



THUNDER
MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

**STUDENT-ATHLETE
HANDBOOK
2026-2027**

A Message from MCC Athletics

Welcome to Manhattan Christian College and to the Thunder Athletics family! As an athlete, you are joining historically strong and competitive programs which emphasize spiritual development, academic excellence, and athletic success.

While success on the court or field is important and highly celebrated, your growth as a person, in the classroom and as a child of God are equally important and also highly celebrated! We are committed to provide you with what you need to have an outstanding collegiate experience in all of those aspects.

Graduation is the ultimate goal and we encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity and support that we have available to you on campus to help you succeed!

We expect you to take pride in being a member of Thunder Athletics and to carry yourself in a way that reflects "Thunder Pride". You are a representative first of Jesus Christ and second of Manhattan Christian College. It is an honor to wear a Thunder jersey and our expectations are high.

This handbook lays out the expectations to help you understand the responsibilities as a MCC student athlete. Read it thoroughly and become familiar with the content.

We are excited for you to be a part of Thunder Athletics! Our coaches and staff are all here to help you succeed on and off the playing field!

Roll Thunder!!

Lauren Sanders
Director of Athletics

Adam Gage
Assistant Athletic Director

Student-Athlete Handbook
Table of Contents

Mission Statement and Core Values.....4

Affiliations6

Academic Expectations and Eligibility.....7

Student-Athlete Conduct Responsibilities.....9

#KingChasing.....9

Student Handbook.....9

Chapel Requirement.....10

Discipline.....10

Drugs and Alcohol Use.....10

Drug Testing Consent Form.....10

Smoking/Vaping.....11

Hazing.....11

Title IX.....11

Social Media.....12

Team Travel.....12

Sports Medicine and Insurance13

Name, Image and Likeness Policy14

Facilities.....18

Student-Athlete Acknowledgement/Signature.....19

Manhattan Christian College Mission Statement

“To Educate, Equip and Enrich Christian Leaders”

Manhattan Christian College Athletics Mission Statement

“To glorify God by providing a competitive intercollegiate sports program for developing young men and women to be Christ-like servant-leaders”

Manhattan Christian College Athletics Core Values

FAITH - Spiritual Development

We are committed to measuring the success of our athletic program through the spiritual development of our student-athletes. We want each of them to leave Manhattan Christian College with a better understanding of biblical truths and how those truths are applied to their lives.

ACADEMICS - Academic Success

We are committed to measuring the success of our athletic program by academic success of our student-athletes. We will strive for academic excellence to ensure that athletes prioritize their education alongside their sport. We will hold each of them to the standards set forth by the NCCAA for academic eligibility while expecting them to attend all classes and do their best on all of their coursework.

EXCELLENCE - Athletic Competition

We are committed to measuring the success of our athletic program by sponsoring varsity sports that will strive for athletic excellence. We expect each of our teams to compete for conference, regional and national championships on a regular basis and in turn will hold our student-athletes accountable to giving a championship level effort at all times. We also expect our athletes to display good sportsmanship at all times, showing respect for officials, fans, coaches, opposing teams and individual teammates.

SERVICE - Campus and Community

We are committed to involving our student athletes on campus and within the community to serve those around us and to make an impact for Christ. Service involves giving back to the community, supporting teammates, and contributing to the greater good. It emphasizes the importance of humility, generosity, and teamwork.

CORE VALUES



FAITH

We will model the KingChasing standards. We commit to providing an atmosphere which fosters spiritual growth.



ACADEMICS

We will strive for academic excellence to ensure that athletes prioritize their education alongside their sport.



EXCELLENCE

We expect each of our teams to compete regionally and nationally. We expect our athletes to display good sportsmanship, showing respect for officials, fans, coaches, opposing teams and teammates.



SERVICE

We are committed to involving our student athletes on campus and within the community to serve others and make an impact for Christ.

National and Conference Affiliation

The National Christian College Athletic Association

The Thunder of Manhattan Christian College competes nationally in the National Christian College Athletic Association - Division II (NCCAA II). Thunder Athletics are members of the NCCAA Central Region, which comprises schools in Kansas and Missouri. NCCAA Division II schools are not permitted to award student-athletes any type of institutional aid that would be specifically awarded for athletics.

