

INNOVATION CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT-ATHLETE

ATHLETICS HANDBOOK

410 East 100 Street
New York, NY 10029
(212) 722-5871

www.innovationhighschool.org

Administration

Steve Falla Riff	Executive Director
Terence Joseph	Principal
Ira Yasbin	Assistant Principal
Tereena Somayya	Director of CCR/CTE

Athletics Department

Dwaine Williamson	Athletic Coordinator/Coach & Player development Email: Dwaine.Williamson@innovationhighschool.org
Andrew Cortazzo	Athletic Coordinator/Administration & Marketing Email: Andrew.Cortazzo@innovationhighschool.org
Vanessa Marrero	Assistant to the Athletic Coordinators Email: Vanessa.Marrero@innovationhighschool.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. PHILOSOPHY	3
B. MISSION STATEMENT	3
C. RATIONALE	3
D. TITLE IX	4
E. AFFILIATIONS	4
F. OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT	5
G. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY	6
H. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:	7
I. AGE/GRADE ELIGIBILITY:	8
J. EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES	8
K. EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES	10
L. COMMUNICATION	
If an athlete and/or parent have concerns regarding any member of the athletics program, please follow the procedure below:	10
M. HAZING POLICY	11
N. BULLYING & HARASSMENT	12
O. PRACTICE	13
P. WEIGHTROOM	14
Q. EJECTION POLICY	14
R. SUSPENSIONS	15
S. STUDY HALL	15
T.. STUDENT CHECK-INS	15
U.. EARLY DISMISSAL	15
V. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT	16
W. RISK OF PHYSICAL INJURY	16
X. INSURANCE	16
Y. PARENTAL PERMISSION AND HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE CARDS	17
Z. PHYSICAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS	17

BB. ATHLETE RE-ENTRY POLICY	17
CC. CRITERIA FOR TEAM SELECTION	18
DD. TEAM CAPTAINS	18
EE. MULTIPLE SPORTS	18
FF. CHANGING SPORTS	18
GG. TRANSPORTATION	18
HH. NCAA REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY	19
II. AWARD CEREMONY	20
JJ. CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM	21
KK. COVID-19 POLICY	21
NN. SIGNATURE REQUIRED	22

Athletics Offered

Sports	Level	Coaches
Boys Baseball	Varsity	Patrick & Chris
Boys Basketball	Varsity	Dwaine & Jason
Boys Basketball	JV	TBD
Girls Basketball	Varsity	Tina & Melissa
Boys Flag football	Varsity	Ahmed
Girls Flag football	Varsity	Dwaine
Boys Soccer	Varsity	Luke &
Girls Soccer	Varsity	Andrew &
Girls Softball	Varsity	TBD
Track and field	Varsity	Mia &
Girls Volleyball	Varsity	Diana & Chris

A. PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Athletics Department is to utilize sports and a love for competition to promote the values of education, sportsmanship, teamwork, hard work, commitment, confidence, an adherence to rules, self pride and school pride, in our young athletes. At Innovation, we believe that the athletic programs contribute to the overall development of our student-athletes and provide an environment for our students to practice to become productive citizens of our community and society.

B. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Athletics Department at Innovation is to aid in the academic, emotional, and physical development of our students through the promotion of teamwork, sportsmanship and athletic competition. Furthermore, the goal of the Athletics Department is to promote higher education and career readiness.

C. RATIONALE

The athletics program at Innovation is a valuable asset to the total education process; therefore, the program operates within the same objectives and goals as the overall educational program. Research has shown that athletics help to foster team building skills, problem solving skills, self-discipline, and self-confidence. Through the development of these skills our student-athletes will become confident, contributing members of the school community.

