



2023-2024

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

Revised July 2023

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Holy Trinity Catholic High School reserves the right to amend the contents of this handbook at any time. Parents will be notified of any such amendments by mail or email and a revised handbook will be posted on the website for viewing.

Letter from Principal and Athletic Director

Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

Welcome to Holy Trinity Athletics!

Holy Trinity Catholic High School Athletics is an important part of student life and the development of Christian virtue in our students. The athletic programs we offer are intended to assist in achieving the goals outlined in the school's mission statement to "develop the intellect, educate the heart, and form the character of each student by giving witness to Gospel values." We believe that athletics plays a vital role in the formation of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. The athletic programs are meant to provide an environment of competition, cooperation, and teamwork for our students that will glorify God and form the person. The lessons learned through competing with others and the virtue gained through overcoming challenges are its most important attributes.

Our coaches are dedicated to assisting student-athletes in reaching their maximum potential as an athlete, more importantly, as Christian Leaders. Holy Trinity offers a wide variety of teams to choose from and all students are encouraged to try out for the sports that are offered. Participation in multiple sports is encouraged to ensure a healthy balance. Strength and conditioning programs are also available all year for in-season and off-season training.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information to student-athletes, parents, and coaches regarding the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Athletic Department. This document will serve as the general expectations for all Holy Trinity Celtics teams. Coaches may have additional expectations and guidelines that pertain to their specific philosophy; those must be communicated early, clearly, and effectively. The information provided in this handbook is intended by the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Athletic Department to help create competitive athletics at all levels and to nurture young men and women of character, integrity, and faith.

This handbook contains the philosophies, policies, and guidelines which govern the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Athletic Program, as well as some of the more important rules required by the school and our governing leagues. Although it is intended to be comprehensive in nature, situations will inevitably occur that are not outlined in this handbook. Having a common understanding of rules and regulations that govern athletics will assist in significantly reducing concerns and unforeseen problems.

We ask that you read this handbook thoroughly with your student-athlete(s). Each athlete must indicate their agreement to comply with the Athletics Handbook before the student-athlete may participate in athletics.

Go Celtics!

Fred Valle
Principal

Kyle Dorman
Athletic Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Athletic Department is to provide a dynamic environment that promotes competitiveness, teamwork, and self-discipline in order to form the lifelong traits of good sportsmanship and a Christ-like character.

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

The primary goal of our athletic program is to bring glory to God in all that we do while developing a godly character in each student-athlete. To achieve this goal the athletic director and coaches encourage the student-athletes to strive for excellence and perform to the best of their ability, which God has given to them.

1 Thessalonians chapter 5 discusses receiving final salvation and motivates Christians to encourage one another. It identifies acts of respecting others and their leaders, being at peace with others, and providing motivational support for others that will allow Christians to lead a righteous life. Beyond this, it instructs believers to not ignore or reject what the Spirit wants them to do, and to stay clear of every form of evil. This is a tangible approach for the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Athletic Department to bring our beliefs into the foundation of extracurricular activities.

The athletic department is determined to provide and build a competitive culture. However, participation in extracurricular activities should be viewed as a character education program that builds student-athletes. The athletic program provides an opportunity to grow as leaders, followers, and teammates that help fulfill the school's mission of "Building the Christian Leaders of Tomorrow"

CORE VALUES

Holy Trinity Athletics helps to fulfill the mission of the school by teaching the Christian way of competing and the Christian way of life as expressed through four core values:

- **Raise – each other through encouragement and expectations**
"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up"
- **Respect – for oneself, others, and authority and their efforts**
"Acknowledge those who work hard among you"
- **Responsibility – for one's actions and to encourage others**
"Warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone"
- **Rejoice – in God's plan and protection**
"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

ATHLETIC PROGRAM PROFILE

Mascot – Celtics and Lady Celtics

Colors – Navy and Gold

Fall Sports

- Cheerleading (Girls – YEAR-ROUND)
- Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
- Football (Boys – 6-man)
- Volleyball (Girls)

Winter Sports

- Basketball (Boys & Girls)
- Soccer (Boys & Girls)

