

Trinity Christian Academy

Athletic / Co-curricular Handbook

2023-24

Introduction

The Parent/Student Athletic Handbook exists in order that athletes and their parents may better understand their responsibilities and rights when an athlete participates in the Trinity Christian Academy athletic program. It shall be understood that the Parent Handbook of Trinity Christian Academy is applicable to all students, including student athletes, and shall have precedence over previous Parent/Student Athletic Handbooks should any question arise regarding interpretation of rules.

Mission Statement

Trinity Christian Academy is a non-denominational, college preparatory private school that provides a rigorous, well-balanced, and enriching educational experience. Our challenging curriculum incorporates innovative strategies in combination with a traditional repertoire delivered by an expert staff committed to the highest standards of academic scholarship that inspire all students to reach their highest God-given potential.

Philosophy

Extra-curricular activities are an important part of the American education system and have great potential to contribute to the sound growth development of the students. The standards and ideals established and practiced will influence the student, the school, and the community; therefore, only the best traditions of good citizenship and conduct will be fostered.

The program of activities should conform to and be closely and wholly integrated with administrative policies of the school to the end that there shall be no undue interruptions or interference with the established rules and principles. The welfare of the student takes precedence over any other interest. All athletic activities should be school controlled and school directed.

The athletic departments should be a close-knit organization, and all sports should be considered in their right perspective with each other and with the rest of the school program.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of our athletic activities is threefold:

- To promote Godly character development.
- To provide rigorous exercise of the body.
- To encourage healthy competition and school spirit.

The objective of our sports program is to provide gender and age appropriate activities while giving students the opportunity to learn the fundamentals, develop skills, understand the rules, compete proficiently, and exemplify Christ-like sportsmanship. The school administration expects its athletes to be positive leaders both academically and spiritually. Our student athletes are expected to behave in a Christ-like manner both on and off the school's campus.

TCAF General Statement

Trinity Christian Academy is committed to developing and maintaining a Christ centered and competitive athletic program. High School and Middle School interscholastic athletes will be governed by rules established by our school's affiliation with the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship League (TCAF).

Sport Season / Calendar

Each season, the athletic conference of participation provides dates indicating the start and end of the sport season. The calendar representing each sport will be posted on the district website. Tryout dates and preseason conditioning are not indicated. Your team's head coach will supply you with this information at team meetings.

Current Sport Opportunities at TCA

Fall Sports

- Cross Country
- 6-Man Football coming for the 2024 season
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading

Winter Sports

- Basketball
- Swimming (if student interest warrants)
- Cheerleading

Spring Sports

- Track
- Baseball
- Cheerleading
- Tennis (If student interest warrants)

Fine Arts / Academic Competition

The rigorous academic curricular at Trinity Christian Academy builds a solid foundation for our students to successfully compete in a variety of fine arts and academic contests. Building on this foundation our students have the opportunity to study, practice and prepare for completion at the district and state level. Current offerings include:

Academic Competition

- Creative Writing
- Current Events
- Ready Writing
- Science
- Spelling
- Mathematics
- Number Sense

Fine Arts Competition

Music

- Choir/Vocal – Sacred or Art Songs/Traditional
- Choir/Vocal – Show Choir
- Instrumental Ensemble/Band
- Instrumental Solo
- Vocal Solo – Sacred or Traditional
- Vocal Solo – Pop/Show Tunes/Contemp Chris.

Interpretive Arts

- Dance Ensemble
- Solo Dance
- Sign Language Group
- Sign Language Solo

Information / guidelines on specific contests may be reviewed and downloaded at www.tcafellowsip.com

Eligibility

Trinity Christian Academic meets or exceeds the Texas University Interscholastic league (UIL) requirements for athletic and co-curricular activity participation. A student must have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average for the current semester with no failing grades. Student-athletes who fail a 9-week class during the season will become ineligible for a minimum of four weeks following the end of the grading period. At the end of four weeks an athlete may return to play if all grades are passing.

If a student misses more than a half-day of school on the day of a game, they will not be eligible to participate in the school sponsored event scheduled for that day. If a student-athlete has been referred to the office for a discipline issue they may not be eligible to participate in any school sponsored activities for that day.

Out of Class Participation

Out of class participation refers to grade level sports. Generally, student-athletes must meet the grade specifications set by the organization of participation. In some cases, underclass student athletes are permitted to participate in programs designed for higher grade levels. This; will usually be for 8th grade students who participate in high school sports or 6th grade students who participate in junior high athletics.

TCAF guidelines be the final decision model in these matters.

