



TATE'S SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK  
GO TIGERS!



## **Mission Statement:**

Tate's School is committed to excellence in athletics as part of a larger commitment to excellence in education. The guiding principle of our participation in elementary and junior varsity athletics is our belief in the educational value for our students.

Tate's School values the lessons that can be taught by athletic participation: the pursuit of excellence through personal development and teamwork, responsible behavior on the field or court, embracing self-discipline & leadership, and displaying strength of character and sportsmanship – respect for one's opponents, acceptance of victory with humility, and acknowledgment of defeat with grace. All of these lessons will lead students to better and healthier lives.

Athletics also plays an important role in building community through the engagement of students, faculty, parents, and alumni. Athletic teams have the potential to generate unique excitement across the campus and the community, build school loyalty in a healthy manner, and give our school community members another reason to be proud to represent Tate's School.

Our mission also requires that Tate's athletes be students first, held to the same high academic standards as all students. The mission of the athletics program ultimately is that of Tate's School itself: "...to promote academic excellence, assist in their intellectual development, and mentor them in their moral evolution to the point that they are capable of becoming successful, productive, accountable young men and women of sound character and reputation."

## **Dear Parents and Student Athletes**

Welcome to the Tate's School athletic program! We are pleased that you have chosen to participate in a sport. Sports play a valuable role in the educational process and we hope you enjoy your team participation. We provide a safe, professional, and nurturing environment in all our sports. This handbook has been developed to inform you, the students and parent(s), of specific policies and rules for the athletic programs at Tate's. Please read all the materials in this handbook carefully. Parent(s) and students must sign the codes of conduct and turn them into the coach in order to participate in practices or games. Throughout this handbook you'll notice references to your "student-athlete", rather than your "athlete" because we believe that your children are students first, and athletic participation supports discipline and learning.

On behalf of all the coaches and staff, we thank you in advance for your support of Tate's School's athletic program. We appreciate your efforts to help make the program successful and as fun as possible. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kaye Simmons, Principal and Andrew Horn, Athletic Director

### **Middle and Elementary School Athletics:**

At this level, our goal is to lay an athletic foundation with quality skill development. The philosophy at this level is for all athletes to play on game day in order to further develop skills with the understanding that playing time may not always be equal. The focus is striving for excellence in practice and games. For some sports, due to the size of teams, cuts will have to be made. It is the goal of our school program to give as many athletes as possible an opportunity to compete, but we understand that in some sports not everyone can make the team.

## **Sportsmanship:**

At Tate's, the way you conduct yourself during practice, at a competitive event, and after a competition is as important as winning or losing. Judgment calls - by coaches and officials - are made in good faith and should be respected. Spectators should support both of the teams by refraining from derogatory or demeaning comments. Positive values like respect, self-control, and kindness do not undermine Tate's focus on winning or fostering a competitive intensity second to none. We appreciate your commitment as athletes, administrators, parents, coaches and students in exemplifying these values at every athletic event. Student athletes are expected to be dressed appropriately (shirts must be worn at all times). Proper language must be used in practice and games. It is important athletes represent Tate's on and off the court/field (including social media). Discipline will be taken for athletes not abiding by these rules. Tate's Athletic Department will not tolerate any inappropriate behavior or unsportsmanlike conduct by ANY of its participants, including spectators, coaches, athletes, or students. If a spectator, parent, or student is observed acting inappropriately, the administration expects it to be stopped. If it is not stopped, that spectator may be asked to leave by an official, school personnel, administrator, or police officer.

### **The Fundamentals of Sportsmanship**

1. Gain an appreciation and understanding of the rules of the sports
2. Exercise exemplary conduct at all times
3. Recognize and appreciate skilled performance regardless of affiliation
4. Exhibit respect for contest officials
5. Openly display respect for opponents
6. Display pride in your actions

### **The 24 Hour Rule:**

At Tate's School we ask all parents to wait at least 24 hours before speaking to any coach about matters concerning a student athlete. We ask parents to abide by the following procedure when questioning any Tate's coach:

1. Wait at least 24 hours
2. If at all possible, meet face-to-face
3. Be respectful and courteous
4. If the issue cannot be resolved, a meeting with the parents, coach and Athletic Director will be scheduled.

Appropriate concerns for students and parents to discuss with coaches:

- Athlete's mental and physical treatment
- Suggestions for the athlete's improvement
- Concerns about the athlete's behavior

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Play calling
- Other student athletes

## **General Eligibility Requirements**

### **Grade/Age Requirements:**

Participation in KISL sports is open to any fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student (boy or girl) who meets the school's academic, physical, and disciplinary requirements. Because Tate's participates in a variety of leagues, students will also be subject to any requirements set forth by those leagues.

