



# Athletic Handbook

*Santa Cruz Catholic School*  
*1100 Main Street*  
*Buda, TX 78610*  
*(512) 312-2137*  
*(512) 312-2143*  
[www.sccstx.org](http://www.sccstx.org)

The Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletic Handbook is published so that parents, students and staff may be informed of policies and procedures of the school athletics. If changes are necessary during the year, the Principal may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed, and has the final decision with regards to any policy.

Modified August 8th 2023

## Table of Contents

Cardinal Athletic Welcome Message.....	3
Santa Cruz Catholic School Mission and Athletic Philosophy .....	4
Athletic Conference Affiliation - Seasonal Sports.....	6
Athletic Facilities.....	6
Athletic Registration/Eligibility.....	7
Commitment .....	8
Team Selection.....	8
Volunteer Coaches.....	8
Coaching Duties.....	9
Health and Safety.....	9
Carpooling and Communication.....	10
Parents Role.....	10
Uniforms and Equipment.....	11
Athletic Fees.....	12
End of Year Athletic Banquet.....	12
Athletic Waiver and Parent/Student-Athlete Agreement Signature Page .....	13

Dear Parents, Students and Coaches,

Welcome to a new academic and athletic year at Santa Cruz Catholic School. In choosing to attend Santa Cruz Catholic School you have elected a Christ-centered Catholic education and academic excellence. Our school offers a wealth of opportunities including athletic competition.

There is a very rich tradition of athletics here at Santa Cruz Catholic School and we are all proud of our athletes and their accomplishments. While we want Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics to be an exciting and fun filled experience, we understand that our faith lives and academics are the priority. Our abilities are God given and we must remember that Catholic virtues such as Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance impact our children's performance on and off the court or field. It is our hope that all of the students will reach their full potential spiritually and athletically while having a truly positive experience in all aspects of the sports we offer.

This handbook outlines the philosophy and reflects the policies of the Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletic Program for the school year. Please read this document carefully, sign the attached agreement, and return it to school before attending the first practice date. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of the Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletic Program during the school year.

Just as those who create a document such as this are a work in progress, so is this Athletic Handbook.

Many blessings and Go Cardinals!

Athletic Director: David Hanson

School Principal: Jessica Chaffee

## **SANTA CRUZ CATHOLIC SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Santa Cruz Catholic School is to educate our students to be lifelong learners and the next generation of Catholic leaders following Christ's message of Service, Compassion, Courage, and Spirit.

### **Development of Philosophy**

Santa Cruz Catholic School shares in the Church's mission of spreading the Good News to everyone. Christ's instruction to His apostles, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations," has the same profound meaning for all who are a part of Santa Cruz Catholic School. Santa Cruz Catholic School acquaints the students with the full scope of Catholic doctrine, spirit and tradition. Santa Cruz Catholic School prepares students to proclaim the Lord's message and to translate this proclamation into action in their daily lives.

Santa Cruz Catholic School provides space, time, materials, and direction to allow students to explore and deepen their understanding of the basic concepts, beliefs, and values underlying their faith and culture. Together with parents, the faculty at Santa Cruz Catholic School guide the students in all ways of growth: academic, physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and moral. Sensitive to the learning styles and capabilities of each student, we place each student in an atmosphere of Christian freedom and charity that allows them to develop a pattern of learning and growth helping them to recognize and develop their own talents. Santa Cruz Catholic School strives to instill in its students a joy of learning and positive sense of self-worth.

### **Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletic Philosophy**

"While playing sports, Christians also find help in developing the cardinal virtues- fortitude, temperance, prudence, and justice."

Pope John Paul II, September 2004

Santa Cruz Catholic School promotes a Christian atmosphere that is exemplified through athletic competition. We recognize the importance of maintaining fitness and good health while bringing glory to God in all we do. Our athletic philosophy is designed to support and affirm the philosophy and mission statement of our school. Christ's message of Service, Compassion, Courage, and Spirit should be displayed by all athletes.