Spring

- Baseball (Boys)
- Golf (Boys & Girls)
- Softball (Girls)
- Track and Field (Boys & Girls)
- Tennis (Boys & Girls)
- Swimming (Boys & Girls)

ATHLETIC GOVERNANCE

Holy Trinity Catholic High School is a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) for high school sports. All team and individual sports compete for TAPPS championships. TAPPS re-aligns and redistricts its member schools on a two-year cycle. TAPPS currently classifies our school as a 3A school in a 6-division classification system. HTCHS adheres to all policies, rules, regulations, and bylaws established by TAPPS. All TAPPS policies can be found through the following link: www.tappp.biz

TAPPS REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Student-athletes participating in the athletic program are required to have a current physical examination performed by a doctor which clears the student-athlete to participate in sports. Student-athletes **will not** be able to participate in any sports activity (tryouts/practices/games/etc.) without a current physical. This physical must be on the appropriate TAPPS forms, conducted and signed by a physician within the past 12 months.

- Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (PPE)
 - Physical Examination (Must be completed within the past twelve months)
 - Medical History
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Concussion And Traumatic Brain Injury
- TAPPS Student Acknowledgement of Rules
- Transfer Form**

ALL high school student-athletes transferring to Holy Trinity *from a high school* (public or private) or *homeschool* **must complete Part A of the TAPPS Transfer Form with their parents. Transfer forms can be acquired at the following link:

- <https://tappp.biz/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/TRANSFER-FORM-17-18.pdf>

- ***IF the student-athlete participated in athletics at their previous high school***, Part B must be completed as well.

RANK ONE SPORTS

TAPPS uses Rank One Sports for all required athlete documentation. Parents of student-athletes attending Holy Trinity Catholic High School can access the required documentation for athletic participation after creating a “Parent Profile” using the following link (*Student ID is required):

- <https://templeholylrinitycatholichighschool.rankonesport.com/New/NewInstructionsPage.aspx>

Rank One Sports will allow the Athletic Department to track student participation eligibility, update game scores, and track practice attendance. It is highly encouraged that parents download the Rank One Sports application if available on their devices in order to receive notifications of these items.

DOCTOR’S NOTICE OF PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

Parents and student-athletes are reminded that there are inherent dangers and risks of injury in all extracurricular and interscholastic athletic events. It will be essential that parents, student-athletes, trainers, and coaches work together, along with physicians, to see that each student-athlete is in good health before participating in a particular sport.

If a student-athlete sustains a sport-related physical injury that limits him/her from any specific requirements of that sport, he/she will need to have a written report from a physician/athletic trainer sent to the Athletic Office before that student-athlete will be considered exempt from participation. A note from a doctor will be considered only as a caution for a limited time period. If the student-athlete is asking to be exempt from an activity, a physical examination with a written report from a specialist in the practice of medicine related to the injury will need to be sent to the Athletic Office. This report will require a physician’s signature. This policy is designed to protect student-athletes from serious injuries.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND FEES

School Academic Eligibility Policy, Action Plan to Address Eligibility, Mandatory Attendance, and Athletic Fees for Participation are taken directly from HTCHS Student-Parent Handbook

Academic Requirements for Participation

To maintain eligibility for extracurricular activities, students will be required to maintain a 70 or above in ALL of his/her classes in accordance with the policy laid out below. Eligibility will be determined by the final grade at the end of each quarter.

Students with a grade below 70 will be ineligible. While academically ineligible:

- At the discretion of the Principal in consultation with the Athletic and Fine Arts Director, an ineligible student may continue to *practice* with his or her team or group in order to maintain involvement.
- A student will NOT be allowed to participate, or travel with their team to any home or away extra-curricular competitions. *Students who are ineligible are not allowed to be in any designated team area during the competition.*

The period of ineligibility will begin the Sunday after each quarter's report cards are announced and will continue for a period of 3 weeks. If at the end of the 3-week period of ineligibility, the student is passing

ALL class(es) (not limited to the initial class that caused the loss of eligibility), their eligibility will be reinstated. A student will not be reinstated prior to the end of the 3-week period. A student who continues to fail one or more classes shall be ineligible on a week-to-week basis until such time as the student is passing all of his/her classes.

ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

At the halfway mark of the term, the school will distribute progress reports so let students and parents know their current academic standing. This is used to create awareness of the current projection of grades and is not considered an official grading period. An academic improvement plan will be developed for the students with a grade of 75 or below in any course. The academic improvement plan will be developed in consultation with the teachers, coaches, parents, counselor, student, and Principal. The purpose of this academic improvement plan is to assist students in passing the course at the end of the term.

Please note, eligibility at HTCHS requires students to be in good standing academically and behaviorally. (*See Disciplinary Policy*)

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in an athletic extracurricular event or practice, students must be in attendance at school for the entire day (or the last day preceding the event if it is scheduled on a non-school day). Being in attendance is defined as being present and appropriately participating in all assigned classes. A doctor's/dentist appointment, funeral, family emergency, or other emergency situations would be exempt from this provision if approved by the Athletic Director or Principal. These instances should be presented as soon as they occur, and proper documentation provided to the front office.

Attendance is also required for athletic extracurricular practices. At the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director, eligibility to participate in contests/games can be affected by failure to attend practices.

ATHLETIC FEES

The Athletic Department at HTCHS does not have the luxury of state funding for athletics. Therefore, athletic fees are critical to running athletic programs that we can all take pride in. These fees help provide income for officials, travel, equipment, and more.

Athletic fees must be paid by the first game of the season. Athletes who do not have fees paid in advance may not be eligible to play.

The Athletic Fee is a \$300 (one-time) fee for as many sports as students would like to play throughout the course of the school year. This means that ALL student-athletes must pay the \$300 Athletic Fee in order to participate in ANY of the aforementioned sports, regardless of the NUMBER of sports they participate in.

Athletic fees **must be paid by the first game of the season**. Athletes who do not have fees paid in advance will not be eligible to play until the fees have been paid.

PLAYER EJECTIONS

Any time a player is ejected from a contest, that player/family is responsible for payment of the TAPPS fees associated with the ejection (at least a \$50 fine) before that player will be allowed to compete in future contests. Additionally, any player ejected will be ineligible for the next scheduled contest (single

game or tournament game and football would be the first half). Ejections from any activity may result in further sanctions by the school, athletic department, and/or TAPPS, depending on the nature of the offense. A coach or player deliberately coming into physical contact with, or threatening to harm an official, shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension.

RECRUITING POLICY

Students and families must follow the admissions procedures established by the school. No student, regardless of intended athletic participation, will be given preferential treatment for admission status. All TAPPS rules regarding transfer students must be followed. Please refer to the TAPPS Constitution and Bylaws regarding rules for transfer students. This includes solicitation, enticement, and inducements. Holy Trinity Catholic High School will not offer or support any form of enticements or inducements, including athletic scholarships, by the Athletic Department or anyone associated with HTCHS.

LETTERING POLICY

To encourage involvement in extracurricular activities and to track the performance of individual students, Holy Trinity has instituted letter policies that enable students to earn a letter jacket for participation and success in athletics, academic competitions, fine art competitions, and similar activities. Specific guidelines for lettering in each area are determined by the faculty adviser of each activity in question in conjunction with school administrators. These guidelines are available upon request from the appropriate adviser.

EXTRACURRICULAR AWARDS

Students who excel in extracurricular activities are recognized at the end of the year. These awards will be determined by the sponsors of each activity based on the conditions that they assign. The reception of these awards is at the sole discretion of the sponsors, coaches, and teachers involved.

GUIDELINES AND INFO FOR ATHLETES

COMMITMENT TO ATHLETICS

Because so many people – coaches, teammates, officials, and even our opponents – are depending on us in the world of athletics, a high level of commitment is expected from anyone who agrees to be a part of an athletic team at Holy Trinity Catholic High School. This includes a commitment to be at ALL practices and games during the season, except in dire circumstances. Family vacations, doctor appointments, and other activities should be planned around all in-season schedules to which a student-athlete has committed. Nearly everyone will have to miss a practice or a game at some point for one reason or another. However, these absences should be kept to a minimum; any time an athlete needs to miss a practice or game, the head coach should be notified as far in advance as possible.