Multi-Sport Athletes

Many of our student-athletes participate in multiple sports during the school year. When one season overlaps a second, it is important that the student-athlete completes his/her obligation to the current team/sport before advancing into the next season. Students who drop one sport before the end of the season may be ruled ineligible for activities for the rest of the school year.

Home-Schooled Students

Students who are Home-Schooled are eligible to participate in several sports offered at Trinity Christian Academy. The home-schooled student must be approved by the Athletic Director and the TCA Director. The home-schooled student will be required to pay the A sports fees of up to \$500 and have the same grade eligibility as Trinity Christian Academy student-athletes. They must also meet TCA dress code requirements relating to hair styles, body piercings, jewelry and tattoos. Current TCAF guidelines place a limit on the number of home-school students allowed on a team. The current limit is 30%.

Sport Physicals

A Student may not participate in any camps, practices, or games until they have been medically cleared. Trinity Christian Academy seeks to provide all students who want to participate in athletic-type events the safest conditions of participation. Every student seeking to participate in these events will therefore be required to submit to a physical examination by a licensed medical doctor. Such an exam will be at the expense of the parents. The completed sports physical must be turned into the team's head coach or the Athletic Director before participation. The sports physical is valid for one calendar year. The TCAF physical form is available from the team coach.

Athletic Participation Release

A student may not participate in any camps, practice, or games until an Athletic Participation Release Form has been completed by a parent or guardian. This form must be turned in to the team's head coach or the Athletic Director before participation. The Athletic Participation Release Form is valid for all sports played during a school year. The form is available from the coach.

Report of Injury

It is the responsibility of each student and/or parent to notify the head coach of any injury that occurs during participation in an athletic event. On occasion, an injury may not appear to require medical attention until after the student-athlete leaves the event. In those cases, it is important that the head coach or Athletic Director is notified as soon as possible. Some injuries may require a clearance from a medical doctor before the athlete may return to practices or full participation.

Tryouts

Tryouts are a necessary component to the success of any team. In order to put the most competitive teams on the field, teams may have a designated tryout period. Student-athletes will be required to meet all eligibility requirements before attending the tryout process. Student athletes will be selected based on several criteria including but not limited to; physical condition, talent, attitude, dedication, and coach-ability.

Invitation to Participate

Upon completion of the tryout period, student-athletes who meet the expectations necessary to be awarded a place on the team will receive an invitation to participate. Student-athletes who accept the invitation are placed on the team's roster. Once placed on the roster, the student-athlete is expected to be an active member for the entire length of the season. Student-athletes who quit a team will be reviewed by the Athletic Director to determine eligibility in other sports and seasons.

Athletic Fees

Some sports may require additional fees as deemed necessary by the Athletic Director. Parents will be supplied with information regarding additional charges prior to the season beginning.

Athletic Awards – Varsity Letter

Underclass student-athletes who meet eligibility requirements throughout the season, and who adhere to the Pursuing Victory with Honor Code, will receive an award. The award will be presented at the end-of-year Athletic Sports Banquet hosted by Trinity Christian Academy.

The Varsity Letter is one of the highest honors the athletic department has to offer.

Requirements for an athlete to be eligible to receive a letter are as follows:

1. Athletes must be participating on a Varsity team (or the highest High School Team offered in a particular sport) and be in 9th-12th grade.
2. Athletes must remain on the team until the season has ended (excluding injury).
3. Athletes must be devoted to attending practices and games.
4. Athletes must have represented the school in a Christ-like manner.
5. Be a senior, regardless of playing time, who displayed dedication, integrity, and commitment to the team.

Athletic Sports Banquet

Trinity Christian Academy hosts an Athletic Sports Banquet at the conclusion of all sports for the school year.. The dates will be posted during the Spring Semester.

Equipment and Uniforms

All equipment and uniforms issued to the student-athlete are property of Trinity Christian Academy and must be returned. Student-athletes are financially responsible for all school equipment furnished to them and may be required to pay for negligent, loss, or damage.

Please read and follow all washing and drying instructions in the uniforms. As a safeguard, you may choose to dry the uniforms on very low heat or just air dry. Players should only wear their uniforms in preparation of and participation in Trinity Christian Academy games.

Early Release

Because of travel, it sometimes is necessary for teams to leave school prior to normal dismissal times. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to make arrangements with teachers to make up any missed work.

Transportation

Team members are required to ride on Trinity Christian Academy transportation to all events unless otherwise specified by the coach. Parents are required to pick up their student from an event when participating at a home venue. Trinity Christian Academy will make arrangements to provide transportation to and from away venues. In some cases volunteers may be recruited to assist our transportation needs.

