles:

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## ACADEMICS FIRST

Academic success is the foundation of participation in athletics. Student-athletes are expected to prioritize their education while balancing the commitments of athletic participation.

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## CHARACTER MATTERS

Winning is valued; character is essential. Integrity, honesty, humility, and respect should define every Franklin Academy student-athlete and coach.

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## GROWTH THROUGH COMPETITION

Athletics challenge students to overcome adversity, develop resilience, improve leadership skills, and pursue continual growth.

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## POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Successful athletic programs are built through collaboration among coaches, student-athletes, parents, administrators, and the community.

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## COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Every participant is expected to pursue excellence through preparation, effort, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Success is measured not only by championships earned, but by the quality of young men and women who graduate prepared to lead, serve, and make a positive impact on others.

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## CORE VALUES

Every member of Franklin Academy Athletics is expected to demonstrate the following values:

| VALUE          | WHAT IT MEANS                                                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Integrity      | Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.                        |
| Respect        | Treating others with dignity, courtesy, and professionalism.                |
| Responsibility | Being accountable for your actions, preparation, and commitments.           |
| Perseverance   | Responding positively to challenges and adversity.                          |
| Sportsmanship  | Competing with honor while respecting teammates, opponents, and officials.  |
| Leadership     | Positively influencing others through words, actions, and service.          |
| Excellence     | Giving your best effort in academics, athletics, and character development. |

## ATHLETICS AT FRANKLIN ACADEMY

Franklin Academy provides interscholastic athletic opportunities that support the school's educational mission while promoting lifelong values through competition.

Participation in athletics requires commitment from student-athletes, parents, coaches, and school personnel. Every member of the Franklin Academy athletic community plays an important role in creating a positive and rewarding experience.

The Athletic Department is committed to:

- Providing a safe and supportive environment.
- Employing coaches who serve as positive role models.
- Promoting sportsmanship and ethical competition.
- Encouraging academic achievement.
- Developing leadership and teamwork.
- Operating athletic programs with integrity and professionalism.
- Maintaining compliance with all conference, state association, and Franklin Academy policies.

## PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS | GRADES 7-8

Competitive Middle School athletic teams are available to students in grades 7 and 8.

Students in grade 6 are not eligible to participate in competitive Middle School athletic teams. However, sixth-grade students are encouraged to become involved in the athletic program through opportunities such as:

- Serving as a team manager
- Participating in school-sponsored intramural programs, when available
- Attending athletic events and supporting school teams

These opportunities provide valuable experience while preparing students for future participation in Franklin Academy's competitive athletic programs.

Middle School athletics emphasize skill development, learning the fundamentals of competition, teamwork, and character development. Coaches strive to provide meaningful opportunities for growth while preparing student-athletes for future participation at higher levels.

### HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

High School athletic opportunities are available to eligible students enrolled in grades 9 through 12, subject to Franklin Academy, conference, and North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) eligibility requirements.

Athletic opportunities offered each year are based on student interest, coach and facility availability.

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## JUNIOR VARSITY ATHLETICS | GRADES 9-12

Junior Varsity athletics continue the development of athletic skills while preparing student-athletes for varsity competition. Emphasis is placed on improving individual performance, understanding team systems, and building confidence through competitive experience.

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## VARSITY ATHLETICS | GRADE 9-12

Varsity athletics represent the highest level of interscholastic competition at Franklin Academy. Team selection and participation are based on the coach's assessment of each student-athlete's ability to contribute to the team's success in a competitive environment.

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## TEAM ROSTERS

Roster sizes vary by sport and may be limited based on:

- Facility capacity
- Safety considerations
- Available coaching staff
- Equipment availability
- Competitive needs of the program

Franklin Academy reserves the right to limit roster sizes when necessary to ensure a safe and positive experience for all participants.

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## TEAM MANAGERS

Franklin Academy recognizes the important role team managers play in supporting the success of our athletic programs. When appropriate, coaches may appoint student managers to assist with team operations. Team managers contribute to the operation of the team by assisting coaches and student-athletes with a variety of responsibilities before, during, and after practices and contests.

Selection as a team manager is a privilege and is at the discretion of the head coach based on the needs of the program.

Team managers may assist with:

- Equipment setup and breakdown
- Hydration and team supplies
- Scorekeeping or statistics
- Game-day operations
- Practice organization
- Other duties assigned by the coaching staff

Team managers are expected to:

- Meet the same eligibility requirements as student-athletes.
- Demonstrate professionalism, responsibility, and good sportsmanship.
- Follow all Franklin Academy policies and team expectations.

- Attend scheduled team activities as assigned by the coach.
- Represent Franklin Academy in a positive manner at all times.

Team managers are not members of the official playing roster and are not eligible to participate in interscholastic competition unless otherwise permitted by school policy.

Managers:

- Must meet the same eligibility requirements as student-athletes.
- Are expected to follow all team and school expectations.
- Do not participate in interscholastic competition.

