

Kazakhstan International School

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026





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Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the KIS Administration and the KIS Athletic Department, it is our pleasure to welcome you to another exciting year of KIS Wolves Athletics!

The purpose of this handbook is to help student-athletes and their families understand the procedures, policies, guidelines, responsibilities, and expectations for participating in KIS athletics. Clear communication and shared expectations are essential for a successful and rewarding experience.

The KIS athletic program continues to grow in strength and reputation, with our teams consistently competing at a high level within our school leagues and regional competitions. We remain deeply committed to co-curricular athletics because we believe sport provides students with powerful opportunities to develop and demonstrate essential values such as fair play, cooperation, leadership, teamwork, and resilience. Our program is designed to challenge students to strive for excellence while ensuring that integrity, respect, and sportsmanship remain at the forefront of all we do.

KIS proudly competes in Confederation of Almaty Schools and Head Teachers (COASH) and the Central Asia Federation of Athletics, Activities, and Arts (CAFA), and maintains associate membership with the Central & Eastern European Schools Association (CEESA). These affiliations provide our student-athletes with meaningful opportunities to compete locally and internationally in positive, well-structured, and highly competitive environments.

As we embark on this new school year, we are excited to continue building on our successes and look forward to working with you to create a competitive and spirited athletics program that we can all be proud of. GO WOLVES!

Sincerely,

Butch Koltai-Athletic Director



SECTION A: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1.0 KIS - Mission Statement

The KIS community nurtures a growth mindset through a holistic education that connects cultures.

2.0 KIS – Core Values

At KIS we value the following:

- **WE VALUE LEARNING.**
 - Knowing how to learn is key to success in one's life; learning takes place not only in academics, but also in relationships, self-development and general wellness.
- **WE VALUE SAFETY**
 - In order to learn, people must be in a physically and psychologically safe environment.
- **WE VALUE DIGNITY**
 - all people have dignity and deserve to be treated with respect.
- **WE VALUE DIVERSITY**
 - All people can learn and all learners learn differently.
 - We believe there are different ways to be “right”.
- **WE VALUE RESILIENCE**
 - setbacks and mistakes are learning opportunities in all areas of learning.
- **WE VALUE RELATIONSHIPS**
 - when trust is broken, it must be repaired.

3.0 KIS Athletic Department – Mission Statement

KIS athletics supports the mission statement of the school and contributes to the overall educational program. The KIS athletic department will provide competitive athletic opportunities to as many students as possible, believing participation in athletics will enhance the development of the overall student.

KIS athletics strives for broad participation and competitive excellence, while encouraging the highest levels of fair play.



The KIS Athletic Department believes the welfare of each student is our primary concern – academically, physically and emotionally.

4.0 KIS Athletic Department – Philosophy Statement

The KIS Athletic Department strives to create and maintain an environment conducive to the academic and athletic growth of each student based upon the guidelines emphasized:

- a) The KIS Athletic Department will offer a number of sporting opportunities enhancing the educational development of each student. The experiences gained through athletic participation will aid in the development of favorable approaches to learning (ATL's), habits and attitudes.
- b) The students who participate in athletics at KIS will learn valuable lifelong lessons in sportsmanship, teamwork, collaboration, resilience, and competition, all of which are integral parts of each athletic team's goals.
- c) KIS athletics will play an important role in helping each student develop a healthy self concept and a healthy mind and body.

5.0 KIS Statement of Fair Play

The purpose of the KIS Athletic Department is to provide opportunities for students to compete in a safe, challenging, educational and professional environment. Students will be provided opportunities to showcase their talents while maintaining a spirit of respect and cooperation with fellow athletes, coaches and officials.

Each event includes students and adults in various roles; athletes, coaches, officials, spectators. Everyone involved must uphold the spirit of fair play. This spirit is upheld by athletes demonstrating respect for fellow competitors, coaches providing positive comments and encouragement, officials offering impartial judgment during contests, spectators showing respectful enthusiasm.

Adults act as role models for our athletes. Therefore, profanity, deliberately distracting noises to interfere with the performance of a competing athlete, the verbal or gesturing condemnation of



coaches or officials, or any behavior that is disrespectful or degrading to KIS Athletic Department's mission statement and philosophy jeopardizes the quality of experience for the athletes.

Finally, the KIS Athletic Department asks all athletes, coaches, officials, parents and spectators to demonstrate fair play and be mindful of their actions during athletic contests.