D. TITLE IX

Title IX is the portion of the Education Amendment of 1972 that prohibits sex discrimination against students and employees in educational institutions that receive federal funds. It is one of the several federal and state statutes that define and ensure equality in education. In brief Title IX states.... ***“No Person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”*** The language of Title IX generally makes it illegal to treat males and females differently or separately in many areas relating to elementary and secondary schools, one of those being athletics. Any complaints regarding alleged violations of Title IX at Innovation should be reported to the Athletics Coordinators and to Innovation’s Executive Director, Stephen Falla Riff

E. AFFILIATIONS

Innovation Charter High School is a member of the Charter School Athletic Association. The conference frequently changes its roster of teams, but all teams are charter school teams from the five boroughs of New York City. The athletic committee reserves the right to pursue other league options for competition in all sports.

F. OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

1. To foster academic and athletic achievement in students by emphasizing the importance of self-discipline, sacrifice and dedication to achieving goals.
2. To develop sport skills by maximizing participation and focusing on instruction.
3. To develop the positive values of athletics, including sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation, and competition.
4. To develop in students emotional control, dependability, and respect for rules, property and authority.
5. To provide students the opportunity to work as a member of a team in order to achieve a goal, and in the process, learn the importance of fair play in competition, teamwork and good sportsmanship.
6. To provide students with experiences which require problem solving, decision making, and critical thinking skills.
7. To provide students the opportunity to pursue sports competition as a means of mental well being.
8. To develop in students a sense of school loyalty, and generate school spirit.
9. Improve recruiting efforts for our athletics programs.
10. To provide post graduation opportunities in sports related fields for our non student athletes.

H. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

1. **The 5+1 Rule** - In order to gain and/or maintain eligibility a student-athlete must pass five credit bearing courses (note 5 credits) + physical education, if taken, in the most recent final marking period. Incoming 9th grade student-athletes are eligible to compete immediately upon entry into high school. The first progress report is the first report used to determine academic eligibility for 9th grade students.

2. The progress/report cards that are issued is the official date for determining eligibility. Academic eligibility will be checked on the following dates:

Grading Cycle	Grading Deadline @ 5PM
PR #1	Monday, October 4, 2021
MP #1	Monday, October 25, 2021
PR #2	Monday, November 15, 2021
MP #2	Monday, December 6, 2021
PR #3	<i>Monday, January 3, 2022</i>
MP #3 (End of S1)	Tuesday, January 25, 2022
PR #4	<i>Monday, February 28, 2022</i>
MP #4	Monday, March 14, 2022
PR #5	Monday, March 28, 2022
MP #5	Monday, April 25, 2022
PR #6	Monday, May 23, 2022
MP #6 (End of S2)	Wednesday, June 15, 2022

3. At least three of the four subjects passed must be core subjects – English, Mathematics, Social Studies, and/or Science.

4. The 10 Credit Rule (On target for graduation) - A student-athlete must accumulate a minimum of ten (10) credits, not including physical education, in the two semesters prior to the eligibility period (all credits accumulated in summer school are included). **This rule takes effect beginning with a student's second semester in high school.**

5. When a student-athlete has satisfied the requirements for graduation, any credit bearing courses may be used to evaluate eligibility for the 5 + 1 rule requirement.

6. A student-athlete programmed for fewer than 4 classes must pass all his/her classes in order to fulfill the 5+1 rule requirement.

7. A student-athlete must obtain a minimum GPA (grade point average) of 65 on the progress report/marking period report card used for evaluating eligibility.

8. Academic eligibility, at the beginning of each term, is determined by the final grades of the previous term. Grades that are earned in summer school, and accepted by the home school, shall be counted as grades for the previous June. A passing summer school grade may be used in calculating the June GPA requirement.

9. A student-athlete who is academically ineligible may become academically eligible by passing five credit bearing subjects and physical education in the most recent marking period, provided the student fulfills the 10 credit rule and the GPA requirement.

10. An ineligible student-athlete **may practice with their team on the second or third unit ONLY**, provided he/she has an updated medical and parent consent form on file and is listed on the roster. All student-athletes who practice with a team must be listed on the roster as active or inactive. Student-athletes listed on the roster as inactive may not participate in any games (league and non-league). In addition, student athletes who are deemed as ineligible are permitted from traveling with the team to any sports activity.

