

TRUE CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



True Cross Catholic School

400 FM 517 E

Dickinson, TX 77539

Office 281.337.5212

Fax 832.738.1682

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

This Athletic Handbook is provided to inform students and parents of the athletic procedures and policies of True Cross Catholic School. We ask parents to carefully read all sections of the handbook and review them with your child.

True Cross Catholic School operates in accordance with the Diocesan Board of Education policy number 621 that reads:

“A school within boundaries of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston that will be known as a Catholic School shall follow the regulations as set forth by the Catholic School Office.”

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Galveston-Houston guarantee all students the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to the general student body. Catholic Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, or national origin.

True Cross School adheres to the guidelines established by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and maintains full accreditation status. We currently hold membership in the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Our athletic association is not yet governed by any organization. However, we will follow the general guidelines set forth by the Greater Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA).

True Cross Catholic School and administration retain the right to amend the Athletic Handbook. By no means is this Handbook considered all-inclusive. Administration and staff will exercise professional judgment and discretion to address situations fairly and consistently.

The enrollment of a child at True Cross School in athletics is considered to be an agreement on the part of the student and parents or guardians that they will comply with all school procedures, regulations and policies including but not limited to such procedures, regulations, and policies in this Athletic Handbook.

After reviewing this Athletic Handbook with your child, sign the acknowledgement form located at the back of this Handbook. The form must be returned to your child’s coach.

“Surely you know that your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God. You are no longer your own. God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honor God.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

MISSION STATEMENT

True Cross is a Christ centered Catholic school community, who, united with its parish, and in collaboration with its families, nurtures and forms the minds, hearts, and spirits of the children it serves.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The philosophy of the True Cross School athletic program is in accordance with the school's overall philosophy statement. The primary goal of True Cross Catholic School is centered on the development and formation of the whole Christian person. Education is based on a spiritual formation of Christian values and teachings, strong academics, development of social skills, and community services. True Cross Catholic School is committed to the trinity of parent, child, and educator working together to achieve this goal.

True Cross Catholic School recognizes that physical development is an important component of a student's well being and therefore seeks to aid in the total development of the individual student through organized, cooperative competition. In addition, it is important for the students to develop socially as they learn to work in a team situation and to practice good sportsmanship. The goal of the athletic program is to produce young men and women of strong character, who can be successful in the competitive society in which we live in. Additional goals of the athletic program include the development and cultivation of self esteem, respect, responsibility, and school spirit.

INTRODUCTION

True Cross Catholic School offers a variety of sports for both boys and girls in middle school, including: girl's volleyball, boy's and girl's basketball, co-ed soccer, and track & field. Additional sports are periodically considered if there is sufficient interest on the part of the students and parents. The athletic program falls under the jurisdiction of the School, and is administered by the Principal, the Athletic Director, full-and part-time coaches, and parent volunteers.

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

Participation in athletics is a privilege, requiring a commitment from both student participant and his/her parents. Students earn the privilege of participating through maintaining a commitment to academics, effort, dedication, desire and self-discipline.

Enrollment: Students must attend True Cross Catholic School.

Grade Level Requirements: Students in grades 6th, 7th and 8th are eligible to participate in athletics. Participation may be opened to the 5th grade students should it not be possible to form a team from grades 6th-8th.

Age Requirements: Students on the Varsity or "A" team may not turn 15 before September 1. Students on the junior varsity or "B" team may not turn 14 before September 1. Students on the "C" team may not turn 13 before September 1.

Financial Obligations: Students must be in good standing on all financial obligations to the school, including: tuition, fees, etc. Students will be required to pay an athletic fee for each sport in which they participate; athletic fees are non-refundable. Any additional charges, dues, or membership fees must be paid by the student at the time charges are incurred. This includes, but is not limited to, tournament participation, GHCAA membership, and other expenses that may arise throughout the season. Uniforms will not be distributed to an athlete until financial obligations have been fulfilled.

Attendance: Students with unexcused absences on the day of a game or practice may not participate in athletic activities that day.

Academics/Behavior: Students must maintain an average of "C" or better in every subject area and an "S" or better in conduct in all classes in order to participate on a True Cross sports team.

