Athletic Handbook

TITANS

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Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

We would like to welcome you to the Trinity School of Texas Athletic Program! We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development.

Trinity School of Texas believes in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly structured, well-organized sports program meets student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our pledge to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. Likewise, we believe that parents have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations to the student-athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is best achieved through mutual communication between the Athletic Department, the student-athletes and the parents of each of our student-athletes. One way that we have committed to accomplishing this objective is through this athletic handbook for students, parents and coaches.

The most important reason that our department exists is to ensure that students have an opportunity to partake in and enjoy sports during their time at Trinity School of Texas. As an athletic department, we can assure you that students and the teams in which they are a part of are the guiding force in everything we do and every decision that we make. Our focus and primary objective—in making this handbook and in all that we do—will always be to do what is in the best interest of the student and their team. This combination shall ensure a promising and successful future for Trinity Titan Athletics.

Thank You very much for taking the time to read the athletic handbook. It will not only allow you to become familiar with our policies and procedures, it will also allow for a smooth transition for you as a new or continued member of the Trinity Titan athletic program.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Trinity School of Texas Athletic Department.

GO TITANS!

Jeremy Miller

Director of Athletics

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Philosophy

The athletic department at Trinity School of Texas is an important part of our school's educational program. We want to ensure that each student-athlete reaches their maximum potential. It is our mission to develop the whole student, not just the athlete, in mind, body and spirit. Specifically, the Athletic Department seeks to provide interested students with the opportunity to participate in its program of interscholastic athletics and is committed to the following:

- To offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics (based on numbers and the best interest of our student-athletes)
- To teach the value of competition
- To foster the development of athletic skills
- To encourage the development of a strong work ethic, self-discipline and self-sacrifice
- To teach the value of commitment, teamwork and cooperation
- To encourage the development of judgment, character, and leadership
- To teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play
- To encourage the development of loyalty and pride in one's self, their team, and the school community

The Athletic Department expects the following of each participant in the school athletic program:

- To be a worthy representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by school and community expectations
- To maintain health and fitness levels by following the training rules prescribed by the coach
- To reflect the knowledge that commitment to victory is nothing without commitment to hard work in practice
- To understand that athletics is just one part in the big picture with the cornerstone being that a Trinity School of Texas student strives to achieve excellence in all areas
- To learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities
- To express feelings intelligently and appropriately
- To accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, cooperation, positive interaction, and mutual respect
- To help student-athlete learn how to balance a demanding academic schedule with an arduous athletic training schedule

Definition of Excellence

First let's define winning. Winning on the scoreboard is not always in our control. We cannot always control our level of talent. Certainly it is important that through a strong work ethic we maximize what we have, but everyone is born with a certain amount of God-given ability. Injuries can also play a major role in whether or not a team is successful on the scoreboard. If we base our criteria for success on "winning them all", we will be needlessly disappointed most of the time. Winning must be defined in such a way that we maintain a level of control. If success is not achieved, positive steps can be taken to assure positive results. There should never be a feeling of helplessness or despair, only a continual examination of attitudes and practices that brings about improvement. How is this to be done? Our criterion for success on the field or court is the achievement of excellence. Unlike victory over an opponent, we have control of our standards of excellence. What is excellence? Excellence is the ongoing process of becoming better than we once were, particularly in the below list areas.

<u>EXCELLENCE</u>

- ✓ Superior Work Ethic
- ✓ Personal Humility
- ✓ Team-ness Oriented
- ✓ Determination
- ✓ Mental Toughness
- ✓ Actions Deserving of Victory
- ✓ Loving One Another
- ✓ Belief, Faith and Trust
- ✓ Sacrifice

All of these areas must be present to achieve excellence. The success of our teams will be a reflection on the degree to which the individuals on our teams develop these areas as fundamental components of who we are as a team and as individuals.

Roles:

Athletic Director:

The Athletic Director is responsible for administering the Athletic Program at Trinity School of Texas. His/Her duties include but are not limited to: hiring and training coaches, coordinating the athletic budget, scheduling games and coordinate practice schedules with head coach of each sport, approving and scheduling transportation and officials, conflict resolution, and overseeing all aspects of the Department of Athletics. He/She will advise the Administration, staff, teams, coaches, and parents of any changes and communicate the needs of the Athletic Department to the administration, booster club, and Board of Trinity School of Texas.