- A senior programmed for 3 or more classes who fails one class, in his/her senior year, will be eligible for competition, so long as the failed class is not required for graduation.

I. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

1. In order to maintain eligibility within a marking period a student-athlete must maintain a minimum of 90% school attendance in the marking period used for eligibility evaluation. *The 90% attendance requirement is not cumulative.*

2. Barring an emergency a student-athlete must be present in school and must attend all scheduled classes in order to participate in any tryout, practice, scrimmage, or contest on that day.

J. AGE/GRADE ELIGIBILITY:

1. A student-athlete is eligible for athletic competition for only 4 consecutive calendar years beginning with his/her entry date into the 9th grade. An extra year of eligibility may be granted at the discretion of the athletics coordinator(s).

2. A student-athlete is eligible for varsity competition in grades nine- twelve until his/her 19th birthday. A student-athlete, who turns 19 on or after July, 1 may participate in athletics during the next school year, provided he/she has not exhausted his/her 4 years of consecutive eligibility.

3. A student-athlete is eligible for junior varsity competition in grades 9 and 10 up until his/her 16th birthday. A student who turns 16 on or after July 1 may continue to participate in junior varsity sports.

K. EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Innovation Charter High School holds its athletes to high standards. Student-athletes are seen as representatives of both our school and our community. Therefore, as a representative of our community, Student-athletes are expected to adhere to all school and Athletics Department rules.

All Student-athletes are expected to:

1. Remain academically eligible.
2. Act in a responsible manner, representing Innovation, and the community, in a manner that exemplifies our core values.
3. Attend and arrive on time for all practices and games.
4. Refrain from using profanity or obscene language or gestures.
5. Show good sportsmanship and respect for officials, coaches, and fellow athletes.
6. Care for all athletic uniforms/equipment issued throughout the season.
7. Play fair, play hard, and put forth their best efforts in practice and in competition.
8. Treat other Student-athletes with respect and dignity.
9. Remain alcohol and drug free.

Innovation prohibits the use, possession, and/or distribution of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco on school premises, at any event away from the school premises that is sponsored by Innovation, and on any transportation vehicle provided by Innovation. Students suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be identified, evaluated and reported in accordance with school policy and the law. A student, who uses, possesses, distributes, or is found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, on or off school premises, will be subject to discipline, which will be adjusted according to the severity of the offense, and may include suspension, expulsion and/or exclusion from school activities.

Any violation of school rules involving tobacco, drugs, or alcohol may result in dismissal from an athletics team. Any violation of this policy may result in a suspension on the first offense, will result in a minimum two game suspension from athletic competition on the second offense, and dismissal from the team on the third offense.

Additional consequences for the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco:

Voluntary Referral - If a player "slips" and uses tobacco, alcohol, or any non-prescribed drug but is not caught in a blatant violation, he/she may come forward on his or her own and speak to the coach privately. In this instance, The first time this occurs, it is likely that there will be no suspension from the team, **though the school's discipline policy may be applied.** The parents or guardians will be notified. The coach will work with the player. A referral for counseling will take place.

Concerned Friend Referral - If a teammate, a friend, or a parent finds out about a player's use of a forbidden substance and informs the coach, it is likely that there will be no suspension from the team, **though the school's discipline policy may be applied.** The head coach will investigate the incident, discuss the situation with the player, and if necessary, will notify parents, guardians, and the athletics committee for a referral for counseling.

***Blatant violations: Violations that occur in an open or very obvious way**

1. **First violation** - If the player breaks the law and is arrested, shows up at a school function under the influence, or is found to be in possession of any tobacco, alcohol, or non-prescribed drug, the school's code of conduct will be followed and the student may be temporarily or permanently suspended from Innovation's athletics activities.
2. **Any subsequent violation after a yearly suspension** - will result in a half season suspension the following year.

L. EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENT ATHLETES

Parents are encouraged to support their children's athletic endeavors and recognize the importance of athletics in their children's lives. All parents are expected to:

1. Prioritize academics over athletics and emphasize successful classroom performance.
2. Help their child understand that the benefits of athletic participation are more important than the outcomes of games or individual performances.
3. Help their child to understand and follow the policies stated in this Handbook.

4. Encourage fair play.
5. Respect the actions of coaches regarding contest strategy, their child's play status and playing time.
6. Avoid "coaching" from the stands or sidelines during both games and practices.
7. Ensure their child attends all practices and contests, and are picked up at designated times.

M. COMMUNICATION

If an athlete and/or parent have concerns regarding any member of the athletics program, please follow the procedure below:

1. Call or email the Assistant to the Athletic Coordinator(s) (vanessa.marrero@innovationhighschool.org) to set up an appointment to meet with the Coach.
2. If the meeting with the Coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, call or email set up an appointment to meet with the Athletics Coordinators(s) to discuss the situation.

N. HAZING POLICY

Hazing of any kind is not permitted.

Innovation Charter High School Athletics Department will not tolerate hazing of any kind by a student-athlete or coach. Coaches are responsible for reviewing this hazing policy with their teams. A student-athlete who is involved in any hazing incident will be subject to immediate team dismissal and/or face the regular school discipline code's consequences.

I. DEFINITION OF HAZING

"Hazing" means any action that recklessly or intentionally endangers the health or safety of a person for the purpose in initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a student organization. The term shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Requiring indecent exposure of the body.

2. Requiring any activity that would subject the person to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation or extended isolation from social contact.
3. Confinement of the person to unreasonably small, unventilated, unsanitary or unlighted areas.
4. Any assault upon the person.
5. Requiring the ingestion of any substance or any other physical activity that could adversely affect the health or safety of the individual. The term shall not include an action sponsored by an institution of higher education that requires any athletic practice, conditioning, competition, or curricular activity.

II. REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute hazing, shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school official designated by this policy.
2. The Dean of Discipline is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to the Dean of Discipline, any member of the School Management, any Associate Director, the Chief of Staff to the Executive Director, or to the Athletics Department Coordinators
3. Teachers, coaches, Athletics Coordinators, administrators, volunteers, contractors, and other employees of the school shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute hazing shall inform the building principal immediately.
4. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or activity participation (such as clubs, athletics, band, etc.).

III. INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

1. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school officials or a third party designated by the principal.
2. The school may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.

***Upon completion of the investigation, the school will take appropriate action, in a manner that is consistent with the school's discipline code and this handbook.**

O. BULLYING & HARASSMENT

Innovation is committed to providing all students, including our student-athletes, with an environment that is free from harassment and bullying of all kinds.

Innovation's [Dignity fo All Students Act Policy](#) provides students have the right to feel safe and respected, and to work, play, and learn in an environment that is free from harassment and bullying of all kinds, including sexual harassment and bullying. The policy applies to harassment and bullying between students, and harassment of students by adults (teachers, administrators, coaches, and staff). No student shall be subject to harassment or bullying by employees or students, either on school property or at a school function that takes place off-site.

Harassment and bullying involve the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, which substantially interfere with a student's educational performance, opportunities, health or well-being. This conduct may include verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, sex, or any category protected by law. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to: epithets, slurs, quips or negative stereotyping that relate to any of the categories above.

Complaints regarding the violation of Innovation's anti-harassment and bullying policy may be addressed to our Dean of Discipline, Danielle Martin (danielle.martin@innovationhighschool.org), and should also be brought to the attention of the Athletics Coordinators.

P. PRACTICE

Coaches and student athletes may begin practice directly after the conclusion of school. Students are expected to attend every practice and contest. Family emergencies, religious holidays, academics such as college visits or testing, sickness and injury are acceptable reasons to miss practice if needed. Student-athletes must notify the head coach in a reasonable amount of time beforehand if he/she is going to miss a practice.

- 1.** The Athletics Coordinator(s) will handle any conflicts regarding gym usage among coaches.