### **Lifetime Sports Mission Statement:**

We want to expose students in lower grades to sports where there is an emphasis on having fun, learning, and fostering a love of the sport while at the same time exposing them to valuable life skills such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship. There will be limited emphasis on winning placed at this level so we can allow our players to develop their skills in a structured environment.

### **Athletics Examination**

**Tryouts and/or Teams** - Students wishing to play for any school sanctioned activity must provide written documentation of a recent physical examination. Sport physicals must be completed after June 1st for the upcoming school year. Sport physical forms can be obtained in the school office or the athletic office and must be on file in the athletic office prior to the first game of the season.

**Medical Return to Play**—Any student who has an injury that requires a visit to the emergency room or physician will not be allowed to return to play without a note from a licensed physician. Any student who misses three (3) or more days of practice and/or games due to injury must bring a note from a licensed physician in order to return to play. A note from a parent will not be accepted.

**Participation Limit:** Students may participate on only one school sponsored team at a time. Exceptions may be considered if request is made in writing to the Athletic Director before tryouts if accommodations can be made with practices and games. Students must have the athletic director's express consent to participate in a

sport before their previous sport concludes. Quitting a team does not allow circumvention of this rule.

**School Attendance Policy:** Students must be at school at least one-half day to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities after school. Students must stay until or arrive before 11:30 a.m.

**Discipline Policies:** Any student receiving an in-school suspension, (ISS), or out of school suspension (OSS) is also suspended from participating in practices and games, or any related activities, for the duration of the suspension.

**Athletic Fee:** There shall be an athletic fee per student per sport for all students participating in the Tate's Athletic Program. The Athletic Director will collect the fees. The fees will be used to pay for equipment, uniforms, league fees, and officials.

**Tryouts:** Tate's students will receive a copy of the Tate's Athletic Handbook, which outlines the program and parent/student expectations and opportunities. Before a student can participate in sports at Tate's, the following **MUST BE COMPLETED:**

- The form at the end of the handbook must be signed by the participating student and parent, and returned to the Athletic Director.
- Coaches may send a letter stating the expectations they have for the students on a particular team. These must be signed by the participating student and parent and returned to the Athletic Director.
- Parent information meetings may be scheduled prior to tryouts for any given team. When scheduled, attendance at the meeting is required. Failure to attend this meeting may result in the student not being permitted to try out for the team.

#### **Required Parent Meetings:**

Parent information meetings may be scheduled prior to tryouts for any given team. When scheduled, attendance at the meeting is required. Failure to attend this meeting may result in the student not being permitted to try out.

#### **Academic Athletic Eligibility Policy**

All student athletes must maintain a 'C' (77%) average or better in each subject including conduct. After the team roster is selected, student athlete grades will be evaluated. the following will apply:

- Any student with a deficiency (grade below “C”/77%) will be placed on immediate playing probation.
- Any student without a deficiency will have his/her grades evaluated at each interim and at the end of each grading period during the sports season. Any deficiencies will result in the following:

#### Level 1 – “Playing Probation”

When a student athlete’s grades are evaluated at the specified times and a deficiency is found, the student is placed on playing probation until the next scheduled check, the following week. The grades for the 4th grading period from the previous year will be evaluated for students trying out for fall sports. Playing probation means:

- A weekly “check-in” with the Principal will be required on each Thursday. Students will be given a grade sheet that must be completed by all teachers on Friday and turned in to the Principal at the end of the day. Failure to comply with this step may result in immediate dismissal from the team.
- The student may practice and play.
- The parent has the option of limiting the student’s participation.
- This serves as notice to the student and parents that special attention may need to be given by the student to his/her academics.
- The student has 2 weeks to return to normal status.

#### Level 2 – “Non-playing probation”

When a student’s grade sheet is evaluated at the specified times and a deficiency is found, the student is placed on non-playing probation. Non-playing probation means:

- Once the non-playing probation becomes effective, the student may not practice or play while on non-playing probation.
- The student’s eligibility is evaluated on a weekly basis. A weekly check-in with the Principal is required on Thursday. The student will be given a grade sheet that must be completed and signed by all teachers on Friday and turned into the Principal at the end of the day. Failure to comply may result in immediate dismissal from the team. If the student has a “C” (77%) or better average in each class, and/or has turned in all assignments for the week, the student may be reinstated to the team.
- If the student does not meet the above requirements, the student remains on non-playing probation for the following week, and the above procedure is repeated. The student may be reinstated at the end of any week until the next specified evaluation time.