The Athletic Director is expected to provide appropriate instruction and support to all part-time and full-time coaches. He/She must also be a positive representative of Trinity School of Texas and the Athletic Department.

Assistant Athletic Director:

The Assistant Athletic Director works in partnership with the Athletic Director to maintain, organize, and administer the overall athletic program and ensure compliance with conference and school policies, rules and regulations. He/She may help with managing coaches as well as share responsibility for the overall direction, coordination, and evaluation of the Department of Athletics. His/Her duties include but are not limited to: compiling, maintaining and updating game and practice schedules, coordinating transportation and officials, and assisting with event planning to tournaments, athletic banquet, senior night, sports pictures, and any other necessary events. Additionally, he/she will attend and supervise athletic events, manage athletics related communication material and media relations, and assist in other areas as needed.

Coaches:

The coach is responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which his/her student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. The coach is also responsible for confirming game and bus schedules, turning in a roster prior to the season, distributing and collecting uniforms and equipment, completing game, injury and/or incident reports, and communicating with parents. The coach must also ensure that student-athletes are exhibiting good behavior on and off the court.

The coach is expected to be a positive representative of Trinity School of Texas and the Athletic Department. This includes ensuring that the coach conducts himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. He/She is expected to make decisions based on the collective interest of the team, while also developing each student-athlete to his/her fullest potential. The coach must be clear in expectations and available to student-athletes for positive mentorship on and off the field/court. He/She is expected to maintain high personal standards, motivate the players, and promote sportsmanship at all times.

Any coach who is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next athletic contest and will be required to pay the TAPPS ejection fee. (Between $50-$250)

Student-Athlete:

The student-athlete is expected to be a positive addition to the Trinity School of Texas Athletic Department. If a student-athlete must discuss an issue with the coach, he/she must communicate in a respectful manner to try and find a solution. If a situation cannot be reached, the Athletic Director may assist.

Student-Athletes will be representing Trinity School of Texas on and off the playing court/field and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively upon our program and school. Student-Athletes are expected to be respectful and exhibit good behavior in class, in practice, in games and in the community. If a student-athlete fails to conduct himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school, he/she may be subject to penalties which may include game suspensions, ineligibility, or dismissal from the team.

Any player who is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next Athletic Contest and be required to pay the TAPPS ejection fee. (Between $50-$250)

Parents:

Parents play a vital role in the Trinity School of Texas Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all parents to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard.

We are so appreciative of the assistance parents provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to an athletic event, volunteering to serve athletics as a member of the Booster Club, and sacrificing family time to accommodate athletic schedules. We also appreciate the support parents provide our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for parents to be mindful of and respect what the coaches is trying to do by avoiding interference or public criticism, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members.

In regards to games, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator or student-athlete.

Any Spectator/Parent who acts in a disruptive manner will cause a game to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed.

Athletic Opportunities:

High School	Middle School
Fall	**Fall**
Football	Football
Volleyball	Volleyball
Cheerleading	Cheerleading
	Soccer
Winter	**Winter**
Basketball	Basketball
Cheerleading	Cheerleading
Spring	**Spring**
Track & Field	Track & Field
Tennis	Tennis
Golf	Baseball

***High School teams can separate into Junior Varsity and Varsity Team depending on the number of participants in each sport.**

***Middle School Teams can separate into A (Typically 7-8 Grade) and B (Typically 6 grade) Teams depending on the number of participants in each sport.**

Conference Affiliations:

Middle School (CSAC)

The middle school athletic teams compete in the Christian School Athletic Conference (CSAC). The purpose of the Christian School Athletic Conference is glorifying God by providing a Christian environment where athlete competition is kept in its proper perspective, emphasizing sportsmanship and Christian Character.

