



## INSPIRE HOMESCHOOL ACADEMY SPORTS PARTICIPANT GUIDE

This guide is provided online at registration, via hard copy to each family at the first practice, and is always available online at both the school and team website. Parents and students are responsible for apprising themselves of the information and following rules contained in this handbook as well as any supplemental materials provided by coaches and team managers.

### ABOUT US

Located in West Cobb and serving an 8 county surrounding area, we are a one-day a week Christian homeschool program focusing on serving the needs of the traditional homeschooling family. Our growing sports programs for the 2019-2020 school year include

Fall: Girls Volleyball, IEA (Equestrian), Cheerleading, Color Guard, Pep-Band, Running Club, Girls and Boys Basketball.

Spring: Clay Target Shooting Team, Archery, Track and Field, and Robotics League

Team mascot – Lion                      Team colors – Navy and Gold

### OUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Kristy Short, email: [athletics.inspirehsa@gmail.com](mailto:athletics.inspirehsa@gmail.com) Please use this email only for athletic related issues.

Our teams are made up of volunteer coaches, team managers (TM) and volunteer parents serving together for the good of the organization.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

*1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

We are a non-denominational faith-based Christian program. We do not require a signed statement of faith. Our students and teachers are believers and come from different denominations of the Christian faith. Our staff, families, and students are expected to remain united in our Christian faith and our love for our Lord and are to avoid pushing personal beliefs or taking positions that can cause denominational discord.

### NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY

*“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these. ”Mark 12:31*

God loves us and commands us to love one another. God has uniquely created each child with a variety of learning styles and needs or abilities. Race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, age, marital status, or disability is never used as a consideration for acceptance into Inspire Homeschool Academy or onto our sports programs.

### ASSOCIATIONS

Inspire actively participates in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. FCA is a non-denominational group of athletes, coaches and students that meet to engage in fellowship, prayer and a study of the Bible. You do not have to be an athlete to join. We have FCA monthly meetings at Inspire that all students, athlete and non-athlete are invited to attend and participate in. It is the largest Christian sports organization in America. FCA focuses on serving local communities by equipping, empowering and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ. Practices may include short devotionals and prayer. Student participants are encouraged to lead the devotional and prayers each week.

With our wide variety of different sports and activities we offer, we are involved in several different regulatory leagues, depending on the individual sport. We will also be competing as independent in some sports as we go through league application process. Where we are in the application process can and is expected to change as the season advances.

### **NON-STUDENT REQUIREMENTS**

Inspire Athletics is a sports and extracurricular program designed to benefit the students enrolled at Inspire Homeschool Academy. Traditional homeschooled students who are not currently enrolled at Inspire may participate in our sports program provided there is an open slot on the team and any regulatory agency/league rules do not preclude the student from joining. Non-enrolled students will pay a \$50 Administrative Fee (per year) to participate in our sports program. Students may be referred to as participants, athletes, or students in this document.

### **REGISTRATION and UNIFORM FEE**

A Registration and Uniform Fee is required to participate in the program. This fee must be paid IN FULL at or before the first practice and before a uniform will be ordered. A minimum of one-half must be received with registration and the balance must be paid on or before the first day of practice/camp. Registration Fees will be refundable at 100% up to two weeks before the first practice/camp of the season MINUS any expenses incurred that cannot be recovered such as uniforms, camp fees, competition fees, etc. The \$50 non-Inspire student Administrative Fee is non-refundable. After the first day of practice, players who withdraw for any reason are not eligible for a refund.

Participant who have not paid their fees by the required dates or whose payments have been returned will become ineligible to practice/play until the full payment plus any related fees are received/cleared. In times where there may be extenuating circumstances, please contact the Athletic Director in writing to handle situations on a case-by-case basis.

