



STORM

NEW LIFE CAMP

2023-2024 PARENT HANDBOOK



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Welcome to Storm Athletics!

Dear parents,

We are so honored that you have chosen to send your child to New Life Camp and Storm Athletics this season. We are going to take great care of your child physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We hope that your child has the time of their lives and makes memories that they will never forget. More importantly, we pray that your child will experience the love of God through our fine staff and volunteers.

This handbook is being provided to inform you of things you need to know as this season begins.

Storm Athletics relies on families taking on assignments during games. This program will only be as great as the commitment of our parents to pitch in. We hope that this handbook is helpful to you and that you have a wonderful season, too. Again, thank you for choosing New Life Camp.

Battle Watkins

Athletic Director

Purpose

1. Purpose of New Life Camp - New Life Camp exists to love, accept, and introduce children and their families to Jesus Christ and equip them to live lives that glorify God.
2. Purpose of Storm Athletics - We exist to provide athletes an opportunity to pursue excellence in sports for the glory of God by empowering them to live out their faith with opportunities to:
 - a. Encounter Jesus Christ.
 - b. Be discipled.
 - c. Develop character.
 - d. Learn what it means to be part of a team.
 - e. Be enabled to walk out their faith in the context of competitive sports.
 - f. Pursue excellence for the glory of God.

Program Overview

Depending on coaching availability and player interest, Storm Athletics may offer the following team/program in a given sport: development, middle school, junior varsity (JV), and varsity. Each one will try to accomplish different goals as follows:

Development

1. Discipleship
2. Focus on skill development
3. Prepare players to play on the Middle School team next year

Middle School

1. Discipleship
2. Focus on skill development
3. Introduce fundamental concepts and reads
4. Prepare for JV

JV

1. Discipleship
2. Sharpen skills
3. Focus on fundamental concepts and reads
4. Introduce competing at a high level and increase athletic IQ

Varsity

1. Discipleship
2. Sharpen skills
3. Continue teaching fundamental concepts and reads
4. Focus on competing at a high level and increase athletic IQ
5. Aid and guide athletes who look to play in college.

Program Unity

Parents who are loyal to the program and to the purposes of New Life Camp are one of the keys to our ministry (Ephesians 5:21).

1. Complaining, negativity, and gossip will is not helpful. Ephesians 4:29
2. Be a cheerleader for your team. When the team succeeds, you succeed.
3. Be flexible, ready to change the plan, creative, open to new ideas, and selfless.
4. Forgive, because He forgives us.
5. Know your role and don't step beyond it.
6. Pray for each other.
7. Treat people right.

General Guidelines for Games

1. We must go beyond sportsmanship to being set apart in the athletic world.
2. Remember the game is about the athletes.
3. Cheering should be positive and for our team, not against anyone else.
4. Remember that the most important game is still a game.
5. Cell phones have no place on the bench or in the locker room.

Athletes and Managers Rules and Information

General Rules of Conduct for Players

1. I will not drink alcohol or take drugs of any kind; (Players found to be using drugs or drinking will be terminated immediately from the team.)
2. I will treat the coaching staff respectfully at ALL TIMES.
3. I will play my particular sport as a part of a team knowing my role may not include playing time, starting, a specific position, etc.
4. I will be courteous and respectful to my teammates and their parents.
5. I will be respectful in public and display good character as I represent the NLC Storm Athletics program, as well as Jesus Christ.
6. I will abide by pre-game and post-game dress code.
7. I will not participate in any horseplay or extreme activities which may injure my teammates, myself or any other people associated with NLC Storm Athletics.
8. I will be respectful of camp property and understand that it is a privilege to participate in Storm Athletics and in the facilities provided. I will be responsible for my own actions.
9. I will be positive and play hard regardless of the score or situation.
10. I will follow these RULES OF CONDUCT and I understand that if I fail to comply with these rules, I may be removed from the Storm Athletics program.
11. I make a pledge that when I participate, I'll be focused on playing my sport and supporting my coaches and teammates.