CSAC offers Soccer, Volleyball, and Boys/Girls Basketball. The CSAC Conference is made up of 17 schools all throughout East Texas, which include:

Athens Christian Academy	Full Armor Christian School	Regents Academy-Nacogdoches
Athens Christian Prep	Good Shepherd Academy	St. Mary's
Christian Heritage School-Longview	Harmony Christian School	St. Patrick's School
Christian Heritage School-Tyler	Lighthouse Christian Academy	Trinity Episcopal-Marshall
East Texas Christian Academy	Longview Christian School	Trinity School of Texas
East Texas Christian School	Marshall Christian Academy	

High School (TAPPS):

The High School Athletics Program competes in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial School (TAPPS). The purpose of TAPPS is to organize, to stimulate, to encourage, and to promote the academic, athletic, and fine arts programs in an effort to foster a spirit of fair play, good fellowship, true sportsmanship, and wholesome competition for boys and girls. Trinity School of Texas competes as a 1-A school based on its enrollment. Trinity School of Texas is part of TAPPS-1A/District 5:

Athens Christian	
St. Mary's School	
Nacogdoches Regents	
Henderson Full Armor	
Longview Christian School	
Trinity School of Texas	

We are proud of these affiliations and will respect their direction. All administrators, coaches, parents, student-athletes and spectators are expected to be familiar with and abide by the rules set forth of their respective conferences. For Further information about TAPPS (please visit the TAPPS website at httpp://www.tapps.net) or CSAC contact Jeremy Miller, Athletic Director.

TITANS Athletic Booster Club

The Titans Athletic Booster Club is a volunteer organization made up of dedicated and service-oriented parents who are committed to offering their time and energy to promote school and athletic spirit, support TST sports teams and ensure that every athletic event is a success. In addition to volunteering time, the Booster Club also provides funds to enhance all TST sports teams. The Trinity School of Texas student-athletes and coaches directly benefit from the volunteer and financial support of the Booster Club and we encourage ALL parents of Trinity School of Texas student-athletes to join. If you would like to join or would like more information on the Titans Booster Club, please contact Angela Fuller at afuller@trinityschooloftexas.com.

Volunteer Requirements

As members of the Trinity School of Texas athletic community, all parents will be required to volunteer during at least one TST Booster Club supported event. This directly benefits all student-athletes. Please do not feel limited to just one service opportunity. A sign-up sheet will be available at all of the parents meetings. It will be first come, first choice. We would not be successful without our parents and truly appreciate your support and enthusiasm!

Trinity School of Texas Contact Information:

Upper School/Middle School:

Office-(903)-753-0612 Fax-(903)-753-4812

- Gary Whitwell-Head of School
  gwhitwell@trinityschooloftexas.com
- Erica Fisher-Assistant to the Head of School
  efisher@trinityschooloftexas.com
- Stephanie Ayala-Secretary/Administrative Assistant
  sayala@trinityschooloftexas.com

Athletic Department:

Office-(903)-753-0612 ext. 231

- Jeremy Miller-Director of Athletics
  jmiller@trinityschooloftexas.com

Head Coaches:

Sport	High School	Middle School
Football	Jeremy Miller	Kendrae Carter
Volleyball	Sabrina Williamson	Aimee Rider
Soccer	N/A	Francisco Vasquez
Cheerleading	Ashley Rutherford	Ashley Rutherford
Basketball (Boys)	Bo Powers	Kendrae Carter
Basketball (Girls)	Edward Allen	Edgar Ayala
Track & Field	Kendrae Carter	Sabrina Williamson
Tennis	Mike Meredith	Mike Meredith
Golf	Ryan Hill/ Tom Coverstone	
Baseball	N/A	Jeremy Miller

POLICIES and PROCEDURES

Team Membership:

Middle School:

Trinity School of Texas is committed to providing all middle school students interested in competitive athletics the opportunity to participate in athletics. Failure to attend tryouts or abusing their privilege of participation, can lead to disqualification of being on the team. We recognize that middle school athletics provides the introduction to competitive sports at Trinity School of Texas. Because it is important to have players learn the fundamentals correctly from the beginning, the emphasis of the middle school program will be developing skills and habits. The level of success achieved in high school athletics is directly related to the skills developed through the middle school program.

Upper School:

Student-athletes will not be cut in High School sports, unless they abuse the privilege of participation or cannot meet the financial obligations of the sport or tuition. All teams may have player limits set forth by the Athletic Director and/or Head Coach. Failure to attend tryouts can lead to disqualification from the selection process if tryouts are held.

Team Selection/Playing Time:

It is our goal in team selection to find opportunities not only for participation, but more importantly, for success. Placing each student-athlete at the level where he/she can contribute physically and gain positive feelings from his/her efforts is important to the coaching staff. Disappointments are inevitable when teams are selected, and it is very important that student-athletes feel the support of teammates, parents, and coaches.