### **LETTER OF INTENT/DOI**

All parents are responsible for providing a photocopy of their most recent Letter of Intent/DOI no later than the first day of practice to the team manager. (Updated DOI's required in Sept.) Parents are responsible for annually filing their Declaration of Intent with the State of Georgia. If your child/children are enrolled in K-12, Georgia Cyber Academy or Georgia Connections Academy, etc. your child/children are NOT considered homeschool students. These are state board approved PUBLIC on-line charter schools and your child is considered a public-school student. Your child is not eligible to participate in our sports program.

### **SPORTS PHYSICALS**

All students are required to pass and submit a signed annual Sport's Physical form to the team manager by the first practice of the season. Sports physicals can be done at your personal health provider or most local "walk-in" clinics at Kroger, Walgreens, etc. We have provided each student with a form. These can also be downloaded from our website.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE**

All students must be covered by medical and/or accident insurance in order to participate in sports. Insurance must be kept in force during the full time that the student engages in the practice for or participation in athletic events during the current school year. A copy of the front and back of the insurance card as well as a signed and dated release of liability are required before student will be allowed to practice with the team. All claims resulting from a sports related injury must be filed with the student's primary insurance carrier.

### **BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

League rules require that a photocopy of the student's birth certificate must be provided and kept on file by the team manager. The date and information on registration forms must match the information on the birth certificate. A student's gender is determined by the gender noted on his/her certificate of birth. Parents are responsible for providing this to the TM on or before the first practice.

### **REPORT CARDS**

Inspire has a No Pass – No Play Policy. We believe the students first job is to succeed at schoolwork. Sport and extra-curricular are secondary. Parents are required to provide a copy of the most recent report card at the start of each sport season and midway thru the season. Students are required to pass all their respective courses to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, bands, clubs, etc. Failing students will be benched from activities until their grades are brought to a C.

### **ATTENDANCE and ABSENCE POLICY**

Participants are expected to be on time. Attendance is required and will be taken at practices, competitions, events and games. Any participant that is late to a practice, event, or game is considered tardy. 3 tardies will = 1 unexcused absence.

Excused Absences: Severe illness, family emergencies, mandatory school activities are considered excused absences. Mildly ill students (cramps, injuries, etc) are expected to still come to practice and observe and earn so they will not miss any new material or information.

Unexcused Absences: Vacations, other outside activities, etc.

Coaches may use absences to determine starting positions, use alternates, or replace positions based upon number of absences – both excused and unexcused.

### **SUPERVISION**

Participants are expected to be supervised by an adult at all times. Parent volunteers will be expected to help with supervision of all practices, games, activities, events, fundraisers, etc. Parents are expected to drop off and pick up participants promptly following all activities. Coaches and TM's are not responsible for the supervision of participants before or after practice, events, etc. Continually picking up your child late may result in dismissal from the team. Participants may not ride home with other families/students unless advance notice has been given to the coach or TM. Please notify the TM if any alternate arrangements for pickup have been made. Please keep the TM's phone number handy in the event of an emergency.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Coaches will not be responsible for the transportation of student participants. Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from all games, practices and activities. Parent volunteers may occasionally coordinate to carpool for away games. Student participants may not ride with other teen driver without parental permission. Transportation, food, lodging, admission fees are the responsibility of each individual. Some sports have additional separate expenses not included in the registration fees. (such as equestrian)

### **COMMUNICATION**

The team manager should be the primary source for information and communication. The team manager will assist the coaches in disseminating information to the participants and their parents. For questions about rules, eligibility, etc. parents should contact the Athletic Director. Coaches and parents are not to contact the league offices with questions. Parents and participants are responsible to check their email regularly for updates and changes. If families have a change of phone number, address, or email they are responsible for letting the team manager know the new information.

### **GAME SCHEDULES**

Game schedules are given as far in advance as we possibly can. The team manager is responsible for sharing this information. Games can be added or dropped during the season. Due to the coordination of multiple schools, teams and programs, schedules often will and do change. Please be aware that there can and will be last minute date, time, and venue changes due to extenuating circumstances.

