



Tribe Athletics

**Parent Handbook &
Code of Conduct
2024 - 2025**

Tribe Athletics

Athletic Year 2024 - 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to the 2024 - 2025 athletic season!

Our mission and purpose are simple. The purpose of Tribe is to provide a Christian-based, competitive sports program that promotes the spiritual and physical health of our athletes both on and off the field. Tribe desires for Christ to be honored and glorified in the lives of our coaches, families, and athletes through our thoughts, words, and actions. Tribe is a competitive sports organization that adheres to Christian values.

The livelihood of Tribe is built on students' participation and performance. Equally important, Tribe is built on the countless hours and time given by our coaches, parents, and volunteers. The organization is rooted in the premise that athletes are students first and secondly, competitors.

Every sports program is founded on rules. These rules include rules of the game and rules that govern the program itself. Playing for Tribe is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, we rely on parents and athletes to adhere to principles while representing the organization. In addition to signing an acknowledgement at the end of this document, you will also be required to sign additional documents upon registration.

We look forward to working with you this athletic season to ensure our greatest year yet.

Respectfully,

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Parent-Coach Relationships

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between head coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know and understand the expectations placed on them and their student athlete. Head coaches have the right to know that if parents have a concern that it will be discussed with the head coach at the appropriate time and place.

Communication parents should expect from their student athlete's head coach:

- 1) Coach's philosophy.
- 2) Expectations the coach has for your student athlete as well as other players on the team.
- 3) Locations and times of practices and contests either directly from the coach or his/her designee.
- 4) Team requirements, such as team rules, attendance, off-season expectations, and more.
- 5) Procedures that will be followed if your student athlete becomes injured during participation.

Communication coaches expect from parents:

- 1) Concerns regarding their son or daughter expressed directly to the coach at the appropriate time and place.
- 2) Specific concerns in regard to the coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
- 3) Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.

It's important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way you or your student athlete wishes. These are the times discussion with the head coach is encouraged. **Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach:**

- 1) The mental and physical treatment of your child.
- 2) What your child needs to do to improve.
- 3) Concerns about your child's behavior.
- 4) Your student athlete's health and physical well-being.
- 5) Concerns related to the team's assistant coaches, team parent, and/or on-going team volunteers.

It is often difficult to accept your student athlete is not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make decisions based on what they believe is in the best interests of all students participating. As you can see from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach. **Issues NOT appropriate for discussion with your student athlete's coaches:**

- 1) How much playing time each athlete is getting.
- 2) Team strategy.
- 3) Play calling.
- 4) Any situation that deals with other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the head coach and parent. These are not discouraged as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these

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conferences are necessary, the following procedure is suggested to help promote resolution to the issue. **If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the following procedure should be followed:**

- 1) Call or email the head coach to set up an appointment.
- 2) If the head coach cannot be reached, call or email the Athletic Director and ask him to set up a meeting.
- 3) Think about what you expect to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
- 4) Commit to discussing the facts as you understand them.
- 5) Do not confront the head coach or any coaches before, during, or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coaches. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution of the situation, but often escalate it.

Information in this document is provided by the Iowa Athletic Council.

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Parents as Spectators

The following guidelines are those parents, family members, and other guests of yours shall adhere to while attending a Tribe Warriors competition, game, contest, or event.

- ★ Your first priority at any event is to support your student athlete, his/her teammates, and coaches. Be positive in your words, deeds, and actions.
- ★ Your student athlete and his/her teammates are learning the game and developing their skills. Encourage student athletes, and do not berate, criticize, or belittle their efforts, talents, and abilities.
- ★ Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, their families, and fans.
- ★ Refrain from using alcohol, drugs, or any illegal substances before, while attending, or near the premises of any event or competition.
- ★ Refrain from vaping while attending or near the premises of any event or competition.
- ★ Recognize outstanding athletic performance by any player on the field with appropriate cheers.
- ★ Refrain from offensive, vulgar, or inappropriate conversations, cheers, or chants while attending any event or competition.
- ★ Attending a Tribe event is a privilege and not a right. Any spectator is expected to conduct him or herself in a manner that is honorable.
- ★ All money collected at the gate or concession stand at a Tribe hosted event is for the benefit of our student athletes. Your support is appreciated.
- ★ Purchasing spirit gear is also greatly appreciated. Refrain from taking the organization's logo and using it to make your personal spirit shirt, jersey, cap, or any other item. This is a violation of the organization's policy.
- ★ Always remember you are a guest of the organization at any competition and event.

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Parent Code of Conduct

We believe parents hold the most vital role in the life of their student athlete. Your conduct, speech, and character all impact your influence over your student athlete. Therefore, be a positive role model for your student athlete and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Thus, all parents have a duty to five fundamental tenets in Tribe: integrity, honesty, respect, caring, and responsibility.

Integrity: Set the example of doing what is right even when no one is observing. Encourage victory with honor and above reproach. Model good character before, during, and after the game. Walk away from situations that will bring dishonor to you, your student athlete, your family, and Tribe.

Honesty: A Warrior does not lie, cheat, steal, engage in or encourage dishonest behavior. Speak up and make known any dishonest behaviors, unethical practices, or illegal acts conducted by student athletes, coaches, volunteers, or other parents as they compete for and represent Tribe.