Athletics provides the opportunity for student athletes to obtain valuable lessons in citizenship, sportsmanship, and the understanding of responsibility. In addition, our athletes ascertain collaborative skills, allowing them to succeed as a team, and bestow commitment to their team and school. Our athletes will also gain perspective into distinguishing the team above self, embrace the concept of constructive

criticism, assert the highest respect for others, exhibit self-control, assume responsibility for their actions, and be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Santa Cruz Catholic School develops the full person and teaches the relationship between God and creation. Santa Cruz strives to supplement and refine influences of the home and community environment to develop the whole person spiritually, intellectually, socially, morally, emotionally, and physically. Spiritually, students learn of God's love for them and to love God and neighbor. Intellectually, students acquire sound knowledge of the rules and dynamics of athletic competition. Socially, students recognize their role in creating a just society to play by the rules and to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Morally, students find the Gospel values as a foundation and Christ as the model for decision-making. Emotionally, students, as children of God, learn to act with self-control. Physically, students learn to maintain their fitness and health. Santa Cruz Catholic School recognizes each child is unique in God's plan, possessing individual gifts and talents. It is our plan to respect and nurture individual differences while developing each student to his or her fullest potential.

### **Statement of Goals**

1. To build personal relationships allowing each athlete to grow in terms of self-knowledge and self-respect and to gain a better understanding of Christian responsibility and freedom.
2. To build a dynamic faith community by focusing upon the uniqueness and strengths of the coaches, students, and parents, thereby enabling them to reach their full potential as individuals.
3. To enable the student athletes to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, so His message and truth, which is proclaimed in the school and in athletic competition, will become a living reality.
4. To develop a climate of coaching as ministry, in which the coaches move beyond the transference of knowledge sharing their life experiences with their student athletes.
5. To develop proficiency in students' communication, value clarification, decision-making, and creativity.

## **Athletic Conference Affiliation**

Santa Cruz Catholic School participates in the Austin Private School Association (APSA), a conference comprised of area Private schools. Athletic competition in the APSA conference is for 4th to 8th grade students whilst track and cross country is for 2nd to 8th grade students. In addition to playing conference games, Santa Cruz Catholic School teams often play other schools in the Greater Austin area. Thus, Santa Cruz Catholic School athletes play students from diverse backgrounds and skill levels.

## **Seasonal Sports**

### Fall Sports

Cross Country	Girls and Boys (2nd - 8th grade)
Flag Football	Girls and Boys (4th - 8th grade)
Volleyball	Girls (4th - 8th grade)

### Winter Sports

Basketball	Girls and Boys (4th - 8th grade)
------------	----------------------------------

### Spring Sports

Track	Girls and Boys (2nd - 8th grade)
Soccer	Girls and Boys (4th - 8th grade)

## **Athletic Facilities**

Santa Cruz Catholic School has an on-site outdoor basketball court and leases the field adjacent to the school. Practices and games for all sports take place at different locations. As we do not have an on-site gymnasium, some teams may practice off-site at rented sports facilities. Conference games and Athletic meets are scheduled by the APSA conference at varying locations and schools in the greater Austin area.

## **Athletic Registration/Eligibility**

Parents and athletes must turn in the **signed Athletics Signature Page** located at the bottom of this handbook in order to register for Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics. This is indicating an agreement to the Athletic Handbook policies and the Santa Cruz Catholic School liability waiver. This Athletics Signature Page must be completed before a student participates in any practice, before, during, or after school, or games/matches. This form only needs to be completed once per academic year.

Per Diocesan mandate, a Pre-Participation **Physical Evaluation** is required for each student athlete. This form is located on the school website under 'Athletics' [sccstx.org/athletics](http://sccstx.org/athletics). This evaluation by a physician must be completed before a student participates in any practice, before, during, or after school, or games/matches.

### **Eligibility**

For a student to be eligible for Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics they must be enrolled in the school, maintain good academic standing and exemplify positive behavior.

A student athlete must be in attendance at the school on game/practices days in order to play. The only exception is an excused absence, not including sickness.

Student athletes must maintain a grade of at least a 'C' to participate in Athletics. If at any point the grade drops below a 'C' (69% or lower) the student athlete will need to improve their grade before they can compete in games. (However, they will still be allowed to practice with their team at the discretion of their parents/guardians)

A student athlete could be considered ineligible for games and practices should his/her behavior require:

1. Removal from a classroom
2. Detention
3. In-school suspension
4. Out-of-school suspension
5. Referrals/Demerits

If any of the above consequences have been applied. It is at the discretion of the Athletic Director and Principal to determine the athletic sanction.