SECTION B: PERSONNEL

6.0 KIS Athletic Department 2025-2026

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SECTION C: ACADEMICS

7.0 Academic Eligibility

7.1 KIS student-athletes are responsible for maintaining good academic standing while participating in athletics.

7.2 KIS student-athletes are required to speak directly to their teachers prior to missing school for an event. When students will be absent for a number of days due, they are required to complete a planned absence form.

7.3 KIS student-athletes must meet the following eligibility criteria in order to participate in athletics:

- Students will be eligible to participate and travel if they maintain good academic standing.

- Good academic standing is defined as:

- a. Maintaining a grade of 4 or higher in each of their subjects



- b. Fulfilling KIS attendance standards - This requires a minimum of 90% attendance in all classes and in the homeroom.
- c. Setting high standards of personal behavior that are in-line with the KIS School Mission, Vision and Values.

7.4 Any student-athlete who is not in good academic, attendance or behavioral standing will be subject to review which could lead to participation withdrawal.

8.0 The Student Athlete's Academic Responsibility

Each KIS student-athlete must take responsibility for communicating with their teachers regarding scheduled contests. Each student-athlete is responsible for making sure all homework and assignments are collected and that missed work is completed.

SECTION D: SPORT PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

9.0 School Attendance, Training Attendance and Physical Exam

Attendance at school is mandatory to participate in any Athletics practice or game. Students must attend all classes and daily homeroom and be on time to be eligible to train or participate in an event on that day. Those who are not present in their classes for part of the school day or the entire school day, including daily homeroom, may not be allowed to take part in practices or games. In addition, students must be present at school for the entire week leading up to a CAFA event. Those who are not present in their classes for the entire week in the lead up to a CAFA Event, including daily homeroom, will not be allowed to participate in that said CAFA Tournament.

If a student misses a practice or is late to practice for more than three training sessions without prior communication, they may be at risk of exclusion from the season. Acceptable reasons for missing practice include academic obligations with a KIS teacher or illness. Students must communicate in advance to their coaches if they are unable to attend practice due to these



reasons; otherwise, the absence will be recorded as a missed practice.

All student-athletes must have a completed **KIS Athletics Participation & Consent Form** on file prior to participating in any KIS athletic practices, training sessions, scrimmages, trips, or competitions. This form is completed **electronically** by a parent/guardian and includes medical consent, assumption of risk, code of conduct agreement, eligibility expectations, and financial responsibility for uniforms and travel.

Students who do not have a completed and approved Participation & Consent Form on file will **not be permitted to participate** in any KIS athletic activities, including practices and COASH/CAFA competitions, until the form is properly submitted and verified by the Athletic Department.

10.0 Athletic Participation and Assumption of Risk

As with all physical activity, participation in athletics at Kazakhstan International School involves an inherent risk of injury. Prior to the first day of participation in any athletic season, a parent or guardian must complete the electronic KIS Athletics Participation & Consent Form mentioned above, which includes medical consent, assumption of risk, **and acknowledgment of financial responsibility for medical care.**

11.0 KIS Sports/Activities Offered by for Season- Middle School Teams

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Spring Sports</u>
Football	Skiing	Volleyball
Cross Country	Basketball	

*MUN, Drama, Band and Debate will also be on offer throughout the year

12.0 Eligibility for Middle School Teams

Eligibility for Middle School athletic teams is determined by the policies of COASH and by



the KIS Athletic Department and school policy. All student-athletes wanting to participate in the Middle School Athletic Division must be under 13 years of age on August 1st of the current school year and be a student in good standing within KIS's middle school program (Grades 6-8).

13.0 KIS Sports/Activities Offered by Season- Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams

<u>Fall Sports</u>	<u>Winter Sports</u>	<u>Spring Sports</u>
Football	Skiing (JV G8 Only)	Volleyball
Cross Country	Basketball	

*MUN, Drama, Band and Debate will also be on offer throughout the year

14.0 Eligibility for Junior Varsity Teams

Eligibility for KIS Junior Varsity athletic teams is determined by the policies of the athletic conference we hold membership with, CAFA/COASH and by the KIS Athletic Department and school policy. All student-athletes wanting to participate in the Junior Varsity division must be under 15 years of age on August 1st of the current school year. Students who are age-eligible for the Junior Varsity Team are not permitted to sign up for the Varsity Team.

15.0 Eligibility for Varsity Teams

Eligibility for KIS Varsity athletic teams is determined by the policies of the athletic conference we hold membership with, CAFA/COASH and by the KIS Athletic Department and school policy. All student-athletes wanting to participate in the Varsity division must be under 19 years of age on August 1st of the current school year.