- Even if a student is reinstated at the end of a given week, the student's grades will be checked at the end of each week as stated above. Failure to maintain the grade/homework requirement will result in the student returning to non-playing probation for the following week.
- This procedure is repeated until the next specified grade check. Failure to comply with the grade requirement at that time will result in the student being removed from the team. •
- A student may not sit with the team or be in the locker room during games when suspended from participation.

### Level 3 – “Permanent Removal”

When a student's grades are evaluated at any other specified interval for the remainder of that sport's season and a grade is below a “C” (77%) average, the student is removed from the team permanently. Permanent removal means:

- Student removed from current team or any team related activities for the remainder of the season.
- Student may not play or practice with the team.
- Student may not sit with the team during games or be in the locker room with the team during games.
- Student does not appear in team pictures. The Athletic Director will notify students and parents of deficiencies in students. The effective dates of the probation or removal will be given in the letter.

Each student athlete is evaluated on an individual basis. The Athletic Director and Principal can make exceptions when they believe that probation is not in the best interest of the student athlete. All appeals should be made in writing to the Principal. Please remember that this policy is made in order to insure that student athletes are given the most support in meeting their academic responsibilities. The Athletic Department gathers input from a team of teachers to determine exceptions based on the specific needs of the student athlete. Please help your child understand that the time of ineligibility is to be used in a beneficial manner so that the student athlete will be able to bring up his/her grade.

### **Responsibility of the Coach/Supervisor**

- Treat opponents and officials with respect.
- Respect the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the officials.
- Display good sportsmanship, always maintaining poise and self-control.
- Refrain from displays of temper.

- Teach fair play and sportsmanship, and how to play hard without using unethical practices.
- Present one's self in a respectful, qualified, and competent manner.
- Follow all school policies regarding the supervision of students.
- Abide by all rules and regulations set up by Tate's.
- Be a good representative in any leagues in which school participates.
- Discipline and if necessary dismiss players who display unsportsmanlike behavior (with permission of Athletic Director).
- Know he/she is a teacher and understands the athletic arena is a classroom.
- Use the gym only during scheduled times. All gym-use requests must be made with the Athletic Director.
- Refrain from using profane language.
- Congratulate opposing coach in a sincere way following either victory or defeat.

### **Athlete's Code of Conduct**

As a student/athlete representing Tate's School, you carry a huge responsibility to act in a way that will bring pride to the school, your team and your family. In as such, the following are guidelines of expected behavior. By signing at the bottom, after reading, you agree to abide by these standards of behavior set forth by Tate's School with the understanding that these rules can be modified or changed by the coaches and administration at any time.

1. I agree to respect and care for the equipment I am issued and agree to do the best I can to return it at the end of the season in good condition.
2. I agree to respect those in authority, including the coaches, administrator, custodians, teachers, and adult officials from other schools.
3. I agree to practice good sportsmanship before, during, and after contests, recognizing the talents and efforts of my opponents and game officials.
  - a. I agree to congratulate my opponent on his/her effort.
  - b. I agree to not argue with calls made by officials.
  - c. I agree to practice self-control at all times, including no fighting or taunting or other negative behavior including social media which would bring disrespect to my team and school.
4. I agree to leave the facility I am visiting in better condition than when I arrived. This means not damaging or vandalizing school property, stealing, or leaving trash behind.
5. I agree to represent my team and my school with pride by following the agreed upon dress code on game days – at school and to/from contests.
6. I agree to represent my team and my school by displaying excellence of character when visiting a restaurant with the team.

7. I agree to encourage and remind my teammates of expected behavior and to correct it when necessary. He/she is representing the program of which I am proud to be a part.
8. I agree to attempt to resolve conflicts and concerns with my coaches before asking my parents to get involved. I understand that a part of the lesson I am learning through participation in sports is that I have responsibility for my actions and for learning how to handle adverse situations.

### **Parent's/Guardian's Code of Conduct**

As a parent of a student/athlete representing Tate's School, it is expected that you model behavior conducive to good sportsmanship, and demonstrate behavior that will not embarrass the school, your child, or yourself. By signing below, after reading, you agree to abide by these standards of behavior set forth by the district with the understanding that these rules can be modified or changed by the coaches and administration at any time.