## **Commitment**

Participating on a school team is an important decision. Each student should consider ALL of his/her commitments before joining a team. Please be on time to practices, with all necessary equipment on. Any missed practice may affect participation during games or competitions. Attendance, attitude, and effort will determine an athletes' good standing among the team. Excused absences include sickness, injury, family emergency, or academic obligation. Communication prior to the absences is required for the absence to be excused. After two (2) unexcused absences, a student may not be allowed to participate in the team's next game. After three (3) unexcused absences, the student could be dismissed from the team. If a student is dismissed from a team for failure to come to practices, he/she may not be permitted to participate in the ensuing sporting season. Once team selections are made, students are expected to finish the season. If a student decides to quit a team before the completion of the season, they may not be permitted to participate on a team during the ensuing season. The Athletic Director will consider special circumstances on a case by case basis.

## **Team Selection**

All sports teams are selected by the Athletic Director. Team selections are determined depending on the number of participants for each division, family of the coaches and practicalities of transport between siblings. The APSA has two divisions. Division one is for athletes in 6th to 8th grade, whilst division two is for athletes in 4th to 6th grade. In the event that Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics has multiple teams in the same division, there may be tryouts held at the Coach's/Athletic Director's discretion. In tryouts coaches are looking to place athletes in positions where they will learn the most. Basic fundamentals and knowledge of the sport could determine where an athlete is placed.

## **Volunteer Coaches**

We are fortunate at Santa Cruz Catholic School to enlist the services of our knowledgeable and generous parents to act as coaches. Parents are highly encouraged to volunteer for the athletic department should their child participate in a team sport. Each Santa Cruz family is required to serve our school with at least 25 volunteer hours each year. These hours can be included in your school volunteer hours. In order to volunteer as a coach a parent must be 'Ethics and Integrity in Ministry' (EIM) certified.

Coaches are first and foremost educators, and must work in coordination with the parents who are the primary educators of children. At all times, coaches must be examples of Christ the Teacher who serve as role models for student-athletes to emulate. They must be messengers of the school mission and ensure that athletic programs embody the Catholic characteristics prevalent at Santa Cruz Catholic School

Coaches are called to be models and witnesses to their faith each day and as such, coaches are expected to uphold high standards of conduct in and out of season. Language should be appropriate and constructive at all times. Coaches are expected to not only monitor their own language, but they should also set and enforce standards of appropriate language for their athletes. This includes, but is not limited to swearing, harassment, exclusionary language, sexual innuendo, personal attacks, and unsportsmanlike gestures.



Although opponents are not a part of our school community, they are members of the larger body of Christ and should be treated as such. Coaches should model such respect for their athletes and should instruct players on how to welcome their opponents and all visitors in a way that conveys a sense of hospitality and community.

Athletic experiences play an important role in the spiritual formation of students at Santa Cruz Catholic School. Genuine and lasting spiritual development is only possible through careful and conscientious preparation by those in leadership positions. Coaches, as team leaders, are chosen not just to be mentors and role models for student athletes, but also to be witnesses. **Prayer should become an intentional component to a team's culture**, not just a rushed event before or after a game or practice. Rather than emphasizing winning, prayers should focus on embodying the spirit of Christianity. Coaches are encouraged to build and create spiritual traditions into their approach to coaching at Santa Cruz Catholic School.

### **Coaching Duties**

In addition to serving as witnesses and models of faith, Santa Cruz Catholic School coaches are expected to fulfill the following duties:

- Plan out practices and games
- Supervise athletes at all times until they are picked up from practices/games
- Condition athletes properly
- Assess athletes' readiness for practice & competition
- Instruct properly on what to do and what not to do
- Maintain EIM Certification
- Maintain safe playing conditions
- Ensure cleanliness of facilities post practice/games
- Communicate practice and game schedule to athletes and parents
- At the end of the year, evaluate athletes success with the Athletic Director
- Attend the end of year Athletic Banquet
- Postseason, return equipment borrowed to the Athletic Director

### **Health and Safety**

To ensure that each of our student athletes has a positive sports experience, their health and safety will remain the focus for all practices and games. Coaches will guide their teams in proper warm up and cool down activities at the beginning and the end of each practice. When water cannot be provided by the school, student athletes will be required to provide plenty of their own water. In case of a minor injury, First Aid kits will be accessible at practice and game venues. In case of a serious injury, parents will be notified and 911 will be called, if necessary. Strict consideration will be given to severe weather conditions when making decisions regarding outside practices.

