

EPISCOPAL ACADEMY

Athletic Program Parent & Student-Athlete Handbook 2025 – 2026



James Phillips, Athletic Director jphillips@htes.org 321-723-8323 x396



ATHLETIC PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Holy Trinity athletic department is to promote and maintain a broad-based athletic program that offers all students the opportunity to engage in age and talent appropriate competitive organized sports. Holy Trinity's athletic program provides opportunities for our students to develop leadership, sportsmanship, time management and commitment to a team. Athletic offerings instill in student-athletes a belief in the positive benefits of working together as a team, displaying a positive attitude, and pursuing excellence while maintaining respect for one's opponent. Involvement in the Holy Trinity athletic program is a continuation of the academic learning and character values development that permeates the Holy Trinity environment.

Wearing a Holy Trinity athletic team uniform is a privilege. HTEA student-athletes represent our school community both on and off the field and court. It is the responsibility of each student-athlete, parent and coach to ensure that the mission, vision and core values that set Holy Trinity apart from other schools are reflected in all they do. Holy Trinity operates under the guiding principles that student-athletes, coaches, teachers, and spectators should at all times present themselves in a respectful, Christian manner. HTEA Tigers win and lose with grace and dignity.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This handbook is an extension of the expectations and guidelines set forth in the Holy Trinity Family Handbook.

Goals: First and foremost, we strive to promote sportsmanship in all of our students. Components of sportsmanship are equally stressed: integrity, responsibility, and teamwork.

Rules: Holy Trinity has established a number of necessary rules to give students a behavioral outline to ensure that they fully understand their responsibilities to their school, their teammates, and themselves. These rules are specifically listed within this handbook, and parents, coaches, and athletes are responsible for the content and the guidelines. These rules apply during the entire sports season, on and off school grounds, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Procedures: The procedures portion of the handbook deals with common sense practices, which need to be enumerated for all to understand. These procedures deal with the numerous daily, weekly, and monthly activities in which students are likely to be involved. These include, but are not restricted too, clothing, game days, jewelry, grooming, etc., all of which are specifically outlined in the handbook.



COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

All students of Holy Trinity are responsible for their academic success. This essential responsibility serves as our guideline for the role athletics has in the life of the student. Academic commitments take precedence over any athletic interest. Given the demands of time and schedule made on the student, the planning and preparation of academic work is critical. Participation in athletics is not an acceptable excuse for poor academic performance. In other words, **schoolwork comes first!** In addition, all disciplinary obligations must be fulfilled before a student may participate in any extracurricular activity.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT ATHLETES

- 1. Athletics serves as an extension of the classroom. You are a Holy Trinity student above anything else.
- 2. RESPECT all coaches, teachers, peers and especially teammates. Failure to be respectful could result in IMMEDIATE removal from the team. Disrespect will NOT be tolerated.
- 3. Student Athletes will be supportive and encouraging towards every teammate. Celebrate each other's accomplishments.
- 4. Holy Trinity athletes will conduct themselves and treat others with the utmost respect and kindness. Any behavior that is considered disrespectful or inappropriate may result in loss of playing time or removal from the team.
- 5. Work and play hard every day to improve as individuals and as a team.
- 6. Be dressed, on time and ready for every scheduled practice, game and team activity.
- 7. Acknowledge that playing time on this team is an HONOR and a PRIVILEGE, not a right.
- 8. Student athletes are expected to attend EVERY scheduled practice, scrimmage, game and all other team related activities.

Note: Coaches have the right to recommend to the Director of Athletics the dismissal of participants from the team roster for conduct considered detrimental to the team. Dismissal may be done with or without penalty. The decision by the Director of Athletics, with approval from the Division Head to dismiss a student-athlete from a team is final.



ATHLETIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 1. The coach will first meet with the player(s) to discuss the issue(s).
- 2. The coach will then discuss the concerns with the Director of Athletics.
- 3. If concerns persist, the coach and player(s) will meet with the Director of Athletics.
- 4. If the problems continue after this meeting, the coach will meet with the parents or guardians of the player(s) and the Director of Athletics to discuss the issues, what has been done and to determine the appropriate actions.
- 5. If the coach believes that the player(s) continue to exhibit the same difficulties, the coach, in conjunction with the Director of Athletics, can suspend the player(s) for a specific period of time.
- 6. Finally, if all other courses of action have not produced the desired results, the coach, with the approval of the Director of Athletics and Division Head can remove the player from the team.

Note: Holy Trinity administration reserves the right to review any incident that reflects poorly on the school. Should a student be guilty of representing the school poorly, the administration may utilize the school discipline process and/or choose to suspend the athlete from athletic participation for up to one year. Additionally, if FHSAA levies a fine on an athlete's behavior, it shall be the responsibility of that athlete to reimburse the school for such fines.

ROLE OF PARENTS

The Holy Trinity athletic program relies heavily on parental support. Not only do parents support their own student-athlete, they support the whole program. When the season begins, a team will need a team parent to act as a liaison for the coach. Team parents are counted on to relay information and assist in organizing volunteers for concessions, gates, and other duties.

In order to support the team, parents and spectators should avoid talking poorly about the coach's decisions and play calling. This behavior can create dissention between the player and coach or player and parent. Parents should refrain from replaying every aspect of a game or focusing on the negatives after a game. If the player wishes to discuss the game, the parent should let the player initiate the conversation.

Parents and spectators are encouraged to cheer for our athletes and not against the other team. Allow the coaches to coach; let the players play; and let the officials officiate and everyone can then enjoy all athletic events.

Below are some suggested topics you can discuss with your child in these situations:



Values of Winning - help your child learn the values of winning by:

- Offering congratulations for winning and identifying the efforts made by individuals and the team.
- Recognizing the improvement and growth of both the individuals and the team.
- Emphasizing competitiveness and doing one's best.

Values of Losing —help your child learn the values of losing by:

- Providing a period of quiet time for your child to "decompress" after a loss before you discuss the game.
- Crediting the other team or play of his/her opponent.
- Focusing on improvement by individuals and teams.
- Discussing what was successful.
- Discussing what, if anything, individuals or the team could have done differently.
- Accept the loss, set individual goals and move forward.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

What are appropriate issues to discuss with the coach? In any discussion with a coach, whether in person, via text or in email, parents should communicate calmly and politely. Holy Trinity coaches have an open-door policy and are willing to meet with parents. Please note the following guidelines for parent-coach meetings:

- The meeting should be scheduled for an appropriate time and location, which should be agreed upon beforehand by both parties.
- Playing time is never discussed with parents. Rather, conversation should focus on how a player can improve.
- Keep in mind that the needs of the whole team need to be considered by the coach and supported by the parent.

Parents are ENCOURAGED to discuss:

- The treatment of their child
- Ways to help their child improve
- Concern about their child's behavior
- Coaches' expectations for their child and the team
- Team expectations, requirements and scheduling
- Sanctions incurred by their child
- College participation

Parents should NOT discuss:

- Placement on the team
- Playing time
- Strategies used by the coach during contests
- Other student-athletes, unless parents have a concern regarding the way another student-athlete is interacting with their child



COACH OR PROGRAM COMPLAINTS

Athletics can be an emotional endeavor, and occasionally a conflict may arise. If any parent has an athletic issue concerning his/her child, please respect and abide by our "24 Hour Rule" – that is, please wait 24 hours before contacting the coach, except in an emergency situation. We have found that all parties who feel that they have an athletics issue who take the time to reflect on the situation, the ensuing conversation will likely be based less on emotions and personalities and more on the facts of the matter. If you wish to discuss a program or issue concerning your child, begin by contacting his/her coach. Often the problem or concern is resolved at this level. If after 24 hours any parent still feels that the situation merits attention, please follow the procedures listed below:

Steps for resolution:

- 1. Athletes should speak with the coach, privately.
- 2. Parent(s) and athletes should speak with the coach privately.
- 3. Contact the Director of Athletics to meet with all parties involved.
- 4. If the issue remains unresolved, a meeting with the Head of School may be scheduled. The Head of School will review the matter along with the Director of Athletics and determine a final course of action.