Student-athletes involved in athletics should expect to be participating in a game or practice every day of the school week as well as occasional Saturdays during the season. Some off days from practices may be declared at the coach's discretion. HTCHS athletic teams may take advantage of school holidays/off days to get extra gym time for practicing. High school game schedules, other than football, will consist of two or three games per week (excluding tournaments, which typically run Thursday through Saturday), including some Saturday games.

The start of fall sports practice at the high school level begins before the first day of school. The TAPPS calendar puts the first day of fall sports practices on August 1st or the first Monday in August depending on the calendar year. Student-athletes are expected to be at the first practice. Families are highly encouraged to have all their vacations completed so teams can begin preparing for the upcoming season. High school volleyball and football teams will have scheduled games, scrimmages, and/or tournaments that we have committed to before the start of school.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The overall behavior of a Holy Trinity Catholic High School student-athlete should model Jesus Christ both on and off the field or court of athletic competition. Scripture commands us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Coaches, parents, and student-athletes are expected to demonstrate and foster an environment of respect for authority, for others, and for the rules and standards of God's Word, the school, and athletic competition.

These expectations extend into the totality of our lifestyles and do not apply just in the context of school and athletics. Keep in mind that we are guests at every road game and in every restaurant and hotel. At all times we should demonstrate the utmost respect for those around us.

Should a student-athlete be disciplined for behavior issues at school, his/her athletic participation does not supersede his/her obligation to fulfill the assigned disciplinary action. The Athletic Director and/or Head Coach may dispense additional consequences to the student-athlete such as (and not limited to) losing starting position or sitting for a half before playing in a game.

PRACTICE ATTENDANCE

Practice is the primary mode of preparation for athletes in a sport. Practice is **MANDATORY**. Student-athletes must manage his/her schedule in such a way as to allow him/her to fulfill all responsibilities to schoolwork and athletics. We all understand that academics take priority at HTCHS; however, missing team functions for the sake of academic work is frowned upon.

Part of the maturation process is finding ways to balance sports with academics. HTCHS students that participate in extracurricular activities sacrifice more personal time for academic study than non-athletes. Student-athletes may struggle at times but are encouraged to communicate with their parents, coaches, and teachers about their academic concerns and to look for guidance through difficult periods.

NO QUIT POLICY

The HTCHS Athletic Department follows a no-quit policy. Quitting a sport adversely impacts the team and school in the future. Schedules, equipment, uniforms, and team personnel choices are made before the season and are based on participation levels. Quitting dramatically hurts the ability of the program to plan for future competitions.

Student-athletes will have up to ten practice days from the beginning of practice to stay in the sport or leave. Between the 9th and 10th practice day, he/she must make the commitment to finish the season with the program. The consequences for not completing a season could range from not being able to start practicing for the next sport season to being suspended from all sports for one calendar year from the start of the season.

Quitting is defined as the student's or family's decision to stop participating at practice, games, or team functions. The only exception to this rule is when the head coach, athletic director, and parent all agree that the student's participation would no longer be beneficial to the team or the player.

PLAYING TIME

At all levels of athletics, a winning competitive spirit is expected of our athletes, coaches and parents. However, winning is secondary to many different levels of athletic department goals and objectives. Playing time is determined by many different criteria – ex: lack of attendance at practices will influence playing time. It is the goal of our coaches to allow every athlete to participate in games. However, this is not guaranteed and will be at the discretion of the coach based on their decisions throughout the competition. We recognize that there are different skill levels and equal playing time is not promised to any athlete. Not all situations are appropriate for allowing every athlete to play and it is important to consider the needs and desires of your child's teammates in addition to your own; help promote the team concept by encouraging all team members, understanding that the coach is responsible for determining playing time based on the situation. We can provide a valuable opportunity for students to fellowship with their classmates outside of the classroom, to keep their bodies physically fit, and to be a contributing part of a team effort.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND HAZING

Please refer to the Holy Trinity Catholic High School Student Parent for a detailed description of what is identified as bullying, harassment, and hazing. Included in this section is the listed consequences and disciplinary actions if a student is found to be guilty of bullying, harassment, and hazing.