Dress Code

1. Practice
 - a. Purpose of the dress code.
 - i. The dress code is not used to emphasize outward appearance, but rather to take attention away from outward appearance and show Storm Unity.
 - ii. The dress code is used to teach the value of modesty and appropriateness.
 - b. Players' clothes should not have any inappropriate words or depictions.
 - c. Female Players
 - i. Shorts, Skirts, and Dress
 1. Shorts must have a 4-inch inseam.
 2. Skirts and dresses should be at least near knee-length.
 3. Tights and spandex do not change the above rules.
 4. If wearing leggings, shirts should cover the butt.
 - ii. Shirts
 1. Shirts should be chosen with the active nature of sports in mind.
 2. A player's stomach or lower back should never be visible.
 3. Undergarments should never be visible.
 4. Players should not wear anything strapless.

5. Clothing is too tight when the outline of undergarments can be clearly seen.
 6. Necklines should be modest.
 - d. Male Players - Shorts
 - i. Shorts should be at least fingertip length.
 - ii. Shorts should not sag, and undergarments should be visible.
2. Uniforms
- a. During Games (from leaving the locker room until reentering the locker room) the uniform should be worn as is intended for play and by the rules thereof.
 - b. Spandex shorts
 - i. White spandex shorts must be worn with white uniform.
 - ii. Spandex shorts are not necessary with black, but if worn must be black.
 - c. Under shirts or tank tops – must match the color of uniform (white with white,
 - d. black with black)
 - e. Socks – the entire team must wear the same color socks.
 - f. Headbands, wristbands – if worn, must match on all players. Brand names must be covered.
 - g. Shooting sleeves and the like should only be worn for medical reasons.
3. When players practice, travel, and compete, each is a representative of NLC and the Storm Athletics program and must follow all rules and guidelines. Failure to do is grounds for suspension of participation in practices and/or games, or dismissal from the Storm Athletics program.

Parent Rules and Information

Parents' Role

Parents play an important role in the development of a successful athlete:

1. This program is intended to be a family-oriented program.
2. Parents must be a positive influence on the Storm experience.
3. It is imperative that parents speak and act in a positive and Christ-like manner throughout the season including games, practices, and tournaments.

Parental Concerns

1. New Life Camp will Not Allow Coaches or Players to be verbally criticized by parents in Storm event/public settings.
2. Parent with concerns should address them using the following guidelines.
 - a. Players should attempt to address coaches without involvement of parents.
 - b. When this is not possible or effective, parents should set up an appointment to meet with the coach to address concerns. It is not appropriate to do this immediately preceding or following a game or practice.
Complaints should not be discussed among players or parents without an immediate plan to address it with the coach.

After discussing the concern with a coach, the Athletic Director can be contacted (bwatkins@newlifecamp.com) if another meeting is needed to help resolve the situation. The Camp Director should not be contacted unless the Coach, and AD have been contacted and met with previously. If there is no resolution to the concern, the family reserves the right to withdraw the player from the Storm Athletics program.

3. Parent must make every effort to refrain from criticizing or making any negative comments towards their child, teammates, coaches, opponents, officials, or other parents throughout the season. Focus on what you can control which is what your student athlete learns about life from their athletic opportunity.

Attempts to further press personal views or push any issue will be deemed as outside the parameters of the parent/player contract and will be cause for removal of the relevant child from the roster. In the case of such a removal from the roster due to a parent's behavior on texting, email, social media, etc., a prorated refund for the games unplayed will be offered.

Family Assignments

Our expectation is that parents will play their part in this ministry and get involved by serving on a weekly basis in at least one of the following ways:

- Scoreboard Operators
- Scorekeepers
- Team Parents
- Setup and Cleanup Opportunities
- Concession Stand or Gate Pass
- Sport Specific Roles

Please be mindful that the team parent or NLC Staff member will assign you a role each week or every other week, and it is your responsibility to read and watch the given materials, and either fulfill the assignment or ask another parent to switch with you.