Selection and responsibilities of team managers are determined by the head coach.

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#### COMMUNICATION REGARDING TEAM SELECTION

The coaching staff will communicate roster decisions as promptly as possible following the conclusion of tryouts.

To protect the privacy of all student-athletes:

- Coaches will discuss only an individual student's evaluation with that student's parent or guardian.
- Coaches will not compare student-athletes or discuss another student's performance.
- Evaluation notes, scoring rubrics, or internal selection materials are not subject to review or distribution.

Parents are encouraged to support their child throughout the selection process and recognize that participation on a team is competitive.

#### ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participation in Franklin Academy Athletics is a privilege that requires student-athletes to meet established eligibility, health, and participation requirements. Before participating in any workout, tryout, practice, contest, or team activity, all required forms, documentation, and fees must be completed and submitted to the Athletic Department.

Student-athletes are responsible for maintaining eligibility throughout the athletic season. Failure to complete required participation requirements may result in delayed or denied participation until all requirements have been satisfied.

Participation requirements are established by Franklin Academy and, where applicable, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) or the Capital Area Middle School Conference (CAMSC).

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#### AGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to meeting academic and participation requirements, student-athletes must satisfy all applicable age requirements established by Franklin Academy and its governing athletic associations.

**Middle School Athletics:** A student-athlete is not eligible if he or she turns 15 years of age on or before October 16 of the current school year.

**High School Athletics:** A student-athlete is not eligible if he or she turns 19 years of age on or before August 31 of the current school year.

Age eligibility requirements are established by the governing athletic associations and are subject to change. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the Athletic Director.

## ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes and team managers must maintain eligibility throughout the athletic season in accordance with Franklin Academy policies and, where applicable, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) or Capital Middle School Conference (CAMSC) requirements.

### ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes and team managers must be in attendance at school on the day of a scheduled practice or contest in order to participate.

To be eligible for participation on a practice or game day, students must:

- Be in attendance at school by 10:00 a.m.
- Remain in attendance for the remainder of the school day.

Exceptions may be granted for documented medical, dental, or academic appointments with prior approval from the Athletic Director or school administration.

Players must be at every practice or game unless excused for one of the following reasons:

- Doctor or dental appointment
- Personal sickness
- Death in the family
- You are a member of an honor society or extra-curricular program that requires your attendance for a grade or for eligibility (NHS, NJHS, Band, Choir, etc.).

Students who leave school due to illness, injury, or disciplinary action are not eligible to participate in athletic activities that day. An exception may be considered if the student provides a physician's written release clearing them to return to full participation.

Students who miss school due to participation in another educational activity (such as Take Your Child to Work Day) or who choose not to attend a scheduled field trip must receive prior approval from the Athletic Director in order to participate in athletic activities that day.

### ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes and team managers are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout the athletic season.

A student-athlete or team manager will be placed on academic probation and become ineligible to participate if, at the time of a progress report or report card, he or she:

- Maintains an overall cumulative average below 70 (C), or
- Receives a failing grade (59 or below) in any course, including elective courses such as Physical Education, Health, Technology, or Personal Fitness.

With approval from Franklin Academy administration, coaches may establish more rigorous academic standards for participation within their programs.

Students must also meet academic eligibility requirements to participate in preseason conditioning, open gyms, workouts, and tryouts.

Students who become academically ineligible:

- May not participate in practices or contests.
- May not dress out with the team.
- May not sit on the team bench during contests.

Academic eligibility is reviewed at each progress report and report card. A student-athlete or team manager who regains eligibility at the next reporting period may return to athletic participation, provided all other eligibility requirements have been met.

Parents or guardians will be notified by email when a student-athlete has become academically ineligible.

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#### TEAM ROSTER ELIGIBILITY

To preserve competitive balance and ensure a consistent team experience, no student-athlete may be added to a team's official roster after 25% of the regular season has been completed, except under extraordinary circumstances approved by the Athletic Director.

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#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION PARTICIPATION

Participation in athletics does not replace participation in Physical Education or other required elective courses.

Student-athletes and team managers are expected to dress out for and actively participate in all Physical Education classes, including on practice and game days, unless excused in accordance with school policy or by medical documentation.

If a team is dismissed during a scheduled Physical Education class for an athletic event, the Physical Education teacher will determine whether sufficient time remains for the student to dress out and participate.

Failure to dress out or participate in Physical Education may result in academic consequences in accordance with classroom procedures. Parents will be notified by the teacher as outlined in classroom policy.

### REQUIRED ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION DOCUMENTS

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#### ANNUAL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Student-athletes are responsible for:



- Maintaining all required eligibility documentation.
- Promptly updating emergency contact or medical information.
- Completing all required annual acknowledgements and consent forms.
- Complying with all Franklin Academy, conference, and state association participation requirements.

Failure to maintain required documentation may result in immediate suspension from athletic participation until deficiencies have been corrected.