Athletic teams rely on coordination, cooperation, and cohesion to successfully accomplish their goals. Any form of bullying, harassment, and hazing directly impacts a team's ability to build these vital requirements. A student-athlete found to be taking part in any form of bullying, harassment, or hazing will be subject to additional disciplinary action relating to their athletic participation that will be determined by the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

SCHEDULING

The Athletic Department does its best to schedule games and practices well in advance of the season. Because we cannot control league changes or changes made by an opponent when we travel to their home court/field, changes to schedules will inevitably occur. Additionally, a few unexpected changes are possible to take place throughout the season. We appreciate your patience as these things arise.

PARTICIPATION IN MULTIPLE SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We encourage athletes to be well-rounded, participating in different activities both athletically and otherwise. Different sports challenge athletes in different ways and the skills developed through the training methods used in one sport will often help the athlete in another sport.

Regarding multiple sport participation, it is not recommended that student-athletes participate in multiple TEAM sports at the same time. This is due to the conflicting schedules that will not allow the student-athlete to be consistently present at all practices and games, which can be detrimental to the ability of the coaches and team to prepare and for the athlete to receive proper training from their coaches that directly affects potential safety risks. Student-athletes may participate in additional/multiple INDIVIDUAL sports (cross country, golf, tennis, swimming, and track) or cheerleading beyond their team sport. Frequent, open communication between student-athlete, his/her parents, and the coaches involved are essential, as it is inevitable that scheduling conflicts will arise. A priority must be declared by the student and their parents and understood by the coaches involved. When conflicts arise with participation in multiple sports, coaches will work together to manage the time commitments of athletes

to honor the commitment to multi-sport athletes. As a rule, all sports in district play or playoff competition will have priority over other sports and practices.

Regarding multiple-activity participation, student-athletes may participate in a non-athletic department (fine arts, debate, etc.) program and on an athletic team at the same time. Leadership from both activities will work closely together to minimize conflict and on a rare occasion may reserve the right to require sole commitment to their activity depending on the event coming up or the numbers needed to keep the team competitive in their activity.

Coaches will, under no circumstances, discourage students from participating in one sport or activity for another. This includes verbal warnings and/or using playing time as leverage. Coaches should work to ensure that students do not discourage one another from playing other sports. We expect all programs to be supportive of other programs on campus. At no time should an HTCHS coach encourage a HTCHS athlete to specialize in one sport or more specific programs; the coach should do his/her best to support the multi-program concept.

BACK-TO-BACK SEASONS

An athlete, who is ending one season and immediately starting another sport, may need to take a few days off to recuperate (rule of thumb: up to 3 days - a weekend counts as two days). It is the responsibility of the athlete to see the coach whose season he/she is starting and confirm how many days he/she can take off. As previously stated, quitting one sport to begin another sport is not ethical and can lead to consequences impacting their ability to participate in athletics.

FACILITY ACCESS

Facilities will be available to players during designated practice and event times. No player or student will be allowed in the facilities without a coach or school-appointed representative. No player or student will be given access keys or codes to enter a facility. Any coach, school representative, player, or student violating this policy will be subject to further disciplinary action.

STEWARDSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

Each team is responsible for cleaning up whatever facility it uses after each event or practice. All trash should be thrown away, all tables and chairs restored to their normal place and order and all equipment properly stored. At road games, the bench and team areas will be cleaned before our teams depart. Players, parents, and coaches work together to accomplish this task. We intend to leave every facility cleaner than we find it.

Whatever team or group is the last to use the gym or other facility should turn out all the lights and make sure the doors are locked and tables and chairs are stored properly. No students are allowed to use the gym without adult supervision. The last coach to leave the facility should see that all equipment is properly stored and that all students have left the facility before they lock up.