We believe in our coaches. Their job is to manage and direct a specific sport. Their responsibilities include evaluating and selecting students for teams, as well as determining the degree to which each student-athlete will participate and they do this with considerable though and sensitivity. During the selection process, coaches will evaluate skill level, athleticism, physical conditioning, positional play, trainability, punctuality, and various other attributes.

We want our student-athletes to learn the value of being on a team and the contribution each must make. Team members have a responsibility to themselves, their teammates, and their coaches to learn and perform their role on the team. Teamwork requires the development of many interpersonal skills such as listening, following directions, accepting constructive criticism, being respectful, and supporting teammates and coaches. Student-athletes have an obligation to participate in practice sessions and games with full commitment and enthusiasm.

Trinity School of Texas Athletics believes that at all levels—sixth grade through varsity—playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. Regardless of the subjective nature of the process and the potential for disagreement, the coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches WILL NOT discuss playing time with parents. Also members of a varsity team are not guaranteed playing time. Student-athletes should fully understand that by joining a team they are accepting the pleasures and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team.

Eligibility:

Participation in athletics is a privilege, NOT a right. Students can earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students that are currently enrolled in grade sixth—twelfth grade and attend Trinity School of Texas are eligible to participate in athletics. All students in grade sixth—eighth grade are eligible to participate in middle school sports. All students in ninth—twelfth grade are eligible to participate in High School Sports. No student in Middle School (6-8 grades) will be eligible to participate in High School Sports per TAPPS rules.

Academic Eligibility:

Student-Athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes. When a student-athlete receives a grade below “70” in one class, that student will be place on academic probation for a period of three weeks. Student-athletes who are placed on academic probation may practice with the team but may not play in games (this could also affect Varsity Lettering). They will be expected to seek tutoring from the appropriate teacher. At the end of the probationary period if the student-athlete receives a grade of “70” or higher, then they are eligible to participate. If a student-athlete maintains failing grades, he/she may be declared ineligible for competition by the Athletic Director and he/she may not practice or travel with the team during the period of ineligibility. If the student-athlete does not improve the failing grade after the three week probationary period, then he/she may be removed from the team.

Conduct Eligibility:

Student-athletes are expected to maintain satisfactory conduct in all classes. Any student-athlete who does not maintain satisfactory conduct in a class will be subject to a behavioral probation that will follow the same three week guidelines as the academic probation.

Club/Select Teams:

Trinity School of Texas Athletics will take precedence over club or league competitions and practice sessions. Student-athletes will not be excused from Trinity School of Texas athletic practices or games in order to attend game or practice sessions for club or league teams. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate his/her participation on club or league teams prior to the start of the season so that any potential conflicts may be worked out. Failure to communicate before the season may result in the removal of a student-athlete from the team.

Required Forms for Participation:

Prior to the start of each season, all parents and student-athletes must complete the following forms:

- Trinity Athletic Expectations Form
- TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules Form
- TAPPS Steroid Use Agreement
- Athletic Identification/Medical Release Form
- TAPPS Physical Examination Form (must be completed by Physician)
- TAPPS Transfer Form (if a student is transferring from another school and plans to participate in athletics)
- TAPPS Foreign Exchange Student Packet (if student is a foreign exchange student and is planning to participate in athletics)
- Trinity Concussion Return to Play Policy Acknowledgment

Failure to complete all forms required for participation will result in the student-athlete being declared ineligible to participate.

Financial Obligation:

Although the school pays for most of the cost associated with the athletic program, some sports, by nature, require specialized equipment or uniforms for which the cost is shared between the school and the parents of the student-athletes. Below are the costs associated with each sport:

Sport (Middle School and Upper School)	Cost
Football	$100
Volleyball	$100
Soccer	$100
Basketball	$100
Track	$100
Tennis	$100
Golf	$300
Baseball	$100
Cheerleading	$1,000

Practice Times:

Middle School:

Practice will start at 7:30 in the morning for football, soccer, basketball during each season and go through the athletic period. Volleyball will have practice during second period. Track, tennis, and baseball will practice after school starting at 4pm.