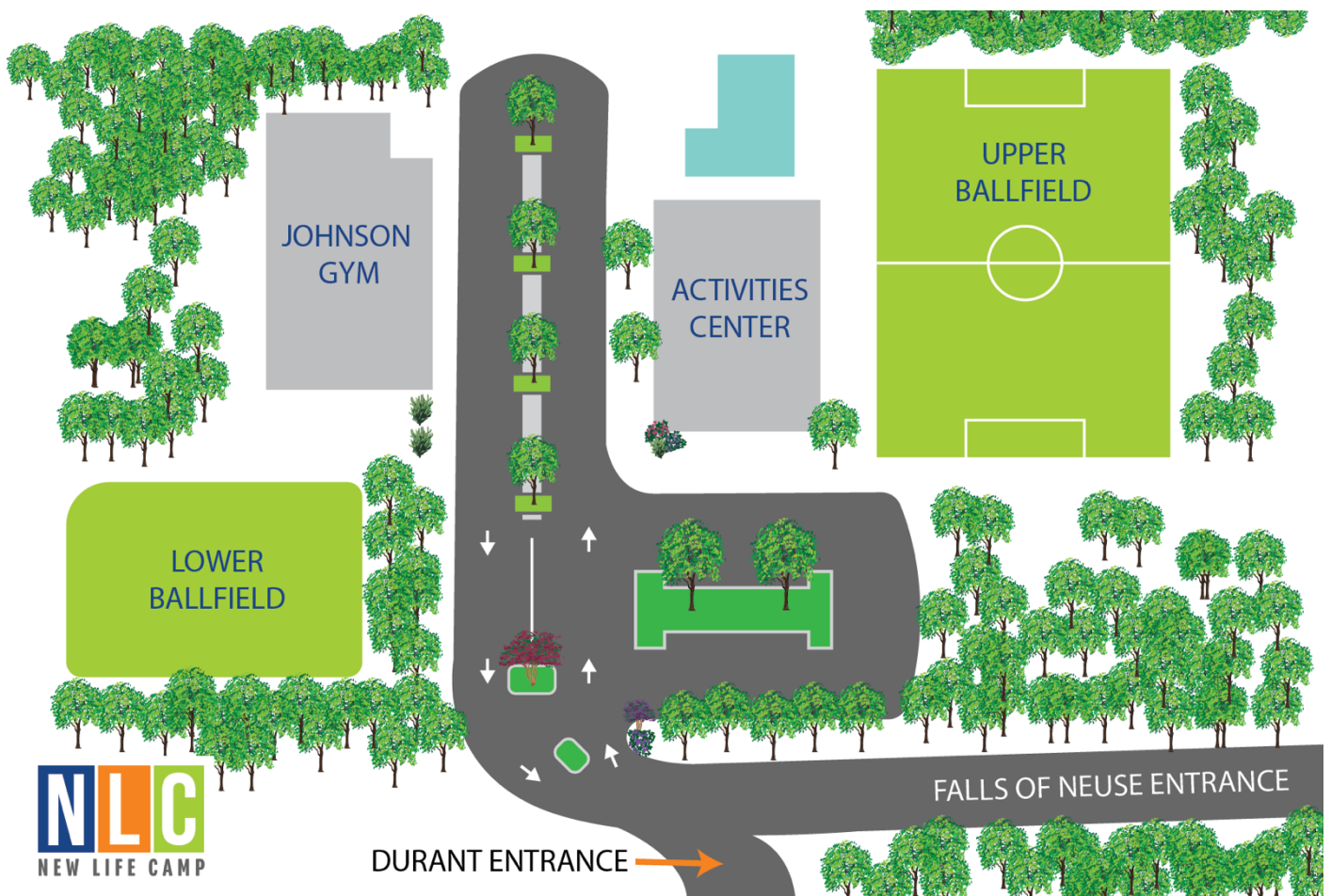
Tips for Being a Good Sports Parent

You do not have to look far to read about or hear about out-of-control disputes at youth sporting events. In so many leagues, the parents are a problem rather than a help. We desire for our program to be the opposite. A good parent might not only take interest in their own child's success, but also in the success of their teammates. We're looking for excellent parents who will take such ownership in the program. This is your program. These are your teams. These are your players. What role will you play? Here are some tips:

- No league, from rec leagues to the NBA, has teams with equal talent on all teams. There may be a team that wins every game, and there may be a team that loses every game.
- Facilitate a healthy desire to win while allowing your children to lose. Fear of failure will develop a fear to try.
- Assist your coach if your child's behavior is not appropriate.