ATHLETIC UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and equipment. Student-athletes are expected to take great care of the uniforms and will take responsibility for any equipment issued. This includes making sure that all issued equipment is cleaned on a routine basis. Proper sanitizing of uniforms and equipment should occur routinely to combat any bacterial collections as well as to protect the integrity of the equipment and the life of the uniform. The following guidelines should be used for cleaning and caring for uniforms issued:

- Wash separately in COLD WATER only, immediately after games
- Line/Hang dry – DO NOT TUMBLE DRY!

If at any time the equipment and/or uniform become damaged/lost/left in the opponents' gym, it is imperative that the player let the head coach and/or Athletic Office know immediately. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform will be issued out (if available) once the lost uniform has been paid for in full. Damaged, lost, or stolen equipment and/or uniform pieces will need to be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete.

Coaches will determine and communicate the team dress code when traveling to an away game. Student-athletes may be required to wear sport-specific athletic apparel at all practices, games, travel, and events.

SAFETY, FIRST AID, AND TRAVEL TO GAMES

STUDENT ACCIDENT COVERAGE

Holy Trinity Catholic High School has access to supplemental coverage through the Diocese of Austin's insurance program. The accident insurance plan is designed to cover students while they are participating in a school-sponsored or supervised activity. This plan may or may not be able to reimburse eligible expenses that are not covered by the parent's healthcare plan for medical expenses. Therefore, prior to working with HTCHS to file a claim, the parent must first file with their healthcare plan.

HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS

Parents and athletes are responsible for being up to date on the educational material on the TAPPS website concerning Concussions, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Steroid Abuse, Heat Stress, and Dehydration. Materials can be found under Health and Safety through the following link: <https://tapps.biz/health/>

FIRST AID/CPR/CONCUSSIONS

All Holy Trinity Catholic High School coaches receive regular first aid and CPR training. All high school coaches annually meet TAPPS training standards for understanding health, safety, first aid, and concussions.

CONCUSSION POLICY FOR ALL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The academic management of a student with a concussion will be on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, school administration will err on the side of caution. If a medical professional makes the decision to place the student on concussion protocol, an individualized plan will be set up by administration. Students who are placed on modified attendance by a medical professional will be required to follow the specifics of the individualized plan. During recovery, rest is key. Some normal daily and school activities that may cause concussion symptoms to reappear or get worse.

Students who return to school after a concussion may need some of the following accommodations:

- take rests breaks
- be provided extra help and time to complete schoolwork
- spend less continuous time reading and writing
- limit screen time (computer, tv, cell phone use)

The individualized plan will include the level of participation and attendance permitted at any school activities (academic or extracurricular) until such time as the student is able to resume a normal full academic load with no re-occurring side effects.

DEALING WITH HEAT

Dealing with the Texas heat, particularly during the late summer in outdoor sports like football and cross country, is something that cannot be avoided. It is the responsibility of the coaches to safely train and prepare student-athletes for safely competing in hot conditions. Common sense is the rule of the day. Hydration is the most important factor in being prepared for the heat; student-athletes should be taking care of themselves by staying constantly hydrated – not just hydrating during practices and games.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The Athletic Department at HTCHS will carefully monitor the weather status on practice and competition days. Decisions regarding the safety of players, fans, and coaches will be made by the Athletic Director, Head of School, head coach, game administrator, and/or sports official.

In the event of inclement weather, every effort will be made to notify parents by 1:30 pm if a practice and/or game will be canceled. If severe weather occurs after 1:30 pm, parents will be notified by the athletic office or coach. Any impacts to team travel related to inclement weather will also be relayed to parents by the athletic office or coach.

LIGHTNING

Whenever lightning is observed in the immediate area, anyone participating in an outdoor sport will immediately seek shelter inside a building or automobile and remain under shelter until no lightning has been observed for 30 minutes. During games, the decision to play or not play will be determined by the game officials once a contest has started.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

When available, school-provided buses or vans will be used to transport teams. All student-athletes are required to use seatbelts while traveling in school transportation. All student-athletes must travel as a team to games and out-of-town events. All student-athletes must travel as a team to practices and games requiring them to leave during school hours.