Productive communication:

- Please make an appointment to speak with the coach at a mutually convenient time, but not prior to, or after a contest or practice.
- If a meeting can't be agreed upon, call the Director of Athletics, and the meeting will be set up.
- Chatter or complaints between parents is counterproductive please handle each issue directly through the coach.

Please note that angry or aggressive communication is also counterproductive and coaches have the prerogative to disengage from conversations they deem detrimental to a positive resolution

PRE-SEASON MEETINGS

All programs are required to have a parent organizational meeting prior to the beginning of their season. At these meetings the following items will be addressed by the coach - team placement, practice times and locations, transportation, costs, planned fundraising events, game schedules, game day responsibilities and duties, coaching philosophy, and team policies. It is highly recommended that each team designate a team parent.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student must be in school for a minimum of 4 full class periods to be eligible to participate in practice or game that same day. Student-athletes are expected to be at all practices and games unless absent from school. Students who skip a class resulting in an unexcused absence from that class will lose privileges, including the opportunity to participate in any extra-curricular activity, including athletics, scheduled on that day. The Division Head, and/or Director of Athletics - according to the situation - may make exceptions, especially if the student has a doctor's note.

EARLY DISMISSALS/ABSENCES

It is the student-athlete's responsibility to inform his/her classroom teachers of all known absences and/or early dismissals due to athletic events. Student-athletes are responsible for submitting assignments and completing tests for classes missed and pre-arranging with their teachers to make up work, including homework, tests, quizzes, and papers due in classes missed for athletics.

LATE ARRIVAL POLICY FOLLOWING ATHLETIC EVENTS

In recognition of the time demands and travel associated with athletic participation, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy has established the following policy regarding late returns from away games: If a team bus returns to campus after 12:00 a.m. (midnight) on a school night, student-athletes on that team will be excused from their first-period class the following day. Students must arrive by second period and are expected to attend all remaining classes. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate with their first-period teacher and make up any missed work or assignments in a timely manner. This policy applies only to official, school-sanctioned team travel that returns after midnight and does not apply to individual or parent-arranged transportation.



ATHLETIC OFFERINGS

Holy Trinity is a member of the **FHSAA** (Florida High School Athletic Association) and **SSAA** (Sunshine State Athletic Association). FHSAA rules are the rules of the Holy Trinity athletics program. Please feel free to visit the FHSAA website at **www.fhsaa.com** for more details surrounding the association.

All direct communication with the FHSAA should occur directly through the Holy Trinity Athletics Department. If you have a concern in which you think it is necessary to contact the FHSAA please contact the HT Athletics Department first.

Fall Season: Cheerleading, Cross Country (Boys & Girls), Football, Golf (Boys & Girls), Swim and Dive (Boys & Girls), Girls' Volleyball

Winter Season: Basketball (Boys & Girls), Soccer (Boys & Girls)

Spring Season: Baseball, Lacrosse(Boys & Girls), Softball, Tennis (Boys & Girls), Track & Field (Boys & Girls)

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Junior Varsity Programs are designed and intended to developmentally prepare student athletes for varsity competition. The amount of playing time will always be determined by the coach and is not guaranteed. Close communication between the varsity head coach, the junior varsity head coach and student-athletes is important and expected. Coaches will be using similar principles and strategies, so the transition from junior varsity to varsity will be seamless. Junior Varsity programs will not be available for all sports offered by Holy Trinity.

Varsity Program Goals - Competition at the varsity level is the culmination of each sports' program. All student-athletes are expected to put forth their best effort always, especially when they are wearing Holy Trinity colors. We strive to compete at the highest level in each varsity sport, while upholding our ideals of sportsmanship, respect, commitment and integrity.