Upper School:

The coach of each sport, along with the Athletic Director will determine the team practice schedule. Weekend practices should be expected and will be determined and communicated by the coach. There may be circumstances where the practice times require adjustment. In those cases, parents and student-athletes will be notified in advance of the change in day and/or times. In most cases varsity or junior varsity practices will start at 4:00 until 6:00pm. Basketball will have two practice times: 4:00-5:30 and 5:45-7:30pm. Practices will be held rain or shine unless the coach and/or Athletic Director cancel the practice or game.

Non-religious, early dismissal school days will follow the same regular practice schedule. For example, if track practice is held at 4:00pm each regular school day, then track will continue to practice at 4:00pm on a 12:30pm or 2:15pm early dismissal school day. The coach will notify the parents and student-athletes in advance if there is a change to the practice schedule on these days. Track, Golf, and Tennis will have special practice schedules due to the nature of the sport and/or practice facility availability. These schedules will be communicated by the coach to student-athletes and parents prior to the season.

Attendance:

Attendance at all games and practice sessions is mandatory for all team members. If a student-athlete will not be attending a practice, meeting, or athlete contest, the coach must be notified at least one day **prior** to the event being missed. Any student-athlete who has more than three absences (excused or unexcused) may result in limited playing time or removal from the team. Practice is held rain or shine unless otherwise noted by the coach. If a student-athlete is absent from school or arrives after 10:00am, he/she may not be able to practice or play in a game that day. In the case that a player must miss practice (excused or unexcused), he/she will be expected to make up any work that was missed. Any student-athlete who leaves an athletic event without the permission of the Head Coach will be subject to suspension from the team.

Religious Commitments:

Trinity School of Texas understands that from time to time a student-athlete may need to miss practice or game in order to fulfill religious obligations. While the coach is normally aware of these situations, not every student-athlete shares the same values. Student-athletes should discuss their religious commitments with the coach prior to season so that he/she is aware of the religious commitments in advance. Any student-athlete missing practice or game due to a religious commitment is still subject to the same standards as the other student-athletes.

Holidays:

In order for teams to remain cohesive, effective and competitive, student-athletes may be expected to play and/or practice during non-religious holidays (i.e., Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break, Labor Day, etc.) time periods. These dates and times will be announced by the coach as early as possible in an effort to allow families to plan accordingly. If there is any question and the dates have not been announced, please contact the coach and/or athletic director. He/she will not be required to play and/or practice on a day of religious observation.

Illness & Injury:

All injuries should be reported to the coach and/or athletic director at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

1. Tell the coach and/or athletic director that you are injured before leaving the court/floor
2. No matter how small the injury, get treatment
3. No one shall miss practice without a doctor's permission
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend team practices each day that attend school
5. A second notice from the doctor should be given to the coach to end physical restrictions
6. Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and/or very hot should notify the coach and/or athletic director immediately.

Classwork:

On occasion when student-athletes must miss class to participate in scheduled athletic events, they are responsible for turning in class work that is due that day and they are responsible for making up any missed work in a timely fashion. If a student-athlete arrives home late from an athletic contest or misses class the day before a test due to an athletic contest, it is at the teacher's discretion to allow the student-athlete to test at an alternative time. If the student-athlete must leave class early on a testing day due to an athletic contest, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to reschedule the test for a date that is agreed upon by the student-athlete and teacher.

Practice Gear:

Student-athletes may be expected to purchase and wear sports-specific or school-specific practice gear for all practices. The coach will communicate this to the players prior to the beginning of the season. All game safety equipment must be worn during practices and games. This is a shared responsibility of the coach and student-athlete. Failure to bring ones equipment or uniform may result in the student-athlete not participating in the practice or game. The coach of each team will give further instructions regarding required practice gear. It is our highest recommendation that all parents and student-athletes strongly consider wearing mouth guards during contact sports contests and practices.

Uniforms/Warm-Ups:

Trinity School of Texas athletic uniforms or warm-ups are to be worn only during interscholastic competition, practice, and on approved home game days with approval by school administration. Launder uniforms in warm water, not hot, and never use bleach. Ironing may cause damage, as will very hot dryers.

Student-athletes are responsible for all items issued to him/her. Any lost, damaged or stolen items must be paid for by the student-athlete before another is issued. In the event that the school year ends and a student-athlete has not returned all items issued to him/her, the student-athlete's grades will be held until the items are returned to the school or paid for.