Participation requirements must be completed prior to participating in any athletic activities, including but not limited to: preseason workouts, open gyms, tryouts, practices, scrimmages, and contests.

The following items must be completed before a student-athlete may participate in any athletic activity.

| REQUIREMENT                                                                      | RENEWAL PERIOD                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Physical Form                                                                    | Every 395 days from the date of the examination |
| Gfeller-Waller Concussion Form                                                   | Every school year                               |
| Franklin Academy Athletic Participation, Consent and Liability Release Agreement | Every school year                               |
| Booster Fee                                                                      | Every school year                               |
| NCHSAA Eligibility, Consent, and Release Form                                    | Every school year                               |
| Crash Course Concussion Video                                                    | Every school year                               |

Incomplete paperwork or unpaid participation requirements may delay a student's eligibility to participate.

## MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY

Student-athletes must maintain a current athletic physical completed by a licensed healthcare provider using the approved athletic physical form.

Participation may be restricted or withheld if:

- A required physical has expired.
- Medical documentation is incomplete.
- A student has not been medically cleared following an illness or injury.
- The school determines participation presents a health or safety concern.

Medical clearance from a healthcare provider does not automatically guarantee participation. Franklin Academy reserves the authority to restrict participation when necessary to protect the health and safety of the student-athlete.

## TRYOUTS & TEAM SELECTION

Franklin Academy Athletics is committed to providing student-athletes with meaningful opportunities to develop their skills, compete with integrity, and represent the school with pride. While we encourage participation, roster sizes may be limited by safety, facility capacity, available coaching staff, or the competitive nature of the sport.

Participation in tryouts does not guarantee selection to a team.

Team selection is based on the professional judgment of the coaching staff and the needs of each individual program.

Student-athletes are encouraged to approach tryouts with confidence, a positive attitude, and a willingness to learn. Whether selected or not, every participant should leave the experience having demonstrated integrity, perseverance, and respect for others.

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## TRYOUT EXPECTATIONS

Students wishing to participate in athletics are expected to:

- Complete all athletic participation requirements before the first day of tryouts.
- Attend all scheduled tryout sessions unless excused by the coach.
- Arrive on time and prepared to participate.
- Demonstrate effort, sportsmanship, and a positive attitude throughout the evaluation process.
- Follow all coach and school expectations during tryouts.

Whenever possible, student-athletes should notify the coach in advance if they are unable to attend a scheduled tryout session.

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## TEAM SELECTION

Team selection is based on a comprehensive evaluation of each student-athlete and may include, but is not limited to:

- Individual skill level
- Athletic ability
- Sport-specific knowledge
- Coachability
- Effort and work ethic
- Teamwork and attitude
- Attendance and punctuality
- Physical conditioning
- Competitive readiness
- Team needs and roster balance

Each sport has unique requirements, and coaches use their professional judgment to assemble the team that best meets the goals of the program.

Selection decisions are final.

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## PARTICIPATION IN MULTIPLE TRYOUTS

Student-athletes may participate in tryouts for more than one sport during the same athletic season, provided there are no scheduling conflicts and all eligibility requirements have been met.

Once a student-athlete has been selected for a team and accepts a roster position, they may participate on only one interscholastic team during that season unless otherwise approved by the Athletic Director or permitted by governing athletic association rules.

Due to the unique scheduling of the athletic program, Archery may be an exception to this guideline as determined by the Athletic Director.

## STUDENT CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES

### ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletics are an extension of the educational program, and academic success remains the highest priority for every student-athlete.

Participation in athletic events that occur during the school day is considered a school-sponsored activity similar to a field trip. Student-athletes remain responsible for all missed assignments, assessments, projects, and classroom expectations.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Communicate with teachers in advance whenever possible.
- Obtain assignments prior to scheduled absences.
- Complete all work by established deadlines unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- Maintain academic eligibility throughout the season.

Participation in athletics does not excuse students from their academic responsibilities.

### ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in Franklin Academy Athletics is a privilege that requires student-athletes to demonstrate integrity, responsibility, and respect both on and off the field of play. Student-athletes serve as representatives of Franklin Academy and are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct at school, during athletic activities, while traveling, and within the community.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, school personnel, and spectators.
- Arrive on time and prepared for all practices, meetings, contests, and team functions.
- Display honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship at all times.
- Accept coaching, officiating decisions, and constructive feedback with maturity.
- Use appropriate language and maintain self-control.
- Support teammates and contribute to a positive team culture.
- Follow all Franklin Academy policies, team rules, and governing athletic association regulations.
- Represent Franklin Academy positively both in person and through social media.

Behavior inconsistent with these expectations, including repeated misconduct, profanity, bullying, fighting, hazing, insubordination, or actions that negatively impact the team or school community, will result in disciplinary action, suspension, or removal from athletic participation.

The use, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or unauthorized performance-enhancing substances is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action consistent with Franklin Academy policy.

