



Monument Academy Student~Athlete Handbook 2016–2017 School Year

Philosophy

- Our mission in athletics is to teach students about the importance of discipline, hard work, and commitment. This is accomplished through daily structured practice with attention to fundamentals and details.
- The athletics program shall be directed so that the welfare of all students will be the primary concern. Fundamental emphasis shall be placed on the philosophy that athletic activities are an extension of the educational program, and are justifiable only to the extent that they are desirable learning experiences.
- Sportsmanship will be the top priority of Lynx Athletics. Commitment to fair play, integrity, and genuine empathy for others must be taught, and practiced, if we are to make a difference. Athletics assist in the development of fellowship and goodwill. Athletics will play an important role in developing a healthy self-image as well as a healthy body. Athletics will also contribute to school/community spirit and pride.
- Lynx Athletics promotes the concept of winning, while inspiring development of athletic skill for 6th, 7th and 8th grade student athletes. This concept allows for a successful transition of the student-athlete to high school sports.

Expectations

Expectations of Student-Athletes

- You are a STUDENT-athlete, therefore student responsibilities come first. Should a student-athlete receive a grade of “F”, or more than one grade of “D”, the Athletic Director will open an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the classroom performance. Parents will be notified of any investigation, and the Athletic Director will determine whether or not the student-athlete will remain eligible to participate in Monument Academy Athletics/Activities. Any student-athlete that becomes ineligible will only be reinstated once the Athletic Director determines that the classroom challenges have been sufficiently addressed.
- Players should come to practice on time, ready to listen and learn. They should always show respect to their coaches, teammates, opponents, fans, and officials. Sportsmanship is an important component of a successful program.
- Athletes learn many skills to play their chosen sport, but the most important skill that must be learned is teamwork. To be successful, every member of the team must work together to make the whole greater than the sum of the parts.
- Athletics are a privilege, and players are expected to have exemplary behavior at all times to best represent their team, coach, and school. Detentions and other disciplinary actions may have severe consequences for student athletes.
- Athletes are expected to safely store their equipment in designated areas prior to the start of school each day.
- Student-athletes must be at school for no less than 3.5 hours on game days, unless arrangements have been made with the Athletic Director, in advance, by a PARENT. If not, then the student-athlete may not participate in, or attend games. Exceptions may be made for student-athletes whose parents have made the personal decision to opt their child out of standardized testing, should this result in a reduction in class time below 3.5 hours.
- Monument Academy must have an Assessment Refusal Form, completed and submitted to the office, before any student-athlete will be released to participate in athletic events that may conflict with standardized testing.

Expectations of Parents

- Model good sportsmanship at all times.
- Support, and encourage **all** team members.
- Focus on the goals of the **team**.
- Extend courtesy to the coaches by NOT interfering with their instructions to the student-athletes, please do not coach from the sideline/stands.
- Display courteous behavior towards referees, and the opposing team. We will not subject our student-athletes to behavior from parents that is aggressive, or in conflict with the core virtues that we teach here at Monument Academy. Any parent that cannot abide by this expectation will be asked to leave immediately, and at the discretion of the Athletic Director may be prohibited from attending future games/events. Continued abuses may result in expulsion of the student-athlete from the team, in which case team fees will not be refunded.
- All required Athletic forms and fees, as well as school fees, must be submitted before a student-athlete will be allowed to participate in Monument Academy Athletic events/activities. Should a family find financial hardship, they must contact the Monument Academy Business Office to make arrangements.

Tryout Expectations

- While broad participation is to be encouraged, it is a privilege to compete as a team member for the school. Numerous teams have tryouts for coaches to assess player performance. Each coach has a unique style, but generally athletes are evaluated on skill, work ethic, “coachability”, teamwork, and attitude. Cuts are minimized where possible, but they are sometimes a necessary part of the process, and a valuable learning experience for athletes. We encourage players who have been cut to discuss any questions with the coach a day or so after try-outs, to see where improvements can be made.
- Developmental, or "C" team squads may be formed from those athletes that are cut, depending on the number of student-athletes that are interested, and the availability of coaches. The nature of developmental teams may result in short notice organization, and seasons that may not coincide exactly with the competitive teams. These developmental teams may compete with other schools within the Central Colorado Athletic League (CCAL), or possibly in private organizations outside of Monument Academy. Developmental teams that compete within CCAL will be charged reduced fees for participation as compared to competitive teams due to lower operating costs. Private organizations outside of Monument Academy will have their own fee schedules, but Monument Academy will charge no additional fee for developmental opportunities offered by private organizations. Monument Academy will attempt to provide coaches and practice facilities, and facilitate entry into competitive venues offered by private organizations in order to give our student-athletes an opportunity to learn, grow, and compete together with their fellow classmates.

Procedures

Sign Up/Preseason Information Meeting

- Sign-up sheets will be posted near the Athletic Director’s office located outside of the gym. Students simply place their names, and grade level on the sign-up sheet, and a contact list will be compiled so that parents can be notified.
- Each team will have an informational meeting at the beginning of the season. These meeting will focus on coach expectations, practice and game schedules and locations, necessary athletic forms, carpool organization, and other aspects of the Student-Athlete Handbook.

Practices

- Practices are held after school most days of the week, sometimes immediately after school ends, and other times later, this depends on the availability of our coaches. Although not typical, students may occasionally practice during the morning, on weekends, vacations or holiday breaks. Practice will be canceled any time school is canceled. Cancellations may be the result of weather, major leaks, or a power outage to name a few. It is expected that students will be in attendance at each practice. Students must be in school at least 60% of the day to participate in practice.

