In Fifth and Sixth Grades the Athletic Program emphasizes the development of skills and participation. Boys meet two or three times per week to learn the basics of a sport, and if numbers allow, they scrimmage in order to apply those skills in a game setting.

In Seventh and Eighth Grades the Athletic Program continues to emphasize skill development and participation as boys have the opportunity to compete against teams from other schools. Boys are expected to be available for all practices and contests, and they can expect to participate in a part of most contests.

At the Upper School the Athletic Program moves from an emphasis on skill development and participation to an emphasis on competition. Boys are expected to be available for all practices and contests, and on freshman and junior varsity teams they can expect to participate in a part of most contests. On the varsity level participation and playing time are at the discretion of the coach.

Because of numbers or limited facilities, a Middle School or Upper School coach may sometimes be required to “cut” a boy from a team. The coaches are sensitive to how difficult such a moment may be for a boy, and they will suggest ways for him to improve his skills for next season or encourage him to join other activities in the school where he can explore opportunities and interests.

University School Athletic Code of Conduct

Athletics are part of the school’s program because they are educational. In training and competition boys learn how to develop skills and apply them, how to set realistic and ambitious goals, how to work within a group, how to meet the challenges of the moment. In athletics there are occasions for boys to learn the ideals of sportsmanship, lessons of character, emotional endurance and resilience, and the pursuit of excellence.

The Athletic Department composed this document in consultation with focus groups of US parents, students, coaches, and teachers.
1. Attend the OHSAA mandatory meeting of parents and coaches before each season.

2. Make sure that your son’s health forms are submitted on time.

3. Schedule your son’s appointments so they do not conflict with team practices and competitions. If you provide transportation for your son, make sure he arrives on time for practices and competitions and has the equipment he needs for the sport.

4. Take an interest in your son’s athletic experience by taking an interest in the experience of the whole team.

5. Model good sportsmanship for your son by respecting opponents and officials. Cheer for US’s teams and not against the opponents.

6. Let your son know that win or lose he is loved and his efforts are appreciated.

7. Respect the coach. Do not coach from the stands. Do not raise concerns with the coach before or after a contest. (This is not a time when issues can be resolved.)

8. Communicate appropriately. If you son has a concern, he should be the first person to speak with the team captain or a coach. If this conversation does not resolve the problem, the parent and/or student athlete should meet with the Head Coach together. The subsequent line of communication is the Athletic Director, the Division Director, and then the Head of School.

9. Keep things in perspective. As a general rule, if you have a concern, please wait twenty-four hours before suggesting that your son meet with the Head Coach.

10. Expect your son to conduct himself in a way that brings honor to himself and University School.

---

1. Do your homework each evening and prepare for papers and major assignments.

2. Conduct yourself with good sportsmanship. Follow the rules of the game. Respect your teammates, your opponents, the coaching staff, and the officials.

3. Follow all school rules. At all practices, competitions, and team trips, school rules apply. Do not smoke, chew tobacco, drink, or take drugs.

4. Be available for all practices and competitions and arrive on time with the appropriate equipment.

5. Be “coachable.” Arrive to practice with a willingness to learn, to contribute to the team’s goals, and to do your best.

6. Be a supportive teammate. Align your own ambitions with those of the team, and look to the team first and yourself second. Remain positive and competitive regardless of the amount of playing time, your own performance, or the score.

7. Communicate with teammates and coaches. If you have a problem or concern, do not sit on it, but speak with the team captain or a coach.

8. If you have a concern that remains unresolved after a conversation with the team captain or a coach, please follow or have your parent follow the appropriate line of communication: the Head Coach, the Athletic Director, Division Director, Head of School.

9. Conduct yourself in a way that brings honor to yourself and University School.