### **WEATHER CLOSINGS AND DELAY**

We follow Cobb County for school cancellations due to weather. Since our program pulls from a surrounding 8 county area, out of an abundance of caution, we may cancel preemptively to Cobb County. It is the parent/student's responsibility for checking email, facebook, website and Team Snap to be up to date with weather delays and cancellations. Should conditions improve despite a Cobb County closing, practices may be considered "optional" as called by each individual coach (such as in the event of a no-snow "snow day").

## Inspire Homeschool Academy Sports Participant Guide

### **DRESS CODE**

As a Christian organization, we strive to maintain MODESTY in our dress code. Each coach will provide an individual attire guideline for their sport. At no time may students wear half shirts showing their belly, nor may they wear sports bras as outerwear. All students must dress in their assigned practice and game clothing when participating in scheduled events. The coach and Athletic Director have authority to decide and define what is inappropriate attire. Any violation of dress code will be determined by the coaches and the AD.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP and BEHAVIOR**

When at events representing the school/team at games, practices, and events, travel to and from events, meals following games, fundraisers, and any other event, as representatives of Inspire, all participants, coaches, volunteers, parents and spectators are to show the highest level of respect to all and act in a manner that puts the best interest of the students first and brings Glory to God. Parents and spectators will remain in the stands and will refrain from entering or standing by the field, court, or playing area and “coaching” from the sidelines. We will not tolerate humiliating or disrespectful outbursts, fighting, name calling, put-downs, etc. Any profanity, derogatory comments, or intimidating action taken by participants, parents, coaches, volunteers, and spectators will be cause for immediate ejection from the game site or event. Whether we win or lose, a positive, respectful attitude will always be shown.

Intentionally or unintentionally causing disruption or preventing any participants ability to enjoy their experience or a coach or volunteer’s ability to conduct a program or their job duties by either an athlete or a parent by the use of violence, threats, intimidation, unsafe conduct regarding children, fear, resistance, insults, or any other conduct, whether intentionally or unintentionally is not acceptable behavior, and is in conflict with Inspire Homeschool Academy values, and may result in termination from the sports program, future programs, and Inspire Homeschool Academy without a refund.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT and CONSEQUENCES**

All participants and parents will be required to sign a Code of Conduct and abide by it. Coaches may have individual Codes of Conduct for their team approved by both the AD and Inspire Head of School. Inspire is proud to say that we are NOT a zero-tolerance academy. We always look at a child’s heart before making any decision on the actions or behaviors of a child.

**1st Offense** – Coach/Adult in charge will talk with the participant about his/her misbehavior.

**2nd Offense** – Coach/Adult in charge will talk with the participant about his/her misbehavior. Athletic Director and parent will be notified.

**3rd Offense** - Coach/Adult in charge will talk with the student about his/her misbehavior. Athletic Director, Inspire Leadership and parent will be notified. AD will speak/and or meet with the parent and student regarding the misbehavior and dismissal from the team and Inspire Homeschool Academy could result.

### **CONFLICT MANAGEMENT and RESOLUTION**

We will strive to resolve any issues that arise in a Christ like manner. The use of social media, email, or similar public platform as a forum for resolution or to publicly humiliate will not be tolerated and may result in the participant’s immediate dismissal. If any issues arise, please discuss it first with the coach rather than with the other participants or parents. We prefer you contact the coach by email or phone with any issues rather than before or after a game or practice so the coach can have time to privately focus on the issue. If a resolution cannot be made by speaking with a coach, a parent, participant or coach is encouraged to reach out to the Athletic Director.

### **QUITTING A TEAM**

Participants make a commitment to be a part of a team for the entirety of a sport season. Quitting a team should only be a last resort after all other options have been exhausted. Job, clubs, other activities and commitments should be arranged so they do not conflict with your practice and game schedule. You may not quit one team to join another during a sport season. Refunds are not given for any reason when quitting a sports team.