Torrential Rain, Snowfall or Hail: Practice determined by coaches and/or Athletic Director. Conference games determined by APSA board members and/or referees.

Thunder and lightning occurring within a 10 mile radius Practice or a game will be suspended for 30 minutes from the time of the strike. The event can resume if feasible.

Cold weather of 32 degrees fahrenheit or lower: No outdoor practices or games.

Hot weather of 100 to 119 degrees fahrenheit: Practice determined by coaches and/or Athletic Director. If practice occurs a water break in shade must take place every 20 minutes. No practice will exceed 1.5 hours. Conference games determined by APSA board members and/or referees.

Hot weather of 120 degrees fahrenheit or higher: No outdoor practices or games.

### **Carpooling and Communication**

Parents are expected to transport their children to off campus practices or games, and pick up their children when practices or games end.

Carpooling and transportation to events that are not taking place at Santa Cruz Catholic School must be coordinated by the parents of the players. Staff members of Santa Cruz Catholic School are not permitted to assist in coordinating or transporting athletes. Coaches will wait with their players until all players are picked up.

Santa Cruz Catholic School coaches should establish clear procedures and guidelines for communication with athletes and parents that align with the philosophy and mission of Santa Cruz Catholic School. E-mail should be used to communicate basic information, such as time and location of games and practices.

### **Parents Role**

Please make sure that the Athletic Signature Page has been signed and the Pre-participation Physical Evaluation has been completed and turned in at the beginning of the school year or before your child's first practice. Students may not participate in practices or games until all forms have been turned in.

Parents should understand that they are ambassadors of Santa Cruz Catholic School and should behave as positive role models. Santa Cruz coaches are volunteers dedicating their time and energy to coach our athletes.

Parents are expected to pick up their children when practices or games end. If practices are on campus and end during after care hours, the coaches are instructed to drop off any remaining athletes there in aftercare. If practices are off campus and end after 6:00pm, parents are responsible for picking up

their child as there is no after care available. Coaches will wait at the location until all athletes have been picked up. Please be respectful of the coaches' schedules.

#### Parent Responsibilities:

1. Parents, family and fans will treat all players, coaches, opponents, and officials with respect and dignity.
2. All comments by parents and fans from the sidelines will be encouraging and positive. Parents and guests will refrain from making comments about player's mistakes or errors and will not engage with opposing fans' comments.
3. Parents will refrain from making derogatory comments or talking back to referees, game officials, opposing players/parents or coaches at any time.
4. Coaching is to be done only by team coaches on staff. Parents will refrain from coaching or directing their child or other players during games and practices. Parents will sit in the stands or bleachers and not with the coach or team.
5. Parents will make sure their child understands their responsibility to attend all practices properly dressed and with proper sports equipment (correct uniforms, cleats, shoes, knee pads, shin guards, water, etc.) and will be on time all practices and games to the best of their ability.
6. If your child is going to be tardy or absent for practice or a game or tournament, the parent or guardian is responsible for contacting the team's coach or Athletic Director.
7. Parents are responsible to pick up their child when practice ends. Coaches volunteer their personal time and have commitments and cannot wait for parents who are late. Student-athletes will be sent to school after care after practice if the parent is late. Parents can make financial arrangements with the school for their Student-athlete.

As parents, we love our children and want the best for them! Engaging in sport is an invaluable opportunity for growth for our child.

## **Uniforms and Equipment**

The Santa Cruz Athletic Department will provide volunteer coaches with specific equipment to help with practices and games. Students will not use equipment from the PE storage cupboard with permission of the Athletic Director.

Uniforms are distributed by the Athletic Director to the coaches or the athletes. Uniforms are the property of the school and must be returned on the due date unless specified by the Athletic Director. Uniforms should be cleaned and enclosed in a bag labeled with the athlete's name. Athletes must turn in school uniforms in order to be eligible for any subsequent sport.

Damaged or lost uniforms will require a \$50 Replacement Fee. Additional uniform items that are not provided by the school, such as socks, mouth guards, sneakers/boots, etc., must be supplied by the athlete.

Athletes are to wear a school issued uniform and treat their uniform with respect. Teams that treat their uniforms with respect, exude class. Uniforms must be returned to the Athletic Director within seven (7) days of the last game. Progress reports and/or report cards can be withheld until the uniform is returned. If a uniform is not returned, parents are responsible for the cost of replacing the uniform.