NCCAA II Central Region Members



Barclay College
Calvary University
Central Christian College of the Bible
Manhattan Christian College
Ozark Christian College
Spurgeon College
Union Adventist University

The Midwest Christian College Conference

Manhattan Christian College are also charter members of the Midwest Christian College Conference (MCCC), which was established in 1964. Currently the conference sponsors Men's Soccer, Volleyball, Men's Basketball and Women's Basketball. MCC competes in each of these sports. The MCCC currently sits at 7 members from Kansas, Missouri and Iowa. Each member of the conference is also a national member of the NCCAA II.

Midwest Christian College Conference Members



Barclay College
Calvary University
Central Christian College of the Bible
Emmaus Bible College
Faith Baptist Bible College
Manhattan Christian College
Ozark Christian College

Academic Expectations and Eligibility

Expectations

Student-athletes at Manhattan Christian College are expected to keep themselves academically eligible at all times. Faculty, staff, advisors, tutors and coaches are available to help you achieve your academic goals and in turn we expect that you will give your best effort in the classroom.

General Eligibility

The NCCAA requires that all student-athletes maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA and pass a full course load (12 hours) every semester of competition. A student may participate in four seasons in one sport in 10 semesters of attendance. The 10 semesters need not be consecutive. During the ninth or tenth semester, or equivalent, the student may participate in any sport in which the student has not already used four seasons of participation.

General Freshman Eligibility

Incoming freshmen are deemed athletically eligible as long as they have been accepted for admission to the institution and are enrolled in 12 + hours during their first semester of competition.

General Transfer Eligibility

Incoming transfer student-athletes are deemed athletically eligible as long as they have been accepted for admission to the institution, have a cumulative 2.0 GPA from all previously attended institutions, have met total hours requirements in relation to anticipated academic progress (12-24 rule) and have been cleared by their previous institution via the athletic transfer form sent out by the Athletic Director.

A student-athlete intending to transfer to another NCCAA Division II institution must inform the present institution of intent to transfer by July 1. A one-time transfer to another Division II institution is permitted. Any transfer requests after July 1 or a second transfer request will be permitted but the student-athlete will be ineligible for athletic participation for one semester in all sports at the new institution.

Continuing Eligibility

As a student-athlete you are required by the institution to maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA. The NCCAA requires that you pass 24 hours every two semesters to be eligible. To compete in your second year, you must accumulate a total of 24 hours, in the third year you must accumulate 48 hours and in the fourth year you must accumulate 72 hours. In addition you must also be enrolled in 12 hours each semester at the time of competition unless you are in your final semester, then you only need to take as many hours as needed to graduate. For students in the dual degree program you must be enrolled in at least 9 hours at MCC each semester until you have accumulated 42 hours at MCC. Then at least 6 hours at MCC each semester until you have accumulated 54 hours at MCC. Finally, at least 3 hours per semester at MCC until you complete your eligibility.

Class Attendance

Student-athletes are expected to attend class when they are not on the road for games. Class attendance is a vital part of the student-athlete experience and should not be taken lightly. Each professor has their own attendance policy that should be reviewed at the beginning of each semester by the student-athlete.

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate with their professors when they will be gone for athletic events. In the case of an absence for an athletic event the student-athlete should allow time for missed or additional class responsibilities.

Study Tables/Academic Interventions

All athletes are required to attend 2 hours of study tables per week. The schedule will be set by the head coaches. Student athletes are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the scheduled time.

Grades will be collected beginning the second week of classes and will be reported to head coaches. Individual or group tutoring sessions will be determined based on grade reports. Any students with a D or lower in a class may be required to attend tutoring sessions or may be removed from competition until the grade is raised. Tutoring is available to all students and is strongly encouraged for those who need extra help.

Student-Athlete Conduct and Character Responsibilities

#KingChasing

The infographic is a 2x2 grid of blue boxes with white text. At the top left is the NCCAA logo. To its right is the text '#KINGCHASING STANDARDS'. In the center of the grid is a circular logo with 'GP4L' inside. Each quadrant contains a value and its corresponding actions and biblical references.