1. I agree to applaud the effort of all players on both teams.
2. I agree to cheer FOR our team and NOT against another team.
3. I agree that officiating is a difficult, thankless task, and that officials are doing the best they can to be fair to both teams and accept their decisions.
4. I agree not to taunt players, officials, coaches or fans before, during, or following a competition.
5. I agree to help control unacceptable behavior of spectators by reminding them that it is ok to cheer for our team, but it's inappropriate to cheer against another.
6. I agree to support the goals of sportsmanship and help bring pride and respect to my son/daughter and the school they are representing.
7. I agree to support my son/daughter's role on the team, even if I don't understand his/her position on the depth chart. If I (or my child) have concerns, I will direct my son/daughter to approach the coach at an appropriate time to discuss our concerns. If I feel it necessary to meet with the coach, I will set up an appointment with the coach, but will not harass or verbally assault the coach.
8. I agree to encourage my son/daughter to resolve conflicts or concerns with their coaches before asking for my help. I understand that one of the lessons they will learn through participation in sports is to take responsibility for their own actions and learn how to handle adverse situations.
9. I agree that if I attend practice/games, I will be a respectful spectator and will not attempt to coach.
10. I understand that any school event that is photographed and/or videoed is for personal viewing only. These photos and/or videos are not to be published or

shown in public without the permission of the school and all of the individuals in the photos and/or videos.

Revised July 2023

# TATE'S SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK STUDENT ATHLETE PLEDGE

I commit myself to service to this school, and agree to be bound by the principles, policies, and procedures contained in this handbook.

Student Athlete Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Coach Horn



# Tate's School Sports Physical

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First MI.*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Section: Please review all the questions with your child and answer to the best of your knowledge.  
Circle Y for YES or N for NO

1. Y N Are you currently under a doctor's care?  
If so who? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Y N Any chronic or recurrent illness? (diabetes, asthma, ulcer)
3. Y N Any hospitalizations?
4. Y N Any illness requiring bed rest of one week or longer?
5. Y N Any surgery?
6. Y N Any surgery advised and not taken?
7. Y N Presently taking any medications?
8. Y N Allergic to any medications? If so, please list: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Y N Allergic to any foods or insects?
10. Ever had any of the following symptoms of heart problems?
  - Y N Chest pains
  - Y N High blood pressure
  - Y N Heart murmur
11. Y N Have you had a close relative under 40 die of heart disease?
12. Y N Any dizziness, fainting, convulsions, or frequent headaches?
13. Y N Ever been "knocked out" or had a concussion?
14. Y N Do you ever wear eyeglasses or contact lenses?
15. Y N Any serious eye injuries?
16. Y N Wear any dental appliance? (braces, retainer, bridge, plates)  
Ever had mononucleosis? If so, month and year: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Y N \_\_\_\_\_
18. Y N Any history of enlarged spleen or liver?
19. Y N Any organ missing other than tonsils? (appendix, eye, kidney, etc.)
20. Y N Any history of collapsed lung or tuberculosis?
21. Y N Any rash or athlete's foot?
22. Y N Any knee injury?
23. Y N Any ankle injury?
24. Y N Any neck injury?
25. Y N Any other joint sprains or dislocations? (shoulder, wrist, finger)
26. Y N Any broken bones or fractures?
27. Y N Any back injuries?
28. Y N Any know reason why you should not participate?
29. Do you use any of the following products?
  - Y N Tobacco (cigarettes, smokeless)
  - Y N Alcohol
  - Y N Other drugs
  - Y N Steroids

# Tate's School Sports Physical

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Section (continued)**

**Please describe any "YES" answers in detail in the space provided below. Please enter the question number before each comment.**

**Please read carefully and sign:**

**All statements answered in this record are true to the best of my knowledge. I have no abnormality, limitations or restrictions not mentioned in this record. I understand that this information is used to help determine my fitness to participate in athletics.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

# Tate's School Sports Physical

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Blood Pressure: \_\_\_\_\_

Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Pulse: \_\_\_\_\_

### Orthopedic Examination

	Normal	Abnormal	(Explain)
Spine: _____	_____	_____	
Shoulders: _____	_____	_____	
Arms/Elbows/Wrists/Hands: _____	_____	_____	
Knees: _____	_____	_____	
Ankles/Feet: _____	_____	_____	
Strength: _____	_____	_____	
Flexibility: _____	_____	_____	

### Physical Examination

	Normal	Abnormal	(Explain)
ENT/Cervical Nodes _____	_____	_____	
Chest/Lungs _____	_____	_____	
Abdomen/Hernia _____	_____	_____	
Other: _____	_____	_____	



**Recommendations**

**Unlimited to sports** \_\_\_\_\_

**Limited to specific sports: (List)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deferred until:**

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(Rehab, re-check, consultation, lab, etc.)

**Additional Comments:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_