### **Athletic Fees**

Sports fees are to assist with court rentals, referee payments, equipment etc. The sports that require court rentals for practices have a higher fee. The Business Office will bill your FACTS account for Sports Fees. Once an email is received stating fees have been added, please authorize payment of fees. Unpaid fees may result in a report card “Hold”. If any family is unable to pay sports fees there is financial assistance available. Families may inquire with the Athletic Director.

<b><u>Sport</u></b>	<b><u>Fee</u></b>
Volleyball	\$125
Basketball	\$125
Soccer	\$100
Flag Football	\$100
Track	\$40
Cross Country	\$40

### **End of Year Athletic Banquet**

Awards and Recognition: Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics Program hosts an annual Athletic Banquet at the conclusion of the academic year. Coaches and athletes are expected to attend the evening along with family. Recognition of athletes, however, should be utilized throughout the season as a means of personal athlete formation and team-building. Particular recognition of athletes should embody the goals and philosophies of the athletic department and program, not only physical talent. Some areas of recognition may include one’s academics, sportsmanship, and Catholic nature/spirituality.

## **Athletic Waiver, Parent/Student-Athlete Agreement Signature Page**

The purpose of the Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletic Handbook is to inform families of the goals and policies of our Athletics Department. A copy of the Athletic Handbook may be found on the Santa Cruz Catholic School Website.

In order for a student to register for Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics the following documents need to be signed and returned to the Athletic Director:

- Athletic Liability Waiver
- Parent/Student-Athlete Agreement
- Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Form (**Located on the school website**)

### **Waiver**

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply: Cross Country\_\_\_ Track\_\_\_ Volleyball\_\_\_ Flag Football\_\_\_ Basketball\_\_\_  
Soccer\_\_\_

I, individually, and/or as parent or guardian of a minor, agree that the athlete above may participate in the Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletics Department (herein known as Athletics). In consideration for permitting athlete to so participate, I do hereby agree to full release, discharge and hold harmless of Santa Cruz Catholic School, Santa Cruz Catholic Church and all officers and/or affiliates. As well as, any Event, and Listed Event Locations, including all coaches, organizers, sponsors, supervisors, employees, volunteers or contractors, from any and all liability for any and all injuries an athlete may incur during the participation in Athletics. I understand that my execution of this Release is a pre-condition to the athlete's acceptance and participation in Athletics. I hereby authorize and give my full consent to Santa Cruz Athletics Department to copyright and/or publish any and all photographs, videotapes and/or film in which my athlete may appear while participating.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Student Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby certify that I have read the Santa Cruz Catholic School Athletic Handbook, and hereby agree to abide by, support and be governed by the philosophy, principles, rules and regulations enunciated therein. I recognize that my conduct both on and off campus and at all times while I am attending Santa Cruz Catholic School must be in a manner consistent with the philosophy, principles, rules and regulation stated therein. I further acknowledge and accept that Santa Cruz Catholic School may suspend, expel, or terminate my enrollment and/or impose any appropriate sanction the Santa Cruz Catholic School so desires against me because of my failure to adhere to and abide by the philosophy, principles, rules and regulation of Santa Cruz Catholic School.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent Agreement**

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, a Santa Cruz Catholic School student, do hereby certify that I/we have read the Santa Cruz Catholic School Student-Parent Handbook and agree to abide by, support, and be governed by the philosophy, principles, rules and regulations enunciated herein. I/We pledge our support as parent(s)/guardian(s), and will fulfill my/our obligations and responsibilities to Santa Cruz Catholic School. I/We shall endeavor to participate actively in the spiritual and social functions of the school as scheduled in the school's calendar of events and by other special announcements. I/We recognize that our daughter/son/ward must conduct her/himself both on and off campus and at all times while attending Santa Cruz Catholic School in a manner consistent with the philosophy, principles, rules and regulations of the school. I/We further acknowledge and accept that Santa Cruz Catholic School may suspend, expel, or terminate my child's/ward's enrollment in Athletics and/or impose any appropriate sanction that Santa Cruz Catholic School so desires against my child/ward because of his/her failure to adhere to and abide by the philosophy, principles, rules and regulations of Santa Cruz Catholic School. Further, I/we grant permission to have the name of our daughter/son/ward published in the event of exemplary academic, athletic accomplishments, and/or as the administration deems necessary.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