Athletes may not travel alone with coaches of the opposite sex. Coaches will ensure the supervision of athletic trainers and must always be present when an athletic trainer is administering aid to athletes of the opposite sex.

TRANSPORTATION WAIVER

Any student-athlete that wishes to travel in any means beyond the school-provided transportation must have a signed Transportation Waiver signed by their parent or legal guardian. If the student is attempting to leave with an individual that the student is not authorized to be released to during school hours, the Transportation Waiver must identify the individual by name and be signed by their parent or legal guardian. A student-athlete requesting to be released with another student requires parental approval from both sets of parents of the students. This policy applies to all students, family members, and friends and has been placed to ensure the safety and supervision of all student-athletes.

All requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Coaches **WILL NOT** release a student-athlete without a signed Transportation Waiver. Phone authorization for release is not an authorized method for a Transportation Waiver. While coordinating Transportation Waivers in advance is not required prior to being released from the event, it is helpful to coaches and athletic staff to prepare for accountability during travel to and from the event.

LATE RETURN FROM AWAY GAMES

The Athletic Department and Head Coaches take into consideration time and travel for away games. It is our intent to have teams back at a reasonable time; however, there are times when teams will return to school late due to various circumstances. Communication needs to be made with the Athletic Director as soon as possible regarding the circumstances surrounding a late return. Head coaches should/will plan to have food ordered so that it can be picked up from the location on the way home from a game for players to eat on the bus (ex: pizza, sub sandwiches) when there is a late game time and/or the distance traveled to game pushes arrival time back to school.

PARENT AND FAN GUIDELINES

FAN BEHAVIOR

All participants, coaches, players, teachers, and spectators are representatives of Holy Trinity Catholic High School. During each competition, the behavior of our athletes, coaches, teachers, and fans should express our objective to honor God. Cheering will be with the intention to motivate our team and always be done in a positive manner. Fans of Holy Trinity Catholic High School will never insult or provoke the opposing team and failure to adhere to this policy could result in removal from the game by the game administrator.

Coaches, athletes, and fans are expected to treat officials with respect and courtesy. Inappropriate remarks to officials will not be allowed and could result in removal from the game by the game administrator. Fans should never approach officials and/or opposing coaches after games, whether courtside or in the parking lot, to discuss aspects of the game.

SPORTSMANSHIP

During home contests, we serve as hosts to the visiting team, its students, and spectators. They are our guests, and they should be treated accordingly. At away contests, we are expected to act as invited guests. We will treat the home school's personnel and facilities with care and respect. As participants and spectators, we want to cheer for our team and not against the opponent, modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Additionally, we will regard the rules of the game as an agreement, the spirit and letter of which we should not break. Players play the game; coaches coach the game... no official has ever "lost" a game for a team. Much like we do not readily credit an official for a win, we will not blame an official for a loss. Officials will be treated with respect, and we will accept absolutely and without dispute the final decision of any official.

Any member of the HTCHS community who is a participant or spectator at an event, who uses profanity, engages in inappropriate behaviors such as fighting, or similar misconduct, will be dismissed from the event and could be subject to disciplinary action by the school.

PRESENCE AT GAMES AND PRACTICES

The coach's classroom is the court or field, usually with undefined walls, making it easy for parents to naturally move close to the action. Parents should be interested, supportive observers from a distance. The coach needs room to be able to instruct the player to perform without distraction from the stands. Distraction only yields poor results.

It is important to student-athletes that, if possible, parents are present at games, both home and away. A parent's attendance tells the child that he/she cares and that they want to share in the joys and frustrations that are a part of the competition. It also gives parents an opportunity to develop a bond with their child and other parents and to observe the progress made throughout the season.