- Communicate to your coach anything that may help them serve your child better.
- Do not handicap your child by teaching them how to make excuses and blaming others. Instead, support the coaches and referees at home in order to teach respect for authority.
- During games and practices, let the coaches coach. You cheer. What you desire for your child might contrast with what the coach wants for the team.
- Emphasize sportsmanship.
- Encourage other parents to check their over-competitiveness.
- Get to know as many other parents as possible from your team.
- Have a sense of humor.
- Have fun and allow everyone else to do the same. Allow your children to see that you are having fun. That will take pressure off them.
- If you have a complaint or suggestion, wait at least 24 hours to talk to a coach.
- Life is hard. Realize that teaching your child to lose gracefully is just as important, if not more important, than teaching your child how to win gracefully. Some teams will have more opportunities to teach losing gracefully than others. Take advantage.
- Listen to what your child thought about the game before giving your opinion.
- Ask your child if they want your opinion and be prepared to receive a no.
- Make this league about the players and not about your ability to parent the next superstar.
- Model appropriate behavior for not only your player on the court but also for the children who are sitting around you in the bleachers.
- Receive your child equally after wins and losses.
- Remember that sports are games and games are for children. Let the children play and don't stress them out.
- Say nothing to coaches and referees during or immediately after games except for encouragement.
- Teach your kids about commitment by having them at practices and games.
- Volunteer for the success of your child's team.
- Team sport is a great classroom for life. Allow God to teach your child life lessons.

New Life Camp Map of Facilities



Other Programs Offered at New Life Camp

Go to <https://newlifecamp.com/programs/> to find out more about these programs and register:

- **Family Bible Lessons** – these are monthly online lessons from September-April that you can do as a family at home. Not only can you learn about the Bible together as a family, your children ages 8-18 can earn a discount off of next year's summer camp by completing them.
- **New Life Basketball League** – New Life Basketball is designed for the beginner as well as the player who wants to take their game to the next level. At the same time, they are also challenged to take their relationship with Christ to the next level. (Ages 7-11)
- **LEARN** – LEARN is our program for home-schooled children that supplements what parents are teaching their children at home. There are two branches: Clubs for ages 4-13

that give children a taste of learning experiences and Academics for grades 6-12 that focus more on course work in a classroom setting.

- **Saturday Night @ Camp** - Get a taste of camp by coming to SN@C. Children are divided into three groups: kindergarten, elementary, and middle school. Supper is provided for all, and each group will review the biblical theme we learned during summer camp. This also is a great opportunity for a parents' night out. This event takes place in November, December, March, and April. (Ages 4-14)
- **Sports Skills Training** – These training sessions are provided for beginners up to Varsity players who want to improve their game during the off-season. (Ages 8-18)
- **Retreats** – these are opportunities throughout the year to squeeze a week of the camp experience into a weekend. There are separate retreats offered in the fall and winter seasons for elementary school, middle school, and high school students (Ages 8-18)

Ready to Get Involved?

God uses so many people to make New Life Camp run. Are you interested in being one of those people? We have all kinds of opportunities, including:

- Prayer Warriors
- Godly Basketball Head Coaches
- Basketball Assistant Coaches
- Basketball Referees
- Basketball Score Keepers
- Basketball Team Parents
- Camp Store Volunteers
- Cleaning Opportunities
- Check-In Volunteers
- Envelope Stuffers
- Grounds Work
- Kitchen Help
- Maintenance
- Parking Attendants
- Special IT Projects
- Providing Staff Meals
- Providing Scholarships
- General Fund Financial Supporters
- Individual Staff/Missionary Financial Supporters
- Program Financial Supporters
- Special Project Financial Support

We use all kinds of individuals and groups including:

- Parents
- Churches
- Sunday School Classes
- Youth Groups
- Scout & Girl Scout Groups Needing Service Projects
- Individuals Needing Community Service