Opportunity to participate is determined by Report Card grades and Progress Report grades. Academic and behavioral reassessment is done at the end of the two-week period following the receipt of the grades. If a student is placed on probation or ineligible to play as defined below in sections a) and b), the period begins on the day the Report Card or the Progress Report is issued and continues through the two weeks following until grades are reassessed. If a student-athlete does not improve academically or behaviorally, he/she will remain on probation or ineligible to play through the next two-week period

until reassessment. An average of 78 or above and an “S” or above in conduct must be earned in order to play. The 78 or above is an average of all grades taken (tests, projects, quizzes, homework, and participation).

The Athletic Director will notify the coaches and student-athletes of their play status. Teachers will average grades and report any student-athletes to the Athletic Director on the assessment dates (dates that Report Cards and Progress Reports are given to the student/parent) and will not be required to average grades on a weekly/daily basis. Situations that affect a student athlete’s playing status are as follows:

- A) If a student has an average of 70-77 (D) or an “N” in conduct in any subject on his/her Report Card or Progress Report, the student-athlete is placed on a two-week probation and may continue to participate in practices for the sport, but may not participate in any District games/meets. Failure to bring grades up to the requirements for play at the end of the two-week probationary period will result in ineligibility. If ineligibility is acquired, the student-athlete will not participate in any games, meets, or competitions and may only attend practices with written consent from both the parent/guardian and the Principal.
- B) If a student has an average of 69 or lower or a “U” in conduct in any subject, the student is automatically ineligible to play for a two week period beginning the day Report Cards or Progress Reports are issued. The student-athlete will not participate in any games, meets, or competitions during this period of ineligibility, and may only attend practices with the written consent of both the parent/guardian and the Principal. Failure to bring grades up to the requirements for play at the end of the two week probationary period will result in continued ineligibility.
- C) In the event that a student-athlete is suspended from school, the student-athlete will be ineligible to play on a True Cross Sports team for a period of two weeks. The two week period will consist of days when school is in session and does not involve holidays or times when school is not in session. The period of ineligibility will begin the date that written notice of suspension is given to the student/parent and will continue for ten school days. The student may attend practices with the exception of the actual day(s) of suspension. The student-athlete may not participate in game play and cannot travel with the team during the ten day period.
- D) Student-athletes, who display inappropriate behaviors that lead to major referrals, may at the discretion of the Principal/Athletic Director/Coach be subjected to the same policies that apply to student-athletes who have been suspended. Verbal and/or written notice will be given to the student-athlete/parent.

Sportsmanship: Any student-athlete whose conduct, dress, or other display of behavior unbecoming a True Cross Catholic student that may discredit the reputation of the school, can be declared ineligible for athletic competition. Such decisions are made by the Coach and Athletic Director in consultation with the Principal, and are final.

Parents similarly are expected to refrain from public criticism and/or private remarks which may adversely reflect on our school's participation in interscholastic sports. Parents are allowed to observe practices if desired, but are required to keep their personal opinions to themselves, private meetings with the coach can be scheduled. Parents are prohibited to approach the coach or game official/referee during a game/competition, and are also not permitted near the coach's/player's bench or the sports official stand during a game. The ONLY exception for this rule is if their child is injured.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Team Selection: The head coach or sponsor is responsible for the team selection process for the individual sport/activity. Expectations for participation will be explained to the students prior to try-outs being conducted.

Team Meeting: All coaches hold pre-season meetings. Attendance of at least one parent is mandatory. This requirement must be met prior to the student being allowed to participate in competition. Students will be provided with a copy of the Athletic Handbook, fee requirements, practice schedules, game schedules, and game maps.

Practices: Students are expected to attend all practices, games, and meetings called by the coach. If a student misses a practice, game, or meeting, the coach must be notified immediately. Students who miss practices, games, or meetings may lose playing time in future games. All TCCS practices are closed practices.

Students are expected to be picked up immediately at the practice/game's conclusion with definite plans prearranged. A 5-minute grace period for athletes will be allowed prior to late fees of \$1.00 per minute being assessed. The procedure adheres to general school policy for late pick-ups. Students may only be released to Extended Day care at the end of practice if they have been pre-registered for EDP.

Uniforms and Equipment: School-issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for all True Cross games, competitions, and special activities. The wearing of team uniforms for PE classes is unacceptable. Care must be taken to keep uniforms and equipment in good condition. At the end of each sports season all uniforms and equipment, in cleaned and good condition, must be returned to the school at the end of the sports season.

Students may not compete in another sport until uniform matters are resolved. A student's report card may be withheld at the end of the quarter if uniforms have not been returned. Students who leave a team before the end of a season must return uniforms and equipment immediately. Students are responsible for furnishing their own socks, shoes, knee pads and shin guards. These must meet team specifications for color, etc.