Travel Dress Code

Student-athletes are expected to dress appropriately while traveling to and from athletic events. Each coach will determine appropriate dress for his or her team. Any changes from the "norm" must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director. In general, students must meet the prescribed school dress code in order to board the bus. In case of long road trips to multi-day events more comfortable clothes may be allowed as long as they meet the decorum of modesty.

Parent Volunteers / Parent Responsibilities during season

At Trinity Christian Academy, the success of our athletic program depends heavily on parent volunteers. There are many areas where volunteers are needed: equipment set-up and takedown, concessions, and admissions. In many cases, parent volunteers find themselves serving as assistants to the coaches in positions such as assistant coaches, score-board operators, and book keepers.

Due to security, no adult, parent or otherwise, will be permitted within the immediate area of a team's practice or sanctioned athletic event without prior approval of the Athletic Director. For volunteer opportunities contact the Athletic Director or coach.

Parent Meetings

Each Season: TCA will conduct an informative meeting to review the sport specific requirements for the parents and athletes. Team information will be distributed at these meetings. The Athletic Director and Coaches will present team specific information and be available to answer any questions.

Parent / Coach Relations

Parents should support the team in public with Christ-like sportsmanship, encourage loyalty to team and school, and provide positive reinforcement to all athletes. Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to our student-athletes. When your child becomes involved in Trinity Christian Academy athletics, you should understand what expectations are placed upon your student. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the program.

Communication parents should expect from their child's coach/director/sponsor:

- The philosophy and expectations of the coach, director, sponsor.
- Locations and times of practices and contests.
- Team/organization requirements (i.e., fees, special equipment needed, school and team rules, etc.).
- Procedures to be followed if the student becomes injured or ill during participation.

Communication coaches/directors/sponsors should expect from parents:

- Concerns about the student should be expressed directly to the coach/director/sponsor at an appropriate time and place.
- Specific concerns regarding the coach's/director's/sponsor's philosophy and/or expectations should be expressed directly to that person.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts should be communicated well in advance.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with a coach/director/sponsor:

- The mental and physical treatment of the student.
- What the student needs to do to improve.
- Concerns about the student's behavior.

Issues NOT appropriate for a parent's discussion with a coach/director/sponsor:

- Playing time.
- Conversations concerning students other than the parent's own child.
- Strategy of the coach/director/sponsor.
- Example: Conversations between a parent and a coach should center around the common goal of collaborating to help the child reach his or her potential. Quite often, there can be a major difference in simply the spirit and/or wording of a question. For example, while complaining about playing time on a varsity team is discouraged, asking the coach for feedback on what areas the student needs to improve upon to reach his/her potential is strongly encouraged.

When coach / parent conferences become necessary:

There are situations that may require a conference between a parent and the coach/director/sponsor. These are not discouraged, as it is important for each party to have a clear understanding of each other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedures are suggested in order to help promote resolution to the issue.

- Call or email the coach/director/sponsor to set up an appointment.
- The parent is encouraged to think about what he/she expects to accomplish as a result of the meeting.
- The parent is encouraged to stick to the facts as he/she understands them.
- The parent is encouraged NOT to confront the coach/director/sponsor before, during or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for everyone. Confrontations during these times do not promote resolution of the problem and often escalate it.
- The parent is encouraged to get all sides of the story and situation. The parent is encouraged to use wisdom in what is said to others, especially before meeting with the student's coach/director/sponsor. If not, then the issue can often escalate unnecessarily and make resolution much more difficult.

(Please separate on the dotted line, sign and return to your coach)

I have reviewed the Trinity Christian Academy *Athletic Code of Conduct* and agree to abide by the rules and guidelines as described.

Student Athlete Sign & Date

Parent Signature & Date

Coach Sign & Date on Receipt

DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Objectives

1. Prevent injury, illness, and harm resulting from the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol;
2. Help enforce a drug-free educational environment;
3. Deter student use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol;
4. Give students a valid reason to resist peer pressure to use illegal drugs or alcohol; and
5. Educate students regarding the harm caused by the use of illegal and performance-enhancing drugs or alcohol.

Introduction

TCA is implementing a drug and alcohol policy because of our passion to help our students make good choices that are healthy and biblically based, and to ensure that we are above reproach in our interactions with our community. We are very blessed at TCA to have outstanding students and families that partner with us. Nevertheless, drugs and alcohol are a real temptation and we believe it is important for us to do all we can to ensure the safety and well-being of our students.

Prohibited Behavior

Illegal Drugs

The use, sale, or offer to sell, purchase, transfer, manufacture, or possession in any detectable manner of an illegal drug or alcohol or any synthetic or “look-alike” substance by any student is strictly prohibited.