### EFFORT & ATTITUDE

Every practice should reflect a commitment to teamwork, discipline, and continuous improvement.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Give their best effort.
- Accept coaching and constructive feedback.
- Encourage teammates.
- Demonstrate self-discipline and respect.

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#### CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, headphones, and other electronic devices should not interfere with practices, meetings, or team activities.

Unless authorized by the coach, electronic devices should remain stored during practices, games, and team meetings.

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#### BEHAVIOR

Disruptive behavior, disrespect, horseplay, profanity, bullying, or conduct that interferes with the practice environment will result in disciplinary action.

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#### PARTICIPATION DURING TRACK-OUT

Franklin Academy operates on a year-round calendar, and athletic seasons may include practices, contests, tournaments, or team activities scheduled during track-out periods.

Student-athletes who accept a position on a team are expected to remain committed for the entire season, including activities scheduled during track-out, unless excused by the head coach or Athletic Director.

Families should carefully consider scheduling conflicts before accepting a roster position.

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### STUDENT-ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Participation in Franklin Academy Athletics is a privilege that carries responsibilities both on and off the field of play. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate integrity, respect, accountability, and sportsmanship while representing Franklin Academy in the classroom, during athletic activities, and within the community.

Participation in athletics requires a commitment to academic achievement, personal responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship. Student-athletes are ambassadors of Franklin Academy and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on their team, school, and family.

Every student-athlete is expected to:

- Prioritize academic success.
- Demonstrate respect toward coaches, teammates, officials, opponents, and spectators.
- Follow Franklin Academy policies, team rules, and conference regulations.
- Attend all practices, contests, meetings, and team functions unless properly excused.
- Exhibit honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship.
- Properly care for school-issued uniforms and equipment.

- Represent Franklin Academy positively both in person and through social media.

Participation in athletics may be limited or revoked when these expectations are not met.

## PLAYING TIME

Participation on an athletic team does not guarantee equal playing time.

Playing time is determined by the coaching staff based upon what is in the best interest of the team while supporting the growth and development of individual student-athletes.

Factors considered may include:

- Skill development
- Effort and attitude
- Attendance and punctuality
- Coachability
- Teamwork
- Practice performance
- Physical and mental readiness
- Knowledge of team systems
- Competitive situations and team needs

Playing time decisions are made by the coaching staff and are final.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Franklin Academy believes that sportsmanship reflects the character of our athletic program.

Student-athletes are expected to compete with integrity while demonstrating respect for teammates, opponents, officials, coaches, and spectators at all times.

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Respect the decisions of officials.
- Encourage teammates.
- Treat opponents with dignity.
- Display self-control during competition.
- Win with humility.
- Lose with grace.
- Represent Franklin Academy positively before, during, and after contests.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, profanity, disrespect toward officials, fighting, inappropriate celebrations, or behavior that reflects negatively on Franklin Academy, may result in disciplinary action in addition to penalties imposed by the governing athletic association.

Sportsmanship expectations extend to practices, contests, team travel, school events, and all social media activity related to athletics.

## UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

Franklin Academy provides uniforms and athletic equipment to support participation in school-sponsored athletics. Student-athletes are expected to care for all school-issued property and return it promptly at the conclusion of each season.

School-issued equipment remains the property of Franklin Academy.

Student-athletes are responsible for:

- Properly caring for all uniforms and equipment issued to them.
- Reporting damaged or lost equipment immediately.
- Using equipment only for its intended purpose.
- Returning all school-issued property in good condition, allowing for normal wear and tear.

Uniforms and equipment should be treated with respect and reflect the pride of representing Franklin Academy.

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### SCHOOL ISSUED UNIFORMS & UNIFORM CARE

School-issued game uniforms are intended for athletic competitions only and may not be worn during practices or other school functions, unless prior approval has been granted by school administration.

Failure to comply with this expectation may result in the loss of game-day dress privileges and require the student to follow the standard Franklin Academy student dress code on future game days.

To extend the life of school-issued uniforms, student-athletes should:

- Follow all care instructions provided by the coach.
- Wash uniforms promptly after contests.
- Avoid altering or modifying uniforms without approval.
- Refrain from using uniforms for non-school activities unless authorized.

Uniforms should only be worn for approved athletic events or other school-approved activities.

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### RETURN OF EQUIPMENT

All uniforms and equipment must be returned to the coach or Athletic Department immediately following the conclusion of the season or upon request.

Failure to return school-issued property may result in:

- Replacement charges for lost or damaged items beyond normal wear.
- Withholding of awards, records, or future athletic participation until obligations have been satisfied.
- Additional school action as permitted by Franklin Academy policy.

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### OUTSTANDING EQUIPMENT OR FEES

Student-athletes are expected to satisfy all outstanding athletic obligations before participating in another athletic season.

Outstanding obligations may include:

- Unreturned uniforms or equipment.
- Replacement costs for lost or damaged property.
- Unpaid athletic participation or booster fees.