2. All student-athletes must accumulate a total of five practice sessions before being eligible to participate in any athletic contest.

***NOTE: Practice sessions prior to a physical on file do not count toward the total number needed to become eligible.**

3. Practice shall be held a **minimum of three days per week**. If multiple sports are utilizing the gym concurrently. The teams involved will implore a 3-2 rotation of the practice space.

4. Coaches shall submit the attendance of each practice session.

***NOTE: If a student athlete misses three total practices He/She must meet with the Athletic Coordinator before being allowed to participate.**

5. Practice sessions are expected to be well planned, well structured, and should not exceed the allocated time for practice.

***NOTE: Athletic contest will count toward the required number of practice sessions within that week.**

6. It is expected that coaches and team managers are first to arrive and the last to leave practice sessions. Student-athletes are not allowed to remain after practice to improve their skill level while unsupervised.

7. If practice is going to be cancelled by the coach, notification must be given to the Athletics Coordinator(s) by 2pm.

***A Student-athlete is permitted from practice for the following reasons:**

- Absent from school the day of practice.
- Arrive at school after the second period the day of practice.
- Has not been cleared to return after an injury or extended leave.
- Did not properly notify the head coach about a previous absence from practice.

Q. WEIGHTROOM

Student athletes are only permitted to train in the weight room under the supervision of a moderator, or coach. No student athlete can use the weight room unsupervised. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

1. Proper attire is required: sneakers, shorts, wind pants and sweatpants are all proper attire.

2. Use a weight belt when required.
3. Always use a spotter when lifting.
4. Re-stack weights when finished using a piece of equipment.
5. Follow each workout; if you have a question, speak to the coach.
6. Food is not allowed in the weight room.
7. In order to use the weight room, athletes must first be instructed in proper techniques by a coach.

R. EJECTION POLICY

If a coach is ejected from an athletic contest, the following procedures will be followed at the discretion of the Athletic Coordinator(s):

1. The coach will have a private meeting with the Athletic Coordinator(s). During this meeting the situation and issues involved in the incident will be reviewed. Based on that review, the Athletic Coordinator(s) may use his/her discretion to decide the ramifications of this ejection.
2. If the Coach is not satisfied with the results of the meeting, She/He may schedule a hearing with the Principal or the Principal designee.
3. If the Athletic Coordinator(s) is also the coach involved in the ejection, the hearing will be adjudicated by the Principal or the Principal designee.
4. If a Student-athlete is ejected from an athletic contest the Coach will notify the Athletic Coordinator(s) before the next contest. Student-athletes may be subjected to a minimum two game suspension, at the discretion of the Athletic Coordinator(s). If the ejection occurs at the end of the season, meaning that there are no more games remaining. The Student-athlete will serve detention for a minimum of five days, to satisfy the athletic committee.

S. SUSPENSIONS

Students suspended from school, (in school or out of school) are not permitted to participate in or attend any athletic event during the period of their suspension. This includes team practices.

T. STUDY HALL

The primary purpose of the study hall is to give students time in school to do school work, use the resources of the school, and see teachers for assistance. Study hall is

mandatory for Student athletes. Student-athletes who do not attend study hall will not be allowed to practice or play in the games.

U. STUDENT CHECK-INS

During the course of the season coaches will receive weekly reports regarding the grades of student-athletes on their respective team. The expectation is that coaches address all students who are struggling academically and provide additional resources such as study hall, after school homework club, etc.

V. EARLY DISMISSAL

It is the policy of the Athletics Department to schedule all contests and events, so that students miss a minimum amount of class time for travel to away games, or any contest. The head coach shall make arrangements with the Assistant to the athletics coordinator to have students excused from class when absolutely necessary because of travel or a contest. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to meet with teachers and devise a plan to make up all the work.

W. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

All uniforms issued to athletes are the property of the school and must be properly cared for by the student. All uniforms must be returned, properly cleaned, at the conclusion of the season. Lost or damaged uniforms will become the financial obligation of the student. Game uniforms may only be worn at pep rallies or on the day of a scheduled contest.