At the varsity level, coaches are not expected to give playing time to all athletes. Playing time is based on talent, performance and caliber of opponent. Varsity athletics is a competitive experience in which achievement and outcome are high priorities.



JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETICS

Junior high programs are designed for students to develop a passion for sports and athletic competition. Through physical education and athletics, early adolescents develop and use their physical talents and skills. Each student-athlete will have the opportunity to play at some point during the season unless his/her abilities and the game situation make it unsafe for them to participate. As long as the student-athletes are committed to and are capable of participating, everyone should have the opportunity to compete at some point during the season. There will be specific game/opponent situations that will not be conducive to every team member getting playing time.

Holy Trinity will create multiple team levels to support strong participation. If a student-athlete demonstrates more advanced skill sets, he/she may be asked to move up to a more competitive level. Student athletes will never be asked to move down to play below their grade level. The head coach of the program along with the varsity coaching staff will make this decision after consulting with the student-athlete and the athlete's family.

"PLAYING UP" POLICY

The athletic department may, in some instances, permit younger student-athletes to "play up" onto High School or Junior High teams. No athlete will be forced to play up. Playing Up must be agreed upon by the parents, the athlete, the coach, and the Athletic Director. Parents and younger players should understand that playing up is both an honor and a privilege. However, please note that coaches often prioritize playing time in games for older athletes. Consideration should be given to the fact that practices, games and seasons become increasingly demanding both physically and emotionally at higher levels. Parents and young athletes should consider both the short and long term physical and emotional impact of playing up.

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FEES

Enrolled students who actively participate in a school sport will be charged a participation fee, not to exceed \$200.00 per sport. The Athletic Participation Fee is non-refundable. Any participant who leaves a team voluntarily or who is dropped for disciplinary or scholastic deficiencies is not eligible for a refund. A paid participation fee does not guarantee that a student-athlete will play. The control and determination of activities will remain the responsibility of the Head Coach, Athletic Director and school administration.



ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

The FHSAA requires a middle/junior high student to have a 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each semester. A high school student-athlete must have a cumulative 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester. Additionally, Holy Trinity will monitor all student-athletes at each grading period to determine eligibility and appropriately intervene as needed. Please refer to the Holy Trinity Student Handbook for these guidelines.

ATHLETIC FORMS

To participate in Holy Trinity Athletics, all student-athletes must create an Athletic Clearance account for the 2025-2026 school year. All required paperwork and signatures must be completed and submitted online. Students and parents will be notified via email when the student is cleared and eligible to participate. If you have an existing athletic clearance account from a previous school year, please use the same account. New students to Holy Trinity should create a new account.

Athletic Eligibility Checklist:

Complete Athletic Clearance.

Upload the FHSAA Physical Form (EL2).

Upload proof of medical insurance.

Upload Electrocardiogram (ECG) Form

Upload NFHS Courses certificates of completion for <u>Concussion</u>, <u>Heat Illness Prevention</u>, <u>Sudden</u> <u>Cardiac Arrest</u>, and <u>Hazing Prevention</u>.

<u>GA4 Affidavit of Transfer Compliance Form - GA4</u> (required for student athletes entering grades 10-12 transferring from another high school)

COMMUNICATION

Effective two-way communication between coaches and players/parents is a cornerstone of the Holy Trinity athletic program. The primary communication avenue should be between the head coach of the team and the student-athlete. However, at times, parents may need to take a more active role in the communication process. Effective communication between parties is based on mutual respect and understanding.



Schedule Changes

Changes to practice and game times and/or locations are to be communicated to both the student-athlete and parent, providing as much notice as possible. This is critical especially for sub-varsity teams that may consist of non-driving student-athletes. Changes may be communicated via email or the Teamsnap app. It is recommended that student-athletes and parents check their email and/or the Teamsnap app regularly.