Questions regarding outstanding balances should be directed to the Athletic Director.

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## EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Student-athletes are expected to use all athletic equipment responsibly and safely.

Equipment that appears damaged, defective, or unsafe should be reported immediately to the coach. Student-athletes should never modify protective equipment or continue using equipment that may compromise their safety.

## ATHLETIC DRESS CODE | GAME DAY ATTIRE

Student-athletes are expected to present a professional appearance that reflects positively on Franklin Academy. Coaches may establish reasonable team dress expectations for travel, contests, team functions, and other athletic events.

Franklin Academy student-athletes are expected to maintain a neat, professional appearance on game days while representing the school. The Athletic Dress Code applies to all student-athletes, team managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers participating in Middle School and High School athletics.

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## STUDENT-ATHLETES – GAME DAY ATTIRE

Student-athletes are expected to wear:

- Franklin Academy dress code-approved bottoms.
- A school-approved team jersey. Jerseys may remain untucked.
- Dress code-approved shoes or athletic shoes.

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## TEAM MANAGERS, STATISTICIANS, AND SCOREKEEPERS – GAME DAY ATTIRE

Team managers, statisticians, and scorekeepers are expected to wear:

- Franklin Academy dress code-approved bottoms.
- A school-approved team spirit shirt, which must remain tucked in.
- Dress code-approved shoes or athletic shoes.

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## UNIFORM EXCEPTIONS

Teams whose competition uniforms are not appropriate for the regular school day (e.g., Swimming **or** Cheerleading) may wear an approved team spirit shirt as directed by the head coach.

School-issued uniforms:

- Are to be worn only for approved athletic competitions and school-authorized events.
- May not be altered without approval.
- Must be worn properly and with respect.
- Remain the property of Franklin Academy.

Additional team apparel may be required by individual programs and will be communicated by the coaching staff prior to the season.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Franklin Academy is committed to providing a safe environment for all student-athletes. Protecting the health and well-being of students always takes precedence over practices, competitions, or athletic success.

### SCHOOL AUTHORITY AND DUTY OF CARE

Franklin Academy has a responsibility to exercise reasonable care in supervising student-athletes during all school-sponsored athletic activities. To protect the health and safety of participants, the school reserves the right to limit or prohibit participation in practices, contests, or other athletic activities whenever a health or safety concern is identified.

### INJURIES & MEDICAL CARE

Student-athletes are expected to immediately report any injury, illness, or medical concern to their coach.

Coaches will follow protocols and procedures in caring for injured student athletes

Student-athletes who have been withheld from participation due to illness or injury may be required to provide written medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider before returning to athletic participation. NCHSAA mandates documentation clearing participation if a student-athlete has been out 5 or more days due to illness or injury.

Medical clearance authorizes a student-athlete to participate in athletics but does not guarantee participation on a particular day or in a specific activity. Franklin Academy reserves the authority to determine whether participation is appropriate based on the student's observed condition, overall well-being, and the school's responsibility to provide a safe environment during school-sponsored activities.

### HEALTH-BASED PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS

A student-athlete may be withheld from participation in practices, contests, or other athletic activities when presenting symptoms or conditions that may compromise the safety of the student-athlete or others, including, but not limited to:

- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Dizziness or disorientation
- Seizure or seizure-like activity
- Illness or injury that may interfere with safe participation



Participation may be restricted until the student-athlete has been appropriately evaluated and, when required, medically cleared to return.

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## MEDICAL INSURANCE

Participation in interscholastic athletics involves inherent risks of injury.

Franklin Academy strongly recommends that all student-athletes be covered by adequate medical and accident insurance prior to participating in athletic activities.

Parents and guardians are responsible for any medical expenses resulting from injuries sustained during athletic participation.

Questions regarding insurance coverage should be directed to the family's insurance provider.

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## RETURN TO PLAY

Return-to-play decisions will be made in accordance with Franklin Academy procedures and applicable medical guidance.

Medical clearance does not automatically guarantee participation. Franklin Academy reserves the authority to restrict participation whenever student safety is a concern.

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## CONCUSSIONS

Any student-athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion shall be removed from participation immediately.

The student-athlete may not return to practice or competition until medically evaluated and cleared in accordance with North Carolina law, Franklin Academy procedures, and NCHSAA protocol.

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## DRUG SCREENING POLICY

Franklin Academy is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and drug-free athletic environment. The Franklin Academy Board of Directors recognizes that the use or abuse of drugs not prescribed for legitimate medical purposes can have serious physical, emotional, mental, and athletic consequences for student-athletes. Drug use jeopardizes the health and safety of the individual, negatively impacts team performance, and undermines the integrity of the athletic program.

Participation in Franklin Academy athletics is a privilege. As a condition of participation, all student-athletes, coaches, assistant coaches, and volunteer coaches are subject to the Board-approved Random Drug Screening Policy.