All uniforms and warm-ups are due the day after the final game of the season or on the date set by the coach.

Dropping/Dismissal from a Sport:

There will be times when some student-athletes make the decision to leave a sport before, during or after the season, although we highly discourage it. Whatever the reason, a student-athlete must follow the steps listed below:

1. The student-athlete must talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. A conference with the parents, student-athlete, coach, and athletic director or any combination thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before a student-athlete leaves the sport.
2. If a student-athlete leaves the sport, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class. In addition, all equipment must be turned in clean and undamaged. The student-athlete must pay for any equipment not turned in.
3. A student athlete will not be permitted to participate in the next seasons sport if they leave the team of a previous season. For example, if the student-athlete quits basketball to join Track & Field, then they will not be permitted to participate in Track & Field.

Guidelines for Athletics/Fine Arts Cooperation:

A student that is participating in a major TST theatre production must receive the permission of the Fine Art Director (Carolyn Jagers) and the coach of the sport they are interested in playing prior to being allowed to try out for the sport. If both the coach and the Fine Arts Director are supportive, the student is required to attend a tryout for the sports team. If the student is selected to play on the team, the student-athlete must make every effort to attend team practices and games on the days that he/she does not have play practice or productions. The student-athlete may be required to make up for missed practice time through conditioning workouts.

Fall Pre-Season Summer Requirements:

TAPPS governs the start and end date for all sports practices. Fall athletic teams begin practice the first Monday in August prior to the start of school in order to prepare for early season competition. All candidates for high school teams are expected to be in attendance. Any conflict must be cleared with the coach before the end of the previous school year. If the student-athlete is not in attendance the first Monday in August and has not received clearance from the coach, it is at the discretion of the coach to allow him/her to try out for the team. Middle School teams will begin practice and hold tryouts the Monday before the first day of school. All interested students are expect5ed to attend.

Travel:

In most cases, Trinity School of Texas will provide transportation to away contests. All players are expected to travel with their team to the competition site. If a student-athlete will not be returning to the TST campus with the team, verbal or written permission must be granted by parents and given to the coach ***before*** leaving the TST campus.

STUDENT ATHLETES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GROUP WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT UNLESS PARENTAL PERMISSION IS RECEIVED.

Varsity teams periodically have overnight trips during the regular season or post-season tournaments. Hotel and transportation arrangements are made by the Athletic Director. The nature of team travel will require implementing room curfews, limiting or denying student-athlete separation from the group, and defining appropriate dress and behavior while our student-athletes are representing our school.

School rules are in effect when team travel occurs. Whether in or out of town, on or off the field/court, TST student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of decorum.

Lettering:

High School Varsity student-athletes have the opportunity to earn a varsity letter based on their participation in competitive athletics. While the requirements for lettering may vary from sport to sport, general guidelines include the following criteria:

- Good practice habits
- Knowledge of and compliance with rules
- Sportsmanship and coachability
- Regular attendance at practices and games

Student-athletes who have played on a varsity team and earned a varsity letter are eligible to purchase a Trinity School of Texas letter jacket. The purchase of the letter jacket must be arranged through the Athletic Booster Club and Balfour.

Season Awards/Banquet

All season ending awards will be voted upon by the coaches and will include season stats, practice habits, game performance and overall contribution to the team. Team specific awards will be handed out at the end of each season. TAPPS or CSAC awards will be handed out by the Athletic Director to the student-athlete. These awards (All-District, All-State, All-Area, etc.) will be set in to the local media outlets for recognition of those student-athletes.

End of year awards will be handed out at the end of year sport banquet. The sports banquet will be a formal recognition of the accomplishments of each team and overall success of our athletics program. Athlete of the Year awards will be given and all sport specific awards will once again be announced.

Practice and Game Cancellation:

In the event that the coach must cancel a practice, it is the responsibility of the coach and/or Athletic Director to notify the team and parents. Inclement weather does not determine whether practice will be held—the coach makes the determination. When available, indoor facilities may be used to hold practice in these circumstances. If a change is made in the practice schedule, parents and student-athletes will be notified as soon as possible.

In most cases, it is the responsibility of the host school to make decisions regarding game cancellations. When hosting an event, Trinity School of Texas will make every effort to make cancellation decisions by 2:00pm on the day of the event.