Weekly Athletics Facebook Post - This Week in Tiger Athletics will be posted on the Holy Trinity Athletics page to communicate all sporting events for the upcoming week (this calendar is subject to change and the Athletic department will do our best to communicate any changes as they arise throughout the week).

Score Reporting and MaxPreps

Mandatory score reporting for all events is now required by the FHSAA. Coaches must report all scores to The Athletic Director at the conclusion of each event. MaxPreps scores and rosters are automatically updated through the FHSAA HomeCampus website, which will be monitored and updated by the Athletic Director. Please note that team and individual stats are required to ensure accurate historical records.

Social Media

Social media outlets can be great tools for our sports teams, however, along with the benefits of social media, we must also be cautious of what our players, teams and coaches are posting.

Holy Trinity Athletics Social Media:

- Maintain separate professional and personal accounts.
- Team Twitter accounts must be maintained by a member of the coaching staff.
- Send all Facebook posts to our Media department at getsocial@htes.org. Please note that according to HTEA, teams are NOT permitted to create their own Facebook page.

MEDIA RELATIONS

Mrs. Nicki Hensley is Holy Trinity's Media Relations specialist. If someone from the media wants to visit Holy Trinity to interview a coach, a student-athlete, to seek out a story or to take pictures, please notify Mrs. Nicki Hensley immediately. She is a member of our Marketing/Communications Department and it is critical that all information coming from Holy Trinity speak in one voice. A coach and/or athlete can speak to media members following games when there is little to no notice of the interview-taking place. It is imperative that the coach and athlete speak highly of the program and acknowledge the opponent in a positive manner. These are important aspects when representing the Holy Trinity and a reflection on the athletic program in general.



ATHLETIC TEAM COMMITMENT

If, for some reason, a student-athlete decides to stop participating on a team, or is dismissed from a team, he/ she will not be permitted to join or participate in any other sport for the duration of that sport season (Fall/ Winter/Spring). Any student-athlete who decides to quit a team after learning of their placement on a team will not be permitted to try-out for that team the following year without the approval of the head coach.

Most, if not all, of the Varsity teams, and some JV teams, practice during school holidays. The level of commitment on a Varsity team requires the student-athlete to participate in these practices during vacations. If you are the parent of a Varsity student-athlete, please plan on your son/daughter participating in these practices. If your son/daughter cannot attend these mandatory practices, it must be understood that there may be playing time consequences for failure to attend. Consequences vary and are handled by each individual coach. If there are special circumstances concerning a student's participation in vacation practices, the parents need to inform the coach in advance of the practice(s).

COACHES' DISCRETION

Coaches may establish their own rules and schedules (supported by the Director of Athletics) within guidelines that have been established by Holy Trinity. It shall be up to the coach when to have practice, how long to practice and what to practice. The coach shall make decisions regarding strategy, determination of captains, personnel and scheduling. If parents have questions regarding a coach and his or her rules, they should first be addressed to the coach.

TRYOUTS

Try-outs are a part of many junior high and high school athletic programs. The maximum number of players allowed on a team will depend on facilities, safety, and equipment availability. Coaches will not restrict any student-athlete from trying-out, nor will a student-athlete's placement on a team be dependent on their participation during off-season, open gym work-outs or participation on a travel ball team. Team placement decisions will be based on ability, attitude, and commitment. **Parents will not be allowed to attend try-outs.**

MULTIPLE SPORT PARTICIPATION

Holy Trinity firmly believes in developing a well-rounded student-athlete. As such, coaches encourage athletes to participate in multiple sports. Student-athletes should feel free to participate in as many sports as they would like to pursue that complement the academic load they are carrying.