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## CONSENT

Before participating in any athletic activity, each student-athlete and parent/guardian must sign the required consent forms authorizing participation in the Random Drug Screening Program.

Failure to provide the required consent will make the student-athlete ineligible to participate in Franklin Academy athletics.

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#### RANDOM DRUG TESTING

Student-athletes may be selected for random drug testing at any time during their athletic season.

Random selections will be made under the direction of the school administration and Athletic Director using a random selection process.

Testing will be conducted by an approved testing provider following established procedures designed to protect student privacy and maintain the integrity of the testing process, including an appropriate chain of custody for all specimens.

When follow-up laboratory testing is required following a positive result, transportation will be provided by the school. Any costs associated with follow-up testing are the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian.

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#### REASONABLE SUSPICION TESTING

In addition to random testing, student-athletes currently participating in a sport may be required to undergo drug testing when there is reasonable suspicion of drug use.

Reasonable suspicion exists when two or more Franklin Academy staff members present evidence to the school administrator of physical conduct or behaviors that are inconsistent with the student's normal behavior and reasonably indicate possible drug use or impairment.

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#### POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

If a student-athlete receives a confirmed positive drug test:

- The student-athlete and parent/guardian will be notified.
- The student-athlete will be ineligible to participate in practices and contests for one calendar year.
- The student-athlete and parent/guardian must meet with the school administrator and school counselor to discuss the situation and available support.

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#### APPEALS

A student-athlete who believes this policy has not been applied in accordance with Franklin Academy Board policy may utilize the grievance and appeal procedures outlined in Board policy and the Franklin Academy Student Handbook.

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#### COMPLIANCE

All student-athletes are expected to comply with:

- The Franklin Academy Random Drug Screening Policy.
- Franklin Academy Athletic Department policies.
- All applicable North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) eligibility requirements.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Franklin Academy monitors environmental conditions to protect student-athletes during outdoor activities.

Athletic activities may be modified, delayed, suspended, or canceled due to:

- Lightning
- Excessive heat
- Severe weather
- Poor field conditions
- Other safety concerns

Athletes and spectators are expected to follow the direction of school officials during weather-related delays or emergencies.

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### WEATHER DELAYS & CANCELLATIONS

Weather conditions may require modification or cancellation of practices and contests.

The Athletic Director or school administration will determine when activities should be delayed, suspended, or canceled due to weather or other unsafe conditions.

Families should monitor official Franklin Academy communication channels for schedule updates. Once on a roster, student-athletes and parents will receive this information from the team coach.

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### LIGHTNING

At the first indication of lightning or thunder, athletic activities will be suspended in accordance with Franklin Academy safety procedures.

Activities may resume only after conditions are determined to be safe.

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### HEAT

Outdoor activities may be modified based on:

- Heat Index
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Air Quality
- Recommendations from governing athletic organizations

Adjustments may include:

- Increased hydration breaks
- Modified practice schedules
- Reduced practice intensity
- Cancellation of activities

## TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic events in a safe and responsible manner.

Parents are responsible for ensuring prompt pickup following practices and contests.

Unless approved by the Athletic Director or school administration:

- Student-athletes may not transport other students to or from athletic events.
- Students may only leave an event with their parent/guardian or an individual authorized through Franklin Academy procedures.
- Coaches are not permitted to transport student-athletes in personal vehicles except as authorized by school policy.
- Transportation arrangements will be communicated by the coaching staff prior to each contest.

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### DEPARTURE FROM AWAY CONTESTS

For the safety and accountability of all student-athletes, students are expected to leave away contests with their parent or guardian or with the team unless prior approval has been granted by the Athletic Director or Coach.

Parents requesting alternate transportation arrangements must follow Franklin Academy procedures.

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### STUDENT DRIVERS

Student-athletes may not transport other student-athletes to or from athletic events without prior administrative approval.

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### PARENT PICK-UP

Parents are expected to pick up student-athletes promptly following practices and contests.

Repeated late pickups may result in loss of athletic privileges.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media provides valuable opportunities to celebrate Franklin Academy Athletics and build community. Student-athletes, coaches, and parents are expected to use social media responsibly and in a manner that reflects positively on Franklin Academy.

Participation in athletics carries the responsibility of representing the school both in person and online.

Student-athletes should:

- Communicate respectfully.
- Celebrate teammates and school accomplishments.
- Protect the privacy of others.
- Think before posting.
- Remember that online behavior reflects on themselves, their team, and Franklin Academy.

The following are prohibited:

- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation.
- Profanity or inappropriate language.
- Posts that damage team unity.
- Sharing confidential team information.
- Images or comments that violate Franklin Academy policies or negatively impact the school's reputation.

Parents are encouraged to model positive digital citizenship by supporting student-athletes, coaches, officials, and opposing teams in a respectful manner.