LOVE	INTEGRITY
<p><i>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10</i></p> <p>Respect Everyone Treat others how you want to be treated.</p> <p>Encourage Others Applaud & inspire through words & actions.</p> <p>Show Sportsmanship Be gracious in victory & defeat.</p>	<p><i>Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out. Proverbs 10:9</i></p> <p>Be Honest Speak truthfully & be trustworthy.</p> <p>Be Sincere Be genuine & without deceit.</p> <p>Have Self-Control Remain disciplined at all times.</p>
FAITH	EXCELLENCE

The #KingChasing program uses the four values of the Game Plan 4 LIFE – Love, Integrity, Faith, and Excellence – to enhance the purpose of collegiate athletics to be more than winning championships. The mission of the #KingChasing program is to keep Christ at the center of the student-athlete experience.

MCC is committed to participating in the #KingChasing program through the NCCAA. Each athlete is expected to strive to uphold these standards on and off the court. Each athlete will be expected to participate in activities off the court that support the King Chasing initiative.

Christian Service Projects (CSP) are a way for MCC student athletes to give of their time and resources to our local community. Each athlete will be expected to participate in a CSP. CSP's may be set up by the Athletic Director and/or the head coach of the program.

Student Behavior and Handbook

As students at Manhattan Christian College you have a general responsibility to live lives according to the standards set forth by Manhattan Christian College and the student handbook. The MCC Student Handbook can be found in the student portal.

It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to conduct themselves in a manner that represents Christ, Manhattan Christian College, their team and themselves that is above reproach. What is done in public and private settings reflects on the character of the institution and the athletic program and we expect our student-athletes to carry themselves in a manner that would not tarnish our collective brand. Because of these expectations, we have set forth policies and procedures for our student-athletes. As

always, the Athletic Director reserves the right to adjust or change policies and extend grace at his or her discretion.

Chapel Attendance

MCC student athletes are expected to be at chapel throughout the entire academic year.

Discipline Policy

Discipline is not something that is enjoyed, but it is something that is always necessary. Because of the expectations for our student-athletes, the following Discipline Policy will be followed regarding violations of the student-handbook or student-athlete responsibilities.

Offenses of the student handbook will be dealt with by the appropriate parties, including coaches, Residence Hall Supervisors and the Discipline Committee.

Continuous abuse of the rights and responsibilities of being a student-athlete at MCC could result in suspension from game action and team activities. The Athletic Director and the Head Coach reserves the right to discipline a student-athlete in whatever way they see fit in accordance with the student handbook at Manhattan Christian College.

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

As a student-athlete at Manhattan Christian College you are prohibited from consuming drugs and/or alcohol in accordance with the student handbook. In the event that the student-athlete has violated the policy the Athletic Director and Head Coach reserve the right to to discipline the student-athlete in addition to, or in accordance with the policy stated in the student handbook. Repeated violations of the drug and alcohol policy could result in the dismissal from the program in which the student-athlete competes for.

Manhattan Christian College Athletics reserves the right to drug test any student athlete on the basis of reasonable suspicion of use and also on a random basis. Student athletes will be notified by the Athletic Director if a drug test will be administered. Please see the Drug Testing Consent Form for all information on drug testing.

[MCC Athletics Drug Testing Consent Form](#)

Smoking/Vaping Policy

As a student-athlete at Manhattan Christian College you are prohibited from all smoking, tobacco and vape products in accordance with the student handbook. In the event that the student-athlete has violated the policy the Athletic Director and Head Coach reserve the right to discipline the student-athlete in addition to or in accordance with the policy stated in the student handbook. Repeated violations of the tobacco/vaping policy could result in the dismissal from the program in which the student-athlete competes for.

Hazing

Manhattan Christian College Athletics discourages hazing of any kind within our program. Student-Athletes are not permitted to conduct hazing rituals of any kind and will be disciplined accordingly.

Title IX

In accordance with Title IX, Manhattan Christian College affirms that its students, faculty, and staff have the right to be free from harassment by any member of the College community. MCC does not tolerate communication or action of any kind which is intended to threaten or harm others because of their race, sex, religion, age, disability or national origin. All such incidents of harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. MCC stands fundamentally opposed to any form of sexual harassment (which includes gender discrimination, sexual violence, and sexual harassment, dating violence, and stalking). Sexual harassment is defined as attempted sexual coercion, unwelcome sexual advances, and requests for sexual favors, physical conduct of a sexual nature, or verbal conduct of a sexual nature. Any words or behavior that produce an atmosphere of intimidation or hostility or are verbally abusive, are viewed as harassment. This also includes sexual harassment by use of e-mail, texting, chat transcripts, or network activity (including any social media sites). Gender discrimination is defined as unequal or disadvantageous treatment of an individual or group of individuals based on gender. Examples of gender discrimination include treating an individual differently based upon his/her gender in academic or extracurricular activities, academic programs, discipline, classroom

Social Media

Social media can be a great tool for promoting your personal 'brand' across many platforms. As a student-athlete at Manhattan Christian College, we expect your presence on social media to represent Christ, the Institution, your program and you with dignity and respect.. Therefore, we expect that you refrain from posting anything that would reflect badly on Christ, the Institution, your team or you. The AD and all coaches reserve the right to follow you on social media regardless of whether your account is protected or not.