15.1 Varsity Designation Attendance Requirement

Varsity designation at Kazakhstan International School reflects not only athletic ability, but also



commitment, reliability, and contribution to the team across the full season.

To be awarded Varsity status at the end of the season, a student-athlete must meet the following attendance requirement:

- A minimum of 90% attendance at all scheduled team practices and competitions for that sport season.

Attendance may be excused for:

- Verified illness
- School-approved academic obligations
- School-sanctioned activities

Failure to meet the 90% Varsity attendance threshold may result in:

- Ineligibility for Varsity designation
 - Ineligibility for Varsity awards
- Exclusion from Varsity recognition and honors, even if selected for limited competition play

Varsity recognition is earned through consistent commitment over time, not single performances.

16.0 CAFA Events for the 2025/26 School Year

As a proud full member of the Central Asia Federation of Athletics, Activities, and Arts (CAFA), KIS is committed to participating in a variety of high-quality competitions that offer our student-athletes the opportunity to compete against top schools in the region. Below are the CAFA events that KIS will be attending during the 2025-2026 school year:

Central Asian Soccer Classic (CASC):

JV (U15) – October 30 - November 1, 2025, at Tashkent International School, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



Varsity (U19) –October 30 - November 1, 2025 , at Tien Shan, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Central Asian Basketball Classic (CABC):

JV (U15) - February 5- 7, 2026, at QSI Almaty International School, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Varsity (U19) - February 12- 14, 2026 at QSI Astana International School, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Model United Nations (MUN):

April 3-4, 2026, hosted by Kazakhstan International School (KIS), Almaty.

Central Asian Volleyball Classic (CAVC):

JV (U15) & Varsity (U19) – April 16-18, 2026, at Tashkent International School, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

17.0 KIS Athletic Code of Conduct

1. Participation in the KIS athletic program is a privilege. Students who represent KIS must meet high academic, citizenship, and fair play standards.
2. An athlete who quits after being recognized as a team member or is released from a team for disciplinary reasons will have his or her eligibility for all future teams reviewed by the Athletic Director and administration.
3. Athletes may be issued equipment/team kits that they are responsible for and any losses or damages to these will be the responsibility of the student. Team kits issued to the athlete are to be worn or used only when participating in interscholastic contests. Failure to return all equipment/team kits (2 weeks) at the end of the season will result in replacement fees being issued to the student's account.
4. Athletes must commit to be available for travel on the required dates of ALL scheduled games, including local and international tournaments. Additionally, it is expected athletes attend all scheduled practices.
5. Athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as to reflect credit on



themselves, KIS and the school community. Behavior not in compliance with the KIS Student Code of Conduct (Click [here](#) to access this policy) or any behavior not in the best interest of the school/team that occurs during an athletic situation or outside the parameters of a non-athletic situation may constitute grounds for suspension or dismissal from the team, depending on the gravity of the offense.

6. If an athlete does not attend a mandatory curriculum based class trip, they may become ineligible for a sports trip/CAFA tournament if it is taking place in the Almaty Region.
7. Athletes/Parents will incur the cost of travel to a competition whether locally or internationally (airline ticket, visa costs, spending money). Additionally, if KIS purchases airline tickets or/and travel visas on behalf of an athlete, the athlete is responsible for all associated costs regardless of whether travel took place.
8. School suspension results in athletics withdrawal for a time period determined by the Athletic Director and Administration.
9. A student who does not meet the minimum attendance requirements may not be eligible to participate.

SECTION E: OPERATIONS

18.0 Practices

- 18.1 Season schedules and practice times will generally be completed prior to each season, but may be amended when necessary.
- 18.2 Practices take place either at 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM or 4:30 PM. Weekend practices will be discussed with the team in advance.
- 18.3 It is the Athletic Departments expectation that players attend all practices. Any students missing practice and/or are late to practice may become ineligible for future games.

19.0 Cancellation of Practice or Competition



- 19.1 Athletes will be informed of cancellations or changes to games and practices by their coaches at the earliest possible convenience. By using the communication channels that have been shared with the team at the beginning of the season.

20.0 Travel Teams

- 20.1 A travel booklet will be distributed to all student-athletes and parents prior to International team travel. The travel booklet will contain details of the trip including; cost, itinerary, departure/arrival times, emergency phone numbers.
- 20.2 All members of a KIS athletic team are expected to travel and participate in all home and away competitions if selected. If a student-athlete does not intend to travel and participate for any reason, this information must be communicated to the coaches as soon as possible before the competition.