X. RISK OF PHYSICAL INJURY

The athletic program is conducted, first and foremost, with the safety of its participants in mind. Student-athletes and parents must be aware that certain risks of injury are inherent in athletic participation. Although not probable, accidents such as brain injuries, paralysis, or even death may occur. By the very nature of athletic activity, participants are at risk of physical injury. It does not matter how cautious the athlete and coach are or how many precautions are taken, the risk cannot be eliminated. The risk of injury includes minor injuries such as ligament sprains and muscle strains. The risk also includes catastrophic injuries such as paralysis or even death. It is important that everyone understands these risks and that athletes follow ALL safety directions from their coaches because they are established to reduce injury.

Athletic Injury to student-athletes will occur. Proper and immediate care will help reduce the amount of time a student-athlete will miss team participation. Any Student-athlete

who is injured must report the injury immediately to the coach. If the Student-athlete is injured, an accident report form must be submitted within 24 hours to the Athletic Coordinator. The coach will keep a copy of records on file.

If the injury requires an examination by a physician, the student athlete may not return to practice or competition without written permission from the attending physician. The physician's permission must be recorded by the school Nurse/Main office and/or Athletic Coordinator in order to resume play.

Y. INSURANCE

Innovation carries student accident insurance that protects children who sustain injuries during school-related activities—including during school-sponsored and supervised events such as field trips, team sports and other extracurricular activities.

Student accident insurance is an “excess” policy, meaning it kicks in after the parent or guardian's insurance pays first. The student accident insurance then pays for additional deductibles, copays, or any out-of-pocket expenses that would normally be left to the student or parent to pay.

Z. PARENTAL PERMISSION AND HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE CARDS

Students who try out for an athletic team must present a signed parental permission form and a completed health questionnaire card prior to trying out. The health questionnaire card provides us with accurate information in the event of an injury.

Parental permission forms and health questionnaire cards are available in the main office.

AA. PHYSICAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in athletics at Innovation Charter High School are required to have a current physical examination. **A physical is valid for one year, but must include the entire season for the sport in which the student will participate. The completed physical form must be provided to the school prior to the first tryout.** Sports physical forms are available in the main office. All questions regarding physicals should be directed to the school athletics coordinator(s).

BB. ATHLETE RE-ENTRY POLICY

Any student-athlete who has a prolonged absence (two or more weeks) due to injury may return to competition only after:

1. A physician has given written approval to him/her to return and list any restrictions if applicable.
2. The student has participated in the number of practices that are required to attend prior to competing in his/her sport.
3. The Head coach feels the student has reached a level of readiness for competition in that sport and may compete safely. If an athlete cannot practice/play for a period of one to two weeks due to injury or illness, he/she may return to competition only after they have actively participated in two practice sessions prior to competition.

Additional information regarding re-entry

4. Student-athletes who are dismissed from the team may be reinstated to the athletics program, at the discretion of the athletic committee.

CC. CRITERIA FOR TEAM SELECTION

The number of students permitted on some teams may be limited due to allowable roster sizes. For these teams a tryout will be conducted. At the tryout, all athletes will be afforded an opportunity to showcase their talents and earn a spot on the roster. Basis for team selection will be at the sole discretion of the coach. Coaches will have in place clear and consistent criteria for the tryout period. Criteria may include, but is not limited to, the following indicators:

1. Demonstration of positive behavior and attitude
2. Demonstration of good sportsmanship and teamwork
3. Demonstration of physical fitness
4. Demonstration of required skills.

***Athletic team tryouts are available to all students who maintain a C minus average and have no failed classes at the time of the team tryout.**

***Students must try out for teams each year; team selection will be based on selection criteria rather than grade level. It should also be noted that JV and Varsity teams will be determined by ability rather than grade level.**

DD. TEAM CAPTAINS

The decision to have a team captain or Co-captains; as well as the selection process of captains, is at the discretion of the coach.