### **PARENT VOLUNTEER**

We cannot make this program successful without the support and efforts of our parent/family volunteers. All students will be required to have a parent volunteer for a minimum of 2 volunteer slots, per student, per sport. Should a team be smaller, we may require more volunteer slots to cover these slots. These slots can include working concessions/door/parking, bringing in snacks or drinks for athletes, supervising students. The team manager will be responsible for organizing volunteers. Families who serve as coaches or team manager are fulfilling their volunteer hours in that capacity and do not have to volunteer but are always welcome to do so. A family may choose not to volunteer and instead make a \$100 "donation" to the team to cover purchases and pay for someone to cover your time slots.

### **PUBLICITY, SOCIAL MEDIA, USE OF LOGO and BRANDING**

Inspire Homeschool Academy is protective over its logo, name, and branding. Students, parents and coaches may not make "team pages" on any social media platform. Students, participants, parents, coaches, volunteers, vendors may not use our name and logo without express written permission from the head of school. Brand use includes name or logo on marketing materials, use on any media, social media (facebook, twitter, Instagram pages, etc. ) websites, videos, printed materials, items produced to be marketed or sold without permission. If you wish to use the logo or name, please ask the school for consideration for permission and a high quality file will be made available for your use. Contact [inspirehsa@gmail.com](mailto:inspirehsa@gmail.com) for branding use.

### **SPIRIT WEAR**

An Inspire Lion Spirit Wear store will have items in our team colors and logo available for purchase for students and families. The First Tuesday of every month is Spirit Wear day. Students may wear their team uniform to classes and students and staff are encouraged to wear Inspire Spirit Wear. Spirit Wear may be worn any time to class or to games.

### **VARSITY LETTERING**

Some sports are available for the Varsity Lettering Program. Each sport/activity has different requirements to letter. Only one physical "Letter" may be received per participant, but award pins will be given for additional activities that qualify for Varsity Achievement.

### **AWARDS**

We will honor each athlete at end of year Awards night in May. Date and time to be announced. Awards including participation awards, MVP, Spirit Awards, Achievement Awards and Varsity Letters will be awarded at this event.

### **BACKGROUND SCREENING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Inspire Homeschool Academy has taken important steps to ensure the highest level of safety within our programs for our student participants. Among these steps is the implementation of a standardized approach to background screening for all our coaches and volunteer leaders as well as SafeSport certified training. This process must be completed before being certified or approved to serve as a volunteer. The cost of the background check and SafeSport Certification is the responsibility of the individual.

Any individuals in a position of authority over or having frequent contact with student athletes, including, but not limited to, any volunteer, coach, instructor, team manager, administrator, board member, trainer, medical personnel (excluding those who only have incidental and observable contact with athletes at events); and other individuals who have regular contact with athletes as determined by Inspire must meet these requirements prior to contact with athletes.

Most background screenings will be processed in 3-5 business days. However, some background screenings may take longer. Background checks are processed through Inspire at a cost of \$15, SafeSport Certification cost is \$20.

Parents may choose to have background screening approval done at registration to speed up the volunteer process. Forms are available from you team manager and results are kept in office and are confidential and are never shared.

## CONCUSSION POLICY

The “Return to Play Act of 2013” by the State of Georgia requires:

1. *Before each athletic season, provide to all youth athletes’ parents or legal guardian an information sheet that informs them about the nature and risk of concussion and head injury;*
2. *if a youth athlete participating in a youth athletic activity exhibits symptoms of having a concussion, that athlete will be removed from the activity and be evaluated by a health care provider; and*
3. *if the youth athlete is diagnosed with a concussion by the health care provider, the coach or other designated personnel will not allow the youth athlete to return to practice/play until the youth athlete receives clearance from a health care provider for a graduated or full return to play.*

All of our coaches, team managers and volunteers will receive annual CDC Concussion training and certification.

**It is HIGHLY recommended that any sports-participant have a base-line concussion test done before participating in sports.** This costs as little as \$20 and can be done on your computer at home. This can be a valuable tool for your doctor in the event of a head injury. This can be done at CHOA or through <https://baselinetesting.com/>.

## AMENDMENT TO SPORTS PARTICIPANT GUIDE

This guide may be amended and added to as found necessary at any time during the course of the sports season. Any amendments will be noted. Updated version will be made available for download on the school and team websites.