21.0 Transportation – Local and International

21.1 School Bus

- A school representative (teacher, administration or staff member) will accompany the students on the bus.
- KIS approved transportation (bus) will be used at all times.
- Seat belts should be worn by all individuals traveling on approved transportation.
- A positive image and conduct are necessary from all who are traveling to properly represent the school and the KIS community.

21.2 Parental Transportation

- Provided there has been written confirmation from a parent/guardian with the head coach before the student leaves the away competition the student-athlete will be permitted to travel with their family from the away competition.

21.3 International Travel



- Travel to airports will be with KIS school provided transport or host school provided transport.
- For all KIS athletic travel, both **domestic and international**, parents/guardians are required to obtain and pay for a notarized Power of Attorney for Travel authorizing their child to travel with Kazakhstan International School coaches and staff. This document is a legal requirement for airline travel and border control processes in Kazakhstan and must be submitted to the Athletic Department prior to departure.
- Students will not be permitted to travel without a valid Power of Attorney on file. All costs and arrangements related to obtaining this document are the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian.

22.0 Dress Code for Student-Athletes

22.1 On game days and during team travel, student athletes are expected to wear their team uniforms and school hoodie and long pants if necessary, when traveling to the venue. Students will be expected to wear school uniform as per usual on game days during the school's scheduled hours..

23.0 Uniforms

23.1 Uniforms for athletic competition will be issued by the school and a uniform check out forms signed by the athlete.

23.2 Athletes are only to wear uniforms at scheduled competitions.

23.3 Student-athletes will have 2 weeks after their last competition to submit washed uniforms to the athletic director after which time, students will be charged for their uniforms. Uniforms returned in poor condition not related to competition will be the responsibility of the student-athlete to provide money to replace.

- Cost will be based upon market cost to replace plus shipping
- Participation in next season sports will not be permitted until conditions are met



SECTION F: STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARDS

24.0 Student-Athlete Awards

24.1 KIS Wolves Athletics Banquet

There are numerous awards that can be received by a student-athlete at the KIS Wolves Athletics Banquet. Athletic awards for school sponsored athletic teams have a set criterion for their awards. The KIS Wolves 2026 Athletics Banquet will take place towards the end of the academic year with more news to follow regarding the specific date.

Each team will be awarded the following awards (subject to change):

1. **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** - This player has consistently performed at the highest level, demonstrating exceptional skill, leadership, and a positive attitude on and off the field/court. This player has consistently shown up to practice, worked tirelessly for the team, showed good fair play during competitions and practices.
2. **Most Improved Player** - This player has shown the greatest improvement throughout the season, making significant strides in their performance and dedication to the sport.
3. **Coaches Award** - This award goes to a player who exemplifies fair play, teamwork, and dedication, making a significant impact through their attitude and effort. The awardee puts the team first, and clearly demonstrates the coaches goals of the team.

Following the team awards, there will then be some special awards for stand out athletes for their dedication and commitment to the athletics program, with these being as follows:

1. **KIS Wolves Multiple Sports Athlete Award** - This award recognizes students who have participated in all 3 athletics seasons throughout the year, showing versatility and dedication to their teams.
2. **Graduate Athlete Award** - These awards honor our Grade 12 athletes who have shown exceptional dedication and performance in their sports, leaving a lasting legacy for future KIS Wolves to follow.

24.2 Female and Male Athlete of the year



Furthermore, as part of the graduation ceremony for the Grade 12 Students, the following two awards are presented as part of the ceremony:

- 1. Female Athlete of the Year.**
- 2. Male Athlete of the Year.**

The award goes to the male and female student of the graduating class who in the eyes of coaches and activity leaders:

Female/Male

'has shown a degree of high performance in a variety of sports by demonstrating consistent participation whilst personally developing within his/her chosen sport(s); has made a significant and lasting contribution to the sporting programme of KIS; has actively shared their knowledge with others and contributed to sports development throughout the school; has demonstrated fair play in competitive and recreational settings and been sensitive to others regardless of age, gender or ability; has been a positive and influential role model for younger student-athletes'.



Kazakhstan International School Athletic Department

Parent/Student Handbook 2025-2026

Athletic Director: Mr. Butch Koltai

Secondary Principal: Mr. Jeffery Smith

Head of School: Mr. Ole Bernard Sealey