Drug Paraphernalia

The sale, offer to sell, purchase, transfer, manufacture, or possession of drug paraphernalia by any student is strictly prohibited.

Use of Trained Dogs

The district has the authority to use specially trained non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert officials to the current presence of concealed prohibited items, illicit substances, and alcohol. The objective of this program is to maintain a safe school environment conducive to education and extra-curricular activities. Such visits to school shall be unannounced and will be carried out according to board policy under the guidance of Paris Police Department.

Students are hereby notified that:

1. The areas around student lockers may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
2. Their persons while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored or school-related activity may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
3. The areas around vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
4. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time when students are not present.
5. If contraband of any kind is found, the student possessing the contraband or having control over the locker, automobile, or bag in which the contraband was found may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct and/or student handbook.

Random Drug Testing

Participants

As part of its commitment to a drug-free and alcohol-free educational environment, all Trinity Christian students in grades 9-12 will be part of the TCA drug testing program. Frequency, method of specimen collection, and timing of drug testing will be at the discretion of TCA administration.

Consent

In order to remain in good standing as a student at TCA, students will be required to sign a consent form agreeing to be part of the drug testing program for Trinity. The form will only have to be signed once and will be valid for the entire time the student is enrolled at Trinity Christian Academy in grades 9 through 12. Parents/guardians will also be required to sign the consent form authorizing TCA to obtain and test samples from their child(ren). Refusal to sign the consent form(s) will result in dismissal from TCA.

Confidentiality

All information relating to testing or the identification of persons as illegal drug or alcohol users shall be protected by TCA as a confidential student record, unless otherwise required by law or authorized in writing by the student or the student's parent/guardian. Information regarding the results of drug tests shall not be disclosed to criminal or juvenile authorities absent legal compulsion to do so by valid and binding subpoena or other legal process, which TCA shall not solicit. In the event of service of any such subpoena or legal process, the student and the student's custodial parent or guardian shall be notified before TCA responds if permitted to do so by law. Results of tests shall only be reported to the student, parents/guardians of the student and to the administrator(s), coach(s), and/or sponsor(s) involved.

Should a student who was suspended from participation in extracurricular activities or received other consequences under Trinity Christian's drug testing policy transfer to another school and

seek to participate in extracurricular activities there, the administration shall indicate on the required UIL/TAPPS Previous Athletic Participation Form, if one is required from TCA, that the student was suspended from extracurricular activities for violating a school policy. The parent or guardian may be required by the new school or the UIL/TAPPS District Executive Committee to elaborate on the reasons for the suspension in order to be in good standing to participate in extracurricular activities at that school.

Drug Testing Procedures

Licensed professionals will conduct testing, and lab work will be done at a certified lab. Students will be required to produce an industry accepted biological sample, which may include urine, hair, saliva or some other biological substance that may be reliably tested to determine illegal drug usage. If appropriate for the test, the sample will be divided into two separate specimens and sealed, in the event a confirmation test is needed. Students and/or parents/guardians will have the opportunity to provide information concerning prescription medication being taken by the student, which might lead to an erroneous positive result. Parents can also request to be in attendance during the collection of their student's samples for testing.

Appeal Process

Within 72 hours of being notified of a test result, parents/guardians of any student testing positive will have an opportunity to request a conference with the designated administrator, at which time the student or parents/guardians may offer an explanation of the positive result. Parents/guardians may provide any doctor's prescriptions of any drugs that the student was taking that might have affected the outcome of the test. Within the 72-hour time period, the parents/guardians of the student or the student him- or herself, if the student is 18 years old or older, may request a retest of the sample collected. Upon such a request, the urine sample shall be retested by the same lab and method as the previous test. If the retest is negative, the student will remain in good standing. If the retest is positive, the parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of the retest, and the student shall be subject to consequences under this policy.

If a parent fails to make a request for a retest within 72 hours of receiving notice of a positive test result, the appeals process will be waived and the second sample will not be tested. The student shall remain eligible to participate in extracurricular activities during the 72-hour appeal period.

Consequences

Consequences are cumulative through the high school years (grades 9 through 12). All students coming in new to TCA will begin with a clean record.

All students who have a positive random drug test must complete a TCA -approved substance abuse counseling course. In addition, the severity of further consequences for a positive random drug test will be determined based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The student's previous disciplinary history;

2. The student's previous drug test results;
3. The parents' and student's cooperation with TCA to develop a plan of action designed to ensure that the student adopts a personal lifestyle choice to refrain from any further use of alcohol or illegal drugs; and
4. The student's success or failure at following the plan of action developed by the student, his or her family, and TCA.