Games/Matches/Meets

- Most contests are scheduled during weekdays, and usually start at 4:00pm. Some sports have two or three contests each week, and occasionally a contest will occur on a Saturday. There are also occasionally tournaments a coach may want to compete in that take place on weekends. While all students will play in the contests most of the time, playing time will be determined by the coach.

Gate Fees

- Monument Academy is now part of the Central Colorado Athletic League, which consists of 12 member schools, and 3 associate member schools. Some member schools may charge admission to league-sanctioned activities/contests, admission prices will always be as follows: Adults \$2.00, Students (K-12) \$1.00, and senior citizens (60 and older) will be admitted free.

Equipment and Uniform Care

- Equipment and uniforms will only be issued to the student-athlete upon receipt of all athletic forms and fees, as well as school fees, or an acknowledgement of financial hardship from the Monument Academy Business Office. Equipment and uniforms are disseminated, and tracked, and it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to care for them properly. If a student-athlete loses or damages uniforms or equipment beyond repair, the replacement cost will be billed to the student-athlete's school account. It is our goal to collect clean uniforms and equipment within one week of the final day of competition, so that they can be inventoried and stored.

Transportation

- Parents/coaches will be required to drive players to contests held away from Monument Academy. A player may only ride to a contest in a car driven by a family member, or an adult that is an approved driver with the appropriate paperwork filed in the office. Any student-athletes that will be riding to Monument Academy sanctioned athletic events with a driver other than a family member, must also have on file, in the office, a signed "Consent to Rideshare" form. Please see those forms included in the Athletic Forms packet for further details.

Communication

- **Practice Schedules:** Coaches will also make every effort to keep students informed about daily practice times and locations. In the case of poor weather, we will try to make cancellation decisions as early as possible.
- **Game Schedules:** The official game schedules for all athletics programs can be found on the Monument Academy website at www.monumentacademy.net. From the home page, mouse over the "Athletics" tab and select from the sub-menu any sport specific web page for game times and locations (clickable Google maps). Teams may set up "team-share" sites to help communication, but the Athletic Director does not control the flow of information to these sites, and it is possible that there will be discrepancies as a result. The schedules on the Monument Academy website are correct, updated as necessary before any secondary sites, and should be your default source for this information. Any additional, more specific information such as best places to park will be relayed by the head coach.
- **Game Cancellations:** Games may be canceled due to weather, facility conflicts, and possibly other unforeseen circumstances. In the case of poor weather conditions, the Athletic Director will consult with Athletic Directors from opposing schools within the Central Colorado Athletic League, Monument Academy Administration, coaches, and parents before determining whether or not to cancel a game/contest. It is possible that on a day school is closed due to weather, we will still participate in a late afternoon game/match, should the Athletic Director deem that conditions have improved sufficiently for the team to travel safely.
- **Results/Standings:** Results will be posted promptly on the Monument Academy website, on the specific team page. The Central Colorado Athletic League (CCAL) website is linked from our main "Athletics" tab, and will contain both game results, and league standings for your particular sport/activity. Please note that the Athletic Director does not maintain the CCAL website, so at times the results and/or updated standings may be a bit delayed.
- **Student-Athletes:** If student-athletes have concerns about their role, position, or status on a team, it is important that they initiate a conversation with the coaching staff at that time. This is a great time in the developmental process for the student, rather than a parent, to initiate a discussion.

Sports Participation Fees and Equipment

Fall/Winter Sports (August – February)

- **7th & 8th Boys Football:** Students must provide football cleats, mouthpiece, and practice clothes. The school will provide game uniforms and footballs. There is a \$100 fee for this sport.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Girls Volleyball:** Students must provide court shoes and kneepads. The school will provide game uniforms, volleyballs. There is an \$80 fee for this sport for A & B squads, and a \$25 fee for any members of the C-Squad.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Boys Soccer:** Students must provide cleats, shin guards, and practice shoes. The school will provide game uniforms and equipment. There is an \$80 fee for this sport.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Cross Country:** Students must provide running shoes. The school will provide uniforms. There is an \$80 fee for this sport.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Boys Basketball:** Students must provide basketball shoes and practice clothes. The school will provide game uniforms and basketballs. There is an \$80 fee for this sport.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Girls Basketball:** Students must provide basketball shoes and practice clothes. The school will provide game uniforms and basketballs. There is an \$80 fee for this sport.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Cheerleading:** Cheerleading is a part of Monument Academy Athletics, but is organizationally different. Information is available on the Monument Academy website. Look under the Athletics tab for the link to Cheerleading. More information can be obtained by contacting Head Coach Sarah Thompson at sthompson@monumentacademy.net

Winter/Spring Sports (February ~ May)

- **6th, 7th & 8th Track and Field:** Students must provide proper track and field shoes. The school will provide track and field equipment, as well as uniforms. There is an \$80 fee for this sport.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Girls Soccer:** Students must provide cleats, shin guards, and practice shoes. The school will provide game uniforms and equipment. There is an \$80 fee for this sport.

Other Activities (Late Fall – Early Spring, Exact Dates TBD)

- **6th, 7th & 8th Matchwits/Brain Bowl:** The school will provide practice and competition buzzers, as well as uniforms where necessary. There is a \$30 fee for this activity.
- **6th, 7th & 8th Chess:** The school will provide chess equipment, as well as uniforms and competition entry fees where necessary. There is a \$20 fee for this activity.