When a game is cancelled, the coach may choose to hold a practice in its place. If the coach chooses to hold a practice in place of the cancelled game, he/she will communicate this information to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

Gym/Locker Rooms:

All Trinity School of Texas students, 6-12 grades (Physical Education and Student-athletes) will be using the locker rooms in the Macey Gym. Coaches will lock the locker rooms before leaving for practice and will reopen the locker rooms when returning from practice. The student-athletes are encouraged to put all valuables and personal items in the school lockers for safe keeping.
The Athletic Department, coaches, or Athletic Director are not responsible for lost or stolen items (uniforms, equipment, school issued materials, or personal items) that in the locker room or surrounding athletic facilities.

Facility Usage Policy:

Any usage of the facilities must be approved by the Director of Athletics. Student-athletes must be accompanied by an approved faculty supervisor when using the facilities. Non-Trinity School of Texas groups or individuals may be subject to a facility usage fee as well as an administrative fee for facility usage. Such usage must be pre-approved by the Director of Athletics. No Athletic events will be permitted on Sunday as per TAPPS Rules.

Substance Abuse and Hazing:

Any student-athlete found to be in violation of the school's substance abuse policy will automatically be suspended from all team activities including practice, games, tournaments, dinners, etc., while the reported offense is under review by the coach, athletic director, and school administrator. Trinity School of Texas Athletic Department reserves the right to impose an disciplinary action or other condition which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation. This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of season, as well as expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Trinity School of Texas forbids any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as ay forced, required, intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity, or which encourages violation of any federal, state, local, or school law for the purpose of initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization affiliated with Trinity School of Texas. This applies regardless of the willingness of the participant. Hazing, with or without the consent of a student, is prohibited by Trinity School of Texas and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

Parent/Coach Communication:

Parent Meeting:

The coaches for each sport during the three sports seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring) will hold a parent meeting prior to the first game in each sport. Parents are encouraged to be in attendance. The meeting will allow parents to meet the coach for their student-athletes sport, ask questions, and receive all information pertinent to the season.

Communication Tools:

Coaches will communicate regularly with parents and student-athletes in person, via email or by phone. The coach will provide a contact number for parents and student-athletes to use in the case of an emergency **ONLY.**

Concerns or Issues:

Step1: One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. When there is a concern, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly. It can be very satisfying for all parties involved when student-athletes and coach are able to find mutually agreeable solutions for an issue that they are preempting to resolve.

Step 2: If the coach and student-athlete are unable to resolve the issue together, then parents may contact the coach. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the parent should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. An upset parent should wait at least **24 hours** before approaching a coach or parent after and athletic event. Under no circumstances should a parent approach and coach or another parent in a harsh manner or immediately before, during, or immediately after a practice or a game. Taking this time to reflect on the situation, as well as honest and respectful communication should allow for more effective dialogue ensuring a more successful experience for everyone.

It is not appropriate for a parent to request feedback from the coach about team strategy (including playing time), play calling, or other student-athletes. It is appropriate for a parent to contact the coach with concerns about their son/daughter's behavior, their skill development, and for physical treatment advice.

Step 3: If the discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, parents and coaches may contact the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

Step 4: if the Athletic Director is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, the parent may contact the appropriate administrator (Gary Whitwell- Head of School).

Athletic Website:

All athletic information will be posted on the athletic page of the Trinity School of Texas website at http://www.trinityschooloftexas.com. The information found on the website will include: sports schedules, Trinity Titan Athletic Forms, TAPPS Athletic Forms, Coaches information, and other Athletic Department information pertinent to athletics at Trinity School of Texas.

All directions and addresses to the game locations will be emailed to parents the day before or day of the athletic contest.

Trinity School of Texas

Student-Athlete/Parent Contract for Participation

We have read and agree to fully abide by the terms of Trinity School of Texas Athletics Handbook. Failure to comply with the policies set forth in the handbook may result in my suspension and/or dismissal from a sports team and, potentially, my dismissal from the sport program for 2013-2014.

We understand that we must sign this document and turn it in to the Athletic Director or Head Coach prior to being issued a uniform and included on a team roster.

_____	_____	_____
Date	Print Name	Student-Athlete Signature
_____	_____	_____
Date	Print Name	Student-Athlete Signature