## COMMUNICATION | CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Franklin Academy believes that open, respectful, and timely communication is essential to maintaining a positive athletic experience for student-athletes, parents, and coaches. Most concerns can be resolved through direct communication when addressed promptly and professionally.

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### ATHLETICS CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION

#### Step 1

##### Student-Athlete

Student-athletes are encouraged to communicate directly with their coach regarding questions or concerns. Learning to communicate respectfully and advocate appropriately is an important part of personal growth and leadership.



#### Step 2

##### Head Coach

If additional discussion is needed, parents should schedule a meeting with the head coach.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Observe the 24-hour waiting period following a contest.
- Schedule an appointment rather than approaching a coach before, during, or immediately after a game.
- Focus discussions on their own child.



#### Step 3

##### Athletic Director

If the concern remains unresolved after meeting with the coach, parents may request a meeting with the Athletic Director.



#### Step 4

##### School Administration

If resolution cannot be reached through the Athletic Director, the concern may be referred to school administration for review.

## BOOSTER FEE

All students who participate in Franklin Academy athletics are responsible for an annual \$75 booster fee. The fee is non-refundable and must be paid no later than the first scheduled contest of the season.

Payment of the booster fee is required each school year.

## PARENT COMMITMENT

As a Franklin Academy Athletics parent, I commit to:

- Supporting my child regardless of playing time or athletic success.
- Modeling respect and sportsmanship at all athletic events.
- Encouraging my child to communicate directly with coaches.
- Following the Franklin Academy Chain of Communication.
- Supporting the decisions of coaches and officials with professionalism.
- Representing Franklin Academy with integrity both on and off campus.

## PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Franklin Academy recognizes that parents are essential partners in the success of our athletic program. A positive athletic experience is achieved when coaches, parents, and student-athletes work together with mutual respect, trust, and open communication.

Parents are encouraged to support their child by emphasizing effort, sportsmanship, academic achievement, and personal growth rather than wins, losses, or playing time.

Parents are expected to:

- Promote good sportsmanship and positive behavior.
- Encourage their child to demonstrate respect toward coaches, teammates, officials, and opponents.
- Support Franklin Academy policies and team expectations.
- Communicate concerns respectfully and through the appropriate channels.
- Reinforce the importance of academics and attendance.
- Attend athletic events in a positive and supportive manner.
- Help create an environment that reflects positively on Franklin Academy.

Athletics are an extension of the educational program. Parents play a critical role in reinforcing the values of integrity, responsibility, perseverance, and teamwork that Franklin Academy strives to develop in every student-athlete.

## SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Franklin Academy is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all participants and spectators. Every individual attending an athletic event shares responsibility for creating a positive experience.

Spectators are expected to:

- Display respect toward student-athletes, coaches, officials, opposing teams, and fellow spectators.
- Encourage all participants through positive support.
- Refrain from the use of profanity, abusive language, or inappropriate gestures.
- Respect the judgment and authority of game officials.
- Comply with all school policies and directions from school personnel.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship regardless of the outcome of the contest.

The following behaviors are prohibited:

- Harassing or intimidating officials, coaches, players, or spectators.
- Entering the playing area without authorization.
- Using profanity or abusive language.
- Disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal substances on school property.
- Conduct that interferes with the safe operation of the event.

Franklin Academy reserves the right to remove any spectator whose conduct disrupts the event or violates school policies. Repeated or serious violations may result in restrictions on attendance at future athletic events.

## ATHLETIC RECOGNITION & SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Franklin Academy believes athletic participation extends beyond competition by recognizing achievement, leadership, and opportunities for continued growth.

### TEAM AWARDS

At the conclusion of each season, coaches may recognize student-athletes for outstanding contributions to their team.

Examples may include:

- Most Valuable Player
- Most Improved Player
- Coaches Award
- Leadership Award
- Sportsmanship Award
- Scholar-Athlete Award

Awards are determined at the discretion of the coaching staff.

### TEAM CAPTAINS

Team captains serve as leaders within their respective programs by demonstrating integrity, accountability, sportsmanship, and commitment to team success.

Selection methods may vary by sport and may include coach selection, team voting, or a combination of both.

Captains are expected to:

- Lead by example.
- Promote team unity.
- Support coaches and teammates.
- Demonstrate excellent character.
- Represent Franklin Academy with integrity.

Leadership is demonstrated through actions, not titles.

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## COLLEGE RECRUITING

Franklin Academy encourages student-athletes interested in participating in collegiate athletics to begin planning early.

Student-athletes are encouraged to:

- Maintain strong academic performance.
- Communicate with their coach and school counselor.
- Understand NCAA, NAIA, or other collegiate eligibility requirements.
- Participate in recruiting opportunities responsibly.

The Athletic Director and coaching staff are available to assist student-athletes throughout the recruiting process; however, college recruitment cannot be guaranteed.

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## SENIOR SIGNING DAY

Franklin Academy is proud to recognize student-athletes who commit to continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Student-athletes planning to participate in a Signing Day ceremony should notify the Athletic Director as early as possible to allow sufficient time for event planning and media coordination.