Facilities and Equipment: True Cross Catholic School is responsible for providing the facilities and equipment needed for practices and games. Students are responsible for personal equipment such as knee pads, safety glasses, shin guards, etc.

Transportation: Will be provided by the parents. If a student-athlete needs a ride, a “Boarding Pass” form must be completely filled out and signed by the parent, and submitted to the coach prior to each away game/competition.

Only parents will be allowed to pick-up their child from “away” competitions. Students must be signed out by the parent. In the event of weekend competitions/tournaments, parents are responsible for arranging transportation.

Injuries: True Cross provides health or medical insurance for students participating in athletic activities through May of the school year. Coverage will be secondary to the families existing policies or as a primary provider in cases where this is the only insurance available. Complete documentation of injury and situation is to be recorded and submitted by attending staff member.

Team Service Project: All athletic teams as a whole will be required to do a Team Service Project during the school year. This will be a project decided upon by the team and the coach that will benefit our school community or school campus. This will help build team fellowship and a sense of community, as well as representing True Cross Catholic School.

REGISTRATION FOR PRATICIPATION IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

1. Complete and submit the Athletic Registration form and medical waiver.
2. Have your child’s Doctor complete the all sports physical form and return it to the school.
3. Sign and return Athletic Handbook Acknowledgment Form.
4. Pay the designated Fees.
5. Sign and return both parent and student agreement forms.

NOTE: All necessary forms are included at the back of this Handbook and can be found on the school website.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM
MANDATORY SERVICE AGREEMENT

I agree to help foster the growth and development of the True Cross Catholic School Athletic Program by providing assistance in at least one of the following areas: (Please check all areas in which you are interested in volunteering your service.)

- Game Set-up/Clean up assistance
- Concessions
- Score Keeping
- Fundraising
- Transportation
- Other (List Below):

Printed Name: _____ **Student Name:** _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

TRUE CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

REGISTRATION, HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, AND INSURANCE WAIVER

All students in grades 5th-8th are eligible to participate in the Athletic Program. The Athletic Handbook provides the framework for the operation of the program. Students must maintain eligibility to participate.

Students must complete a separate registration form for each sport or activity. The athletic fee for the specific sport or activity must be paid at the time the registration form is turned in. Fees are non-refundable.

A student must submit the registration form, athletic fee, contract, and physical form before they can play.



**TRUE CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
ATHLETIC REGISTRATION FORM**

Please check sport(s):

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| _____ Girls Volleyball | _____ Boys Basketball | _____ Track & Field |
| _____ Girls Basketball | _____ Baseball/Softball | _____ Co-ed Soccer |

We have read and discussed the True Cross Catholic School Athletic Handbook. We agree to follow the procedures, regulations, and policies covered therein.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Physician: _____

Hospital: _____ Emergency Phone: _____

TRUE CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM

This is to certify that my child, _____, has my permission to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by True Cross Catholic School, including all of their athletic programs. I hereby release and save harmless True Cross School and any and all of its employees, volunteers or students from any and all liability for any and all harm arising to my child as a result of these activities, including walking or vehicular transportation to or from associated events. In my absence, I authorize True Cross Catholic School or any of its employees to secure medical treatment for my child in the event of an emergency, accident, or illness. I request and authorize physicians, dentists and staff, duly licensed Doctors of Medicine or Doctors of Dentistry or other licensed technicians or nurses, to perform any diagnostic procedures, treatments procedures, operative procedures and x-ray treatment of the above minor. I have not been given a guarantee as to the results of the examination or treatment.

Furthermore, I have furnished the school with documentation of any existing medical conditions which may affect my child's participation in True Cross Catholic School athletic program.

Student's Birthday ____ / ____ / ____ Age as of September 1st: ____ Grade: ____

Date of Last Tetanus Booster: _____

Known allergies (including medication) and/or known medical problems:

Father's name: _____ Work Number: () _____

Mother's name: _____ Work Number: () _____

Address: _____

Home phone number: () _____ Other phone numbers: _____

Other Emergency Contact: _____

Phone number: () _____

Student's Physician: _____

Hospital: _____ Phone number: () _____

Name of Insurance Carrier: _____ Phone number: () _____

Name of Insured: _____ Policy Number: _____

Signature: _____ Phone number: () _____

Printed Name: _____ Relationship to Student: _____