Depending on the factors set forth above, TCA may implement, at its sole discretion, disciplinary consequences for a positive test result ranging from in- or out-of-school suspension from school (including suspension from extracurricular activities) to dismissal of the student from TCA.

Required Submission to Further Testing Upon Testing Positive

Any student testing positive will be removed from the random testing pool and will be required to be tested at the time of each random testing for a minimum period of one calendar year from the date of the first offense.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Upon reasonable suspicion by a staff member that a student is under the influence of a drug or alcohol while at school or while at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, that student may be required by the school nurse or by the principal or designee to submit to a drug use or alcohol test at any time. A student found to have possessed, distributed, used, or been under the influence of an illegal drug or alcohol while on school grounds or while participating in or attending a Trinity activity on or off TCA property shall be punished as provided in the TCA Student Code of Conduct and/or Student Handbook.

Definitions

Definitions contained herein are provided only to assist in the interpretation of the drug and alcohol testing policy. In instances where these definitions conflict with definitions contained in the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook, the definitions contained in the Student Code of Conduct or Student Handbook shall prevail.

Activities--Interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, academic clubs, special interest clubs, musical performances, dramatic productions, student government, fine arts organizations, technology and agricultural organizations, and any other activity or group that participates in contests, competitions, demonstrations, or community service projects on behalf of or as a representative of the district.

Biological Testing--for this plan, the scientific analysis of an industry-accepted biological specimen for the purpose of detecting an illegal drug or alcohol.

Good Standing--Having met the requirements in order to be able to pursue all educational and extracurricular activities as are available, with no restrictions or consequences.

Illegal Drug--Any drug which is not legally obtainable; any drug which is legally obtainable, but has not been legally obtained; any prescribed drug not being used for the prescribed purpose; any over the counter drug being used at a dosage level different than recommended by the manufacturer, being used for a purpose not in accordance with bona fide medical therapy.

Possession--The presence of any detectable amount of an illegal substance, whether on the person, their personal or assigned property, or in the body system.

Random Drug Testing—A testing process in which selection for testing is made by a method employing objective, neutral criteria, which ensures that every person subject to testing has a substantially equal statistical chance of being selected. This method does not permit subjective factors to play a role in selection.

Reasonable Suspicion--Based on specific personal observation concerning the appearance, speech, or behavior of the student that indicates the effects of drug or alcohol use. Information provided by a reliable source, if based on personal knowledge, may also constitute reasonable suspicion.

Under the Influence—A condition in which a person is affected by a drug or alcohol.

Drug Testing Policy Student Acknowledgment Form

I have received and read a copy of the Trinity Christian Academy ("TCA ") Drug & Alcohol Deterrent Program. I understand that this program is part of the school district's rules, and that it applies to all TCA students, grades seven through twelve for the duration of their enrollment in such grades.

Print Name

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR DRUG TESTING PROGRAM

(For all students, grades 9-12)

I, _____, as a parent or guardian of _____, a student enrolled in Trinity Christian Academy ("TCA "), hereby agree to the following for the duration of his/her enrollment at TCA, grades 9 through 12.

I understand the school's policy regarding substance abuse and its commitment to a drug-free and alcohol-free educational environment. I agree with that commitment. I understand that it is the practice of TCA to conduct random and reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol tests during the school year. Because I agree with TCA's commitment to a drug-and alcohol-free school, I acknowledge that my child's enrollment at TCA is conditioned on my child's remaining drug-and alcohol-free.

I understand that my child will not be compelled to give a biological specimen, including a urine, breath, hair, or saliva sample (hereafter "sample"), however, I further understand that it is a condition of remaining in good standing as a student at TCA that my child produce a sample. I understand that is a condition of remaining in good standing as a student at TCA that my child produce a sample. I understand that if he/she gives a sample, it will be tested for illegal drugs and/or alcohol. I understand that if my child does not give a sample, he/she will be dismissed from school as a consequence. Due to my unequivocal commitment to maintaining a drug-free and alcohol-free school, I hereby waive his/her rights to the extent needed for TCA to conduct drug testing on my child under its Drug Testing Program. I further hereby waive any privacy

rights that I or my child may have under any state or federal law privacy laws relating to the disclosure of the results that I or my child may have under any state or federal or federal law privacy laws relating to the disclosure of the results of my child's drug testing to school officials, including but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPPA").

Prescription drugs currently taken as prescribed.

Comments:

At this time, I hereby agree to my child giving a biological specimen, including urine, breath, hair, and/or saliva, or purposes of drug and alcohol testing.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Printed Name Witness

Student Signature

Printed Name