Respect: Treat all people with respect at all times. Expect that your student athlete does the same. Respect referees, coaches, opposing coaches, all athletes and their families, and the game. Maintain professional relationships with all persons associated with Tribe.

Caring: Consistently encourage your student athlete into caring for his or her teammates. Care for your student athlete's successes, failures, health, and overall well being. Do not engage in acts or speak words that belittle, embarrass, or shame your student athlete.

Responsibility: Set the standard for maintaining a right relationship with Christ. Model socially responsible behavior and conduct. Encourage your student athlete to strive for a right relationship with Christ, academic success, and good sportsmanship.

I have read and understood the five tenets that serve as fundamental principles of the Code of Conduct for Tribe Warriors parents. I will, to the best of my ability, seek to exhibit these principles in accordance with the organization. If, at any point in my affiliation with Tribe, I fail to adhere to these principles, then I will seek to immediately correct my behavior, attitude, and actions. Additionally, I have read and accept the guidelines set forth in this Parent Handbook.

Parents' Printed Name(s)

Parents' Signature(s)

Date Signed

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Tribe Warriors: Top FAQs

Are the age requirements flexible?

No. If you are younger than 10 or older than 18 on April 30th of the current year, you are not eligible to play. Players must be at least 11 years old to participate in junior high football.

What is your refund policy?

The deposit that is required to hold your student athlete's spot on the team is never refundable. However, sports fees are refundable if the athlete withdraws before the season starts. The Tribe Membership Fee is non-refundable.

Why do you have priority enrollment?

Current Tribe families are given the opportunity to register for sports a few days before registration is opened up to new families. This is done as an effort to ensure returning players have a spot on the team, which is especially important for seniors who might not get another chance to play before graduating.

Why do you have a waitlist for some sports?

Each sport has a maximum roster size set at the beginning of the season. This helps allow more potential playing time per athlete and also helps keep our coaches from getting overwhelmed. Any athletes above the maximum number are put on a waiting list in case someone on the roster withdraws before the season starts.

What do my sports fees cover?

Tribe operates solely on a volunteer basis (no one is paid), so every dollar brought in is spent on operational expenses. Expenses for most programs will include costs for facilities, uniforms, equipment, tournament fees, TAIABO membership fees, and referees. There are also administrative expenses for the whole organization, i.e. insurance, registration, etc. The sports fees charged by Tribe to our families are not enough to cover all of these costs though. This is why we also rely on sponsors and donations in order to cover the remaining expenses and keep costs as low as possible for parents.

Is my athlete guaranteed playing time if they are on the team?

No. Tribe is not a "pay to play" organization. Tribe's aim is to be a competitive organization. Therefore, playing time in games is determined by the head coach at his or her own discretion. Coaches' decisions regarding an athlete's playing time should be based on a few factors, however. One is ability. All team members are given the same amount of coaching during practices, but these are competitive sports and the players with greater ability will be the starters. A second factor is seniority - returning players will usually be given more play time since they have invested more time on the team. Attendance and attitude also play a role. New athletes are encouraged to do their best, stay committed, and enjoy being part of the team while they earn their playing time at practice.

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What additional expenses could I incur?

Each athlete is responsible for their travel to and from games. This also includes hotel fees if a player and his/her family opt to spend the night somewhere. All sporting events in TAI AO and most events in Tribe have entry fees. Players and their families are responsible for costs of meals if they choose to join the team before or after an event. Additionally, there are special events (i.e. awards programs, sports banquet, etc.) that an athlete and his/her family may opt to participate in and could incur a cost or fee for this.

What do I do if I have a complaint or grievance about a coach and/or program?

The coach is responsible for handling any problems on his team. Please do not intervene, undermine, or confront Tribe coaches in matters regarding differences in coaching preferences or styles. However, if you have a complaint or grievance about a coach or program, please email the Athletic Director detailing the situation at AD@tribeathletics.org. The Athletic Director will assess how to resolve the issue.

Do I get to keep my athlete's uniform at the end of the season?

No. All athletes must turn in their uniforms at the end of the last game of the season. If an athlete's uniform is unaccounted for at the end of the season, then a hold will be placed on that athlete's account and they, nor any siblings, will not be able to register for another sport or program until the uniform is returned.

May I create my own t-shirt, social media account, or anything else using Tribe's name and/or logo?

You may create signs, shirts and other promotional materials so long as you do not sell them for a profit. If you are interested in raising money for Tribe through promotional material please contact the Athletic Director for approval.

How do I support Tribe?

In addition to volunteer and prayer support for Tribe's athletes, coaches, and leaders, you can support Tribe financially via the "Donate" page on our website.

How do I get involved?

If you are looking to become a volunteer, go to the "Volunteer" page on our website and click on the Committee name(s) you'd like to join (you may also click on the Chairman name). You'll be able to email the Chairman directly and they will let you know how you can help. If you are interested in being a Chairman for one of the committees that doesn't currently have a Chairman, please email ad@tribeathletics.org. If you are looking to become a coach, you may email ad@tribeathletics.org about becoming a coach and the Athletic Director will follow up with you.