Practices, which are considered valuable instructional and evaluation time, are open to all non-team or program personnel but must be previously approved by the Head Coach. Invited guests are expected to refrain from disrupting practice sessions, and from interacting with players and/or coaches. There may be times when coaches ask to have a closed practice session and, in such cases, we ask parents to respect the instructional methodology the coach employs.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

All parents of student-athletes will be called upon at various times to help with such things as concessions, performing official contest-related duties (ex. first down markers at football games), and clock/scoreboard or scorebook keeping at games. All parents are asked to help with the cleanup process after each sporting event.

School Policy requires ALL volunteers that will be around students and/or student athletes to have complete Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) training through the Diocese of Austin. Further information can be found through the following link:

- <https://austindiocese.org/eim-compliance-status>

COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES

Direct communication between the coach and student-athlete is very important and is usually the best way for any questions to be answered or conflicts to be worked through. If after a coach and student-athlete have met and it is deemed necessary for an additional meeting, the next meeting should include the parent of the student-athlete. Inevitably, there may be times when a meeting between a parent and coach is warranted. Please call or e-mail the coach to arrange a convenient time for a phone conversation or meeting.

Coaches at HTCHS are authorized to exercise a 24-hour rule, which allows them to wait 24 hours before responding to a call or replying to an email. Too often our emotions get the best of us, especially as it relates to the things that we are passionate about. Due to this, please keep all communication with a coach before or after practices or games limited to your words of support and encouragement, or respectfully asking for a meeting in the future. Coaches will be happy to meet with you, but it may be a few days before a convenient time can be arranged.

A meeting with the coach is an opportunity to exchange information and respectfully discuss any concerns or questions that you may have. Hopefully the meeting will promote better understanding and communication, but the meeting should not be viewed as an opportunity to convince the coach that your child should be playing more, playing a different position, or that the coach should be employing a

different strategy. Coaches **will not** respond to calls, emails, or meeting requests that are focused on these topics.

After the meeting, just as before the meeting, your support of the team and the coach is expected. If there is a significant issue that you believe requires additional discussion, then the Athletic Director, coach, student-athlete, and parent can meet to resolve the issue. If issues cannot be resolved after meeting with the Athletic Director, then a meeting involving the school Principal, along with the Athletic Director, coach, student-athlete, and parent should take place.

COMMUNICATION WITH PRESS, PUBLIC, AND OPPOSING TEAM

All press releases must be approved by the Athletic Director (calling in box scores to the local newspaper is not considered a press release and should be the responsibility of the Head Coach or his/her appointed contact person). Please do not damage the relationship our school has with media outlets by harassing them for lack of press coverage of our athletic events.

Parents should never contact opposing schools, officials, or the TAPPS office to voice complaints over athletic contests, opposing players, coaches or fans, or officials. All concerns and/or opinions should be communicated directly with HTCHS's Athletic Director.

MINISTERING TO OTHER SCHOOLS

Holy Trinity Catholic High School athletics recognizes that our coaches, athletes, and families are to be active participants in the body of Christ. To that end, we understand that athletics can be a tremendously effective vehicle to build relationships with other schools and communities. Through the years, HTCHS teams have engaged several public schools in competition and will continue to do so. In addition, HTCHS also competes against schools that do not necessarily share HTCHS's theology, worldview, or priorities toward competition.

All HTCHS players, coaches, fans, and parents should regard these interactions as ministry opportunities regardless of the school we are playing. We should always seek to interact with our opponents, their coaches, and fans – win or lose – with an attitude of love, respect, and graciousness that points others toward Jesus Christ. Please remember that they will associate our attitudes and actions with the God we serve.

RETURN THIS PAGE WITH ALL SIGNATURES REQUIRED

HTCHS ATHLETICS HANDBOOK AGREEMENT 2023-2024

The rules and policies for Holy Trinity Catholic High School outlined in this handbook are a material condition of the contractual agreement between the school and the student and their parents/guardians. Holy Trinity Catholic High School has tried to be as explicit as possible, but during the academic year, new and unusual circumstances may arise. The Principal has the authority to use his discretion in making decisions regarding unforeseen circumstances.

Student's Name (Please Print)

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date