Team Travel

Travel to and from regular season competition as well as postseason competition will be provided by Manhattan Christian College Athletics. Therefore, it is expected that team members travel with their team. If student-athletes will miss expected departure time or need to be back in Manhattan for a class related reason then it is expected that the team will additionally accommodate that person. It is not appropriate for a student-athlete to get his or her own ride to and from an away game.

Student-athletes will be permitted to leave games with their parents or family as long as the team is not traveling to the second half of a back-to-back and the coach has given his or her permission to the student-athlete.

All teams are expected to represent Christ, MCC and themselves with dignity and respect while on the road. Therefore, MCC Athletics expects each team to travel in their team issued travel gear and to conduct themselves in a way that is honoring the entities listed above.

MCC Athletics will provide each team with funds for meals while on the road.

Day Off Policy

According to NCCAA policy, all athletes are required to have one 24-hour period off from athlete participation during the entire academic year. The day off is determined by the individual sport head coach. Athletes may report violations of the policy by submitting an email to Lauren Sanders, Athletic Director (lсандers@mccks.edu) or Adam Gage, Assistant Athletic Director (adam.gage@mccks.edu)

Sports Medicine and Insurance

All sports medicine services are provided to Manhattan Christian College student-athletes by JointFit Chiropractic and Sports Medicine Center. JointFit provides athletic trainers at all home contests and will see our student-athletes at their office in the event of an injury sustained while participating either at practice or in a contest.

MCC Athletics also has an agreement with Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center in Manhattan to see athletes with more severe injuries or for physical therapy.

All student-athletes at MCC are required to be insured medically either individually or under their parent or guardian. Insurance verification forms must be submitted prior to participation in MCC Athletics.

Manhattan Christian College currently provides student-athletes with a secondary athletic insurance to assist with any medical bills that are accrued as a result of participating in MCC Athletics. Manhattan Christian College Athletics is not responsible for payment of any medical bills accrued while participating in athletics for the college.

Student-athletes are required to have a Pre-Participation Physical completed before they are allowed to participate in team related activities.

[Pre-Participation Physical Form](#)

[Insurance Verification](#)

Injuries must be reported to the head coach and athletic director immediately. Student-athletes are required to fill out an injury report form with the Athletic Director before medical care is received. A secondary insurance card will be provided after the injury report form is submitted.

Sports Medicine Contacts:

JointFit Chiropractic and Sports Medicine Center: <http://www.jointfitchiropractic.com/>

Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Center: <https://kansasortho.com/>

Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) Policy

MCC recognizes the rights of student-athletes to engage in Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) activities consistent with applicable federal and state laws, NCCAA regulations, institutional policies, and the mission and values of Manhattan Christian College. NIL activities may include compensation received by a student-athlete for the use of their name, image, likeness, personal brand, social media presence, appearances, endorsements, camps/clinics, etc. Compensation must be for legitimate services rendered and may not be used as a substitute for athletic recruiting inducements or pay-for-play arrangements.

MCC is partnered with [Athletic Solutions](#), providing student athletes their own NIL Locker Room—stocked with premium products—giving each MCC student-athlete the tools to build their brand and earn through every purchase.

NIL Eligibility

All MCC student-athletes participating in varsity athletics are eligible to engage in NIL activities provided they remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the College, comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and adhere to MCC, NCCAA, and team policies.

Permissible NIL Activities

Student-athletes may:

- Enter into endorsement agreements with businesses or organizations.
- Receive compensation for personal appearances.
- Conduct private lessons, camps, or clinics.
- Monetize personal social media platforms.
- Sell autographs or personal merchandise.
- Operate businesses using their personal NIL.

All NIL activities must be consistent with MCC's mission, values, and standards of conduct.