Recognition opportunities are subject to scheduling and school procedures.

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## OFF-SEASON WORKOUTS

Off-season workouts provide student-athletes with opportunities to improve strength, conditioning, and sport-specific skills while preparing for future competition.

Participation in off-season activities:

- Must comply with Franklin Academy and governing athletic association regulations.
- Is voluntary unless otherwise permitted by applicable rules.
- Should promote safe training and balanced athletic development.

Student-athletes are encouraged to participate in multiple sports and well-rounded activities throughout the year.



## RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

“School sponsorship of a religious message is impermissible because it sends the ancillary message to members of the audience who are non-adherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community.” (Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, 2000-JUN-19).

As a public charter school, Franklin Academy is committed to maintaining a learning and athletic environment that respects the constitutional rights of all students while remaining neutral with respect to religion.

School employees, coaches, and volunteers may not organize, direct, or endorse religious activities or messages as part of school-sponsored athletic events or activities. Student-athletes retain their individual rights to engage in voluntary, student-initiated religious expression that is consistent with applicable law and does not disrupt school activities or imply school endorsement.

Franklin Academy is committed to fostering an athletic environment that is welcoming, respectful, and inclusive of students and families of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faith traditions.

## REVIEW AND REVISION

Franklin Academy reserves the right to rescind and/or amend this and all athletic policies, at any time.

## FRANKLIN ACADEMY ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION & RELEASE AGREEMENT

Participation in Franklin Academy Athletics is a privilege. By signing this agreement, the student-athlete and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with the expectations and requirements outlined in the Franklin Academy Athletic Handbook.

### ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I acknowledge that participation in interscholastic athletics involves inherent risks of injury. I voluntarily permit my child to participate in Franklin Academy athletic activities and assume all risks associated with such participation.

I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Franklin Academy, its Board of Directors, employees, volunteers, agents, and representatives from any claims, liabilities, damages, or causes of action arising from my child's participation in school-sponsored athletic activities, except as otherwise provided by law.

I understand that I am responsible for providing transportation to and from athletic events unless transportation is otherwise arranged by the school.

I further acknowledge that Franklin Academy is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal property brought to athletic events or activities.

I consent to Franklin Academy's use of the herein named student's name, likeness, and athletic-related information in reports of contests, promotional literature of the school and other materials and releases related to interscholastic athletics and grant Franklin Academy the right to photograph and/or videotape the participant and further to use the participant's face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

In the event of an injury, illness, or other medical emergency requiring immediate attention, I authorize Franklin Academy and its employees or representatives to obtain emergency medical treatment for my child as deemed necessary.

I understand that I am responsible for all costs associated with emergency medical care.

### ATHLETIC HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I certify that I have received and reviewed the Franklin Academy Athletic Handbook and have discussed its contents with my student-athlete.

I understand that questions regarding athletic policies or individual circumstances should be directed to the head coach, Athletic Director, or school administration.

### RANDOM DRUG SCREENING AUTHORIZATION

I acknowledge that participation in Franklin Academy Athletics is subject to the Franklin Academy Board-approved Random Drug Screening Policy.

I authorize Franklin Academy to administer drug testing in accordance with Board policy and to release test results to appropriate school officials, including school administration, the Athletic Director, the student's parent or guardian, and the student's head coach, as permitted by policy.

### NCHSAA SPORTSMANSHIP PLEDGE

#### PARENT/GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of a Franklin Academy student-athlete, I understand that I serve as a role model for all participants. I will demonstrate respect for student-athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, and visiting teams. I will promote good sportsmanship, encourage positive behavior, and support the educational purpose of interscholastic

athletics while honoring the expectations of Franklin Academy, our athletic conference, and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA).

#### STUDENT-ATHLETE

As a Franklin Academy student-athlete, I recognize that participation in athletics is both a privilege and a responsibility. I will compete with integrity, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and treat teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect. I will refrain from profanity, taunting, bullying, inappropriate physical conduct, and other unsportsmanlike behavior while representing Franklin Academy.

#### YEAR-ROUND CALENDAR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I understand that Franklin Academy operates on a year-round calendar and that athletic seasons may include practices and contests during scheduled track-out periods. If selected for a team, I understand that participation is expected throughout the entire athletic season, including track-out weeks.

#### ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Provider (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

#### SPORT(S)

Please indicate the sport(s) for which your child is requesting participation:

- |                                       |                                        |                                        |                                     |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Country | <input type="checkbox"/> Golf          | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball     | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Track  |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball   | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball      | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Track |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerleading | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis        |                                     |

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Franklin Academy Athletic Handbook, all applicable Franklin Academy athletic policies, conference rules, and NCHSAA eligibility requirements.

We understand that failure to comply with these expectations may result in disciplinary action, suspension, or loss of athletic participation privileges.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_