EE. MULTIPLE SPORTS

It is the expectation that a student be allowed to participate in only one sport per season. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the athletic committee.

FF. CHANGING SPORTS

A student athlete may not change from one sport to another once a team roster has been finalized. Should He/She resign from or be removed from a team in season, He/She is not eligible to participate in another sport during that season.

GG. TRANSPORTATION

Students who travel to all away athletic contests must be accompanied by members of the coaching staff when departing from the school. Athletes being transported by parents/guardians must provide the coach with written confirmation (Email, text, etc) prior to the athletic event. Athletes traveling by public transportation are expected to follow all school policies and local laws.

HH. NCAA REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Student athletes who are interested in playing sports at the collegiate level should consult with their respective coaches and guidance counselors. Your coaches can assist with contacting the college coaches of the schools you are interested in, while your guidance counselor can help you find the school that is right for you. Student athletes who have an interest in pursuing higher education must make the initial effort and communication with their coach and counselor.

Before an athlete can play a sport or receive an athletic scholarship at a Division I or II college, he/she must meet specific academic criteria as set forth by the NCAA. Information about the NCAA Clearinghouse can be found online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net or in the Athletic Coordinators' office. Please note that NCAA requirements can change. Athletes should register with Clearinghouse at the end of junior year. No athlete can take an official visit to a college unless he has registered with clearinghouse. It is the athlete's responsibility to fulfill his requirements.

I. NCAA DIVISION 1 ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

<https://www.athleticscholarships.net/academic-requirements.htm>

II. NCAA DIVISION 2 ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

d

II. AWARD CEREMONY

To demonstrate approval and gratitude to our student athletes there will be an award ceremony to celebrate the conclusion of the athletic season. The date and location will be determined by the athletic committee. Student-athletes will be eligible for the following awards.

All participants (small trophy or certificate)	Journalist of the year
Most Valuable Player	Coach of the year
Most Improved Player	Assistant coach of the year
The Student-Athlete award	Team of the year
Female athlete of the year	Sportsmanship award
Male athlete of the year	Team manager of the year

JJ. CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM

All parents are required to sign the Concussion Education and Consent Form. This form provides parents and student-athletes with information about concussions and treatment procedures. Student-athletes are not allowed to participate until the form has been signed and submitted properly.

KK. COVID-19 POLICY

COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Innovation High School has a strong commitment to health and safety during the Coronavirus pandemic. To make participation in competitive sports as safe as possible, we will require COVID-19 vaccinations for students participating in high-contact competitive sports this year.

High-risk sports include volleyball, basketball, _____ [*fill in the blanks*]

Students in high-risk sports must get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by the first day of competitive play. Winter and spring sports

participants have until the beginning of their season to be fully vaccinated. Students will provide their vaccination cards to Vanessa Marrero, Innovation's Administrative Assistant for the Athletics Program.

In adopting this policy, Innovation reviewed recent guidance from the New York State Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC). They have taken the position that high-risk sports and extracurricular activities should be virtual or canceled in areas of high community transmission unless all participants are fully vaccinated. We have also considered the recent spread of the Delta Variant of the Coronavirus, which appears to be more contagious than the original strain.

To schedule an appointment for the vaccine, please visit vaccinefinder.nyc.gov on the web, or call 877-VAX-4-NYC (877-829-4692). Mobile vaccination facilities will also be visiting schools, including Innovation, in the near future, and we will keep you informed about upcoming vaccination dates.

Innovation Charter High School Athletics Handbook

I _____ understand the Innovation Charter High School handbook. initial ____ I understand that playing sports at Innovation Charter High School is a privilege. Any conduct by a parent or athlete that violates the Athletic Handbook will result in suspension from participation on the team. I promise to make sure my social media usage is with respect to my school & team. I understand that any form of hazing or bullying will result in immediate removal from the team.

As a parent, I fully understand that if a referee or School employee or coach asks me to leave the area, I will do so without incident or argument.

Athlete signature _____

Parent Signature _____