Prohibited Activities

Student-athletes may not:

A. Represent Institutional Endorsement - State or imply that MCC endorses a product, service, company, or organization or use MCC trademarks, logos, uniforms, facilities, or intellectual property without prior written approval.

B. Enter Conflicting Agreements

Student-athletes may not enter NIL agreements that conflict with existing MCC contracts or sponsorship agreements, team obligations, scheduled athletic activities or academic responsibilities.

C. Promote Inconsistent Products or Services

Student-athletes may not engage in NIL agreements involving:

- Gambling or sports wagering.
- Tobacco, nicotine, vaping products, or related businesses.
- Illegal drugs or controlled substances.
- Pornographic or sexually explicit businesses.
- Businesses promoting hate, discrimination, or unlawful conduct.
- Any product or service inconsistent with MCC's Christian mission and values.

D. Pay-for-Play Activities

Student-athletes may not receive compensation in exchange for athletic performance or as an inducement to enroll at or transfer to MCC.

Use of Institutional Marks and Facilities

Student-athletes must receive written approval from the Athletic Director before using MCC or athletic department logos or branding, team uniforms or athletic facilities.

Approval may be denied if the proposed use conflicts with institutional values, existing contracts, or College interests.

Disclosure Requirements

To ensure compliance and provide support to student-athletes:

- Student-athletes must disclose NIL agreements valued at more than \$500 annually to the Athletic Director.
- Disclosure should occur within 14 days of entering the agreement.
- Copies of contracts may be requested for compliance review.
- Financial terms will be treated confidentially to the extent permitted by law.

The College will not approve, negotiate, or serve as a party to NIL agreements unless otherwise authorized by College administration.

Academic and Athletic Responsibilities

NIL activities must not interfere with class attendance, conflict with study requirements or cause missed team practices, competitions, travel, or mandatory athletic activities.

The Athletic Director and Head Coach may require adjustments to NIL activities that interfere with academic or athletic obligations.

Institutional Relationship

MCC is not responsible for:

- Negotiating NIL contracts.
- Providing legal representation.
- Tax advice.
- Financial management services.

Student-athletes are encouraged to consult qualified legal, tax, and financial professionals before entering NIL agreements.

Christian Conduct Expectations

The College reserves the right to review NIL activities that may reasonably be viewed as inconsistent with the mission of Manhattan Christian College, the College's Statement of Faith, student conduct policies or athletic department standards.

Participation in NIL activities is a privilege that carries the responsibility of representing Christ, the College, teammates, and the broader community with excellence.

Violations

Violations of this policy may result in:

- Required modification or termination of an NIL agreement.
- Athletic department disciplinary action.
- Team sanctions.
- Loss of athletic participation privileges.
- Other institutional disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate.

Facilities

Howie's Activity Center

Howie's Activity Center (HAC) is home to MCC Athletics. All MCC student-athletes may use the HAC with priority given to court sports. Athletes are expected to respect the facility, keep the space clean and only use it with permission of the Head Coach and Athletic Director outside of normal business hours.

The HAC is not to be used by non-MCC students without the express permission of the head coach and athletic director.

Sanders Family Strength Center

The Sanders Family Strength Center (SFSC) is the weight room facility within Howie's Activity Center. Student-athletes may utilize the weight room at any time unless reserved by another team. Student-athletes are expected to respect the SFSC and keep the room clean and organized. For safety reasons, it is preferred that after hours, athletes do not work out alone in the SFSC. The SFSC is available to all students on campus and athletes are expected to respect other students when they are using the SFSC. The SFSC is not to be used by a non-MCC student or athlete without permission from the Athletic Director.

Training Room and Laundry Room

The training room is only to be used by MCC student-athletes. Athletes can have access to training room supplies during practice and games. See the head coach or athletic director for use outside of those times. The ice bath is available to all student-athletes outside of scheduled practice times. Athletes are expected to keep the training area clean and drain and clean the ice bath after each use.

The laundry room is only to be used for athletic laundry. Athletes are not allowed to use the laundry room for personal use.

Student-Athlete Acknowledgment

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read the Athletic Handbook and the Student Handbook and understand my responsibilities that I have as a student-athlete at Manhattan Christian College. To the best of my abilities I will uphold the handbooks and represent Manhattan Christian College Athletics with integrity. I understand that any violation of the handbooks may result in discipline from both the Institution and the Athletic Department.

Name (printed)

Date

Name (signed)