Dual Sport Student-Athletes

For student-athletes that desire to participate in more than one sport during the same season, coaches are encouraged to work together to facilitate this in a manner that ensures the student-athlete's safety. At the beginning of the season, the student-athlete must get approval by the Athletic Director to be a two sport athlete. At this time the student-athlete must declare one of the sports to be their primary sport. Both coaches must sign the form acknowledging the student-athlete's primary sport selection. Once the student has selected a primary sport, the secondary coach may not pressure or encourage the student-athlete in any manner to change their mind. If the student-athlete is no longer a member of the primary sport, then they could also be ineligible to participate as a member of the secondary sport. If the student-athlete elects not to continue participating in the secondary sport once the season has started, then the student-athlete will not be permitted to participate in the dual-sport program next year. All participation fees are non-refundable.

If there are any scheduling conflicts between the two sports, the student-athlete must attend the primary sport event. The head coach of the primary sport does not have the authority to excuse the student-athlete from their event to attend the secondary sport event. The student-athlete may not participate in post-season tournaments as a member of the secondary team, until the primary sport season is completely over, including all post-season tournaments.

Head coaches **do not** have the authority to undo this agreement, nor to allow the student-athlete to switch their primary & secondary sport designations. This agreement is between the student-athlete, their parents, and the Athletic Department.

If a dual sport student-athlete's sports are in different seasons, the student-athlete may not try-out for the next season sport until they have completed the current season to its fullest, unless both coaches come to an agreement. This includes all post-season tournaments. If a student-athlete does try-out for the next season sport before the completion of their current season sport, the student-athlete will be ineligible to participate on the next season sport team. The current season sport has priority over any involvement with a next season sport team.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their teams. Coaches and student-athletes should accept decisions made by game officials as final. In the event of poor conduct by a student-athlete, the coach will immediately remove the student-athlete from the situation. In a show of good sportsmanship, all coaches and student-athletes are expected to shake hands with the opposing coaches and student-athletes at the conclusion of each game.

All parents and spectators are expected to remain behind fences before, during and after contests and practices for all outdoor sports. All parents and spectators are expected to remain off the playing courts before, during and after contests and practice for indoor sports. Storming onto the field/courts after a game will not be tolerated.



DRESS AND BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Students represent the school to their peers, parents, and members of this and other communities. It is therefore important that they look, act, and play accordingly. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that the students do so in a manner that represents the individuals, the team, the school and the community in a positive light. Students who fail to abide by these rules are subject to disciplinary action and may have their participation withheld until they comply with the coach's rules.

Players are expected to dress according to a coach's specifications and should dress in a way that reflects the unity of the team. Each student is responsible to dress and groom appropriately while attending practices and competitions. The wearing of inappropriate attire could result in the removal from team competition on the specific day the infraction occurs. See your coach or Director of Athletics if you are concerned about specific attire. Please take pride in your appearance and your team.

During competitions, student's uniforms are to be worn as specified by the coaches according to what is appropriate for that sport and that uniform. Students may not wear earrings or other jewelry while competing in their sport. All team members should remain "dressed out" in full uniform, when in public view, while waiting for earlier contests to finish as well as during pre-game warm- ups. The silent language of personal appearance not only projects an image of team unity, it is part of the total impression that Holy Trinity wishes to give to its students, parents, and visitors.

When teams travel to other schools, one of two approaches to attire may be taken: either all players wear pre- game warm-ups (e.g. shirts, jackets, and pants) if the team has them OR all players wear their full team uniform (jerseys, socks, jackets, and shorts or pants, depending on the sport). Teams should be dressed out prior to leaving Holy Trinity's campus. No student should arrive for a competition at another school dressed in street clothes.

During practices, students are to wear proper attire. Coaches may make rules and establish consequences for those athletes who do not bring their practice clothes. While shirts and shorts do not have to adhere to the policies specified in the student dress code for school, a degree of modesty is expected and clothing shall not be excessively revealing or worn inappropriately.

Students are expected to refrain from the use of profanity, vulgar language, and rude gestures. Coaches will establish consequences for students who use inappropriate language depending on the severity of the situation and the number of times the issue has been addressed.



EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

It is the student-athlete's responsibility to care for the equipment and team uniforms issued by HTEA. If items are lost or damaged beyond what is considered normal wear and tear, the student-athlete's account will be billed for replacement costs. Student-athletes will have one week after the completion of their last contest to turn in all school-issued gear to the Athletics Department.

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior Night for each sport is an opportunity for coaches to show their appreciation for their senior team members. This is accomplished by recognizing the player's achievements and favorite moments at some point during the Senior Night game. Senior Night is not an obligation to play the seniors in the game. Seniors who normally play on a junior varsity team will join the varsity team this night for their recognition.

VARSITY LETTER AWARDS

Student-athletes who are prepared, dressed, willing and ready to participate in practices and scheduled contests at the varsity level are eligible for a varsity letter. It is at the discretion of the coaching staff to determine who is eligible to receive a varsity letter. The award of a varsity letter is not dependent on the amount of playing time. Junior High students who participate on a varsity team may earn a varsity letter. Junior varsity players who join the varsity team after the conclusion of their junior varsity season do not guarantee a varsity letter for a student.

Student-athletes who earn a varsity letter will receive the actual letter and sport pin the first time they receive the award. A student-athlete who participates on multiple teams will receive their sport's pins to wear on their varsity letter. Additional years of participation on a team are designated by service bars. Therefore, a student-athlete who participated on the varsity team for four years will have a varsity letter, one pin and three service bars.

AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT - ATHLETES Junior high student-athletes whose practice or game does not commence by 3:10 pm, must remain within the main campus area until practice commences.

TEAM CELEBRATIONS

Head coaches are encouraged to organize and conduct an end of season celebration. This event will include all team levels of the program. This celebration should occur within a reasonable amount of time from the conclusion of the final varsity game unless prohibited by academic priorities such as final exam week. The coaches, student-athletes, and their parents worked extremely hard during the season to make it a success. This celebration belongs to everyone!



Team celebrations should be cost-feasible (not more than \$30/per person) for all team members and parents. Holy Trinity will allow teams to utilize its facilities when they are available. The athletic department will work with team parents and coaches to help oversee party planning. Cash or gift cards may not be given to a student athlete as a senior gift.

TRANSPORTATION

All teams have the option to travel to away games using the athletic department buses. After the trip, it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that the bus is clean. Athletes should help with the pick-up. Teams may not travel on the bus without a coach.

With head coach approval, student-athletes may drive themselves to away competitions that are within Brevard County. They may not drive any other students. Parents may drive their student-athletes to away competitions within or outside of Brevard County.

Student-athletes who traveled to an away competition on the athletic bus may ride home with their parents. However, it is the student-athlete's responsibility to notify the head coach of their travel plans. Student-athletes may ride home with other parents, as long as they have a signed permission form from their parents stating the adults they may ride home with. When arriving back on campus from an away game, coaches must be the last one to go home. They should never leave a student-athlete unsupervised in the parking lot.

TEAM TRIPS AND LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL

Holy Trinity teams may travel to tournaments and meets outside the Space Coast area. The athletic department works with coaches to find the correct level of competition for each team. Some teams may need to travel further and more often than others. Keeping opportunity and expenses in mind, the athletic department adheres to the following policies:

- All team trips must be approved by administration before any team announcements are made or schedules handed out
- Out-of-state travel is the exception, and not the rule.
- A complete itinerary and travel roster must be provided; to include names and telephone numbers of all hotels and schools.
- All participating student-athletes must have completed all appropriate paperwork.
- Student-athletes are responsible for all hotel and transportation costs for trips during the regular season. Hotels and transportation are booked by the head coach and secured by the athletic department. Reimbursement must be made to the athletic department prior to departure.
- Student-athletes are responsible for the cost of meals unless otherwise notified by the coach.
- Participating on a team trip is on a voluntary basis and student-athletes and their families cannot be forced to incur the additional cost.
- Parents/chaperones will follow all school rules regarding adults who are responsible for students.



 Once a student-athlete has committed to a team trip there will be no refunds.

TITLE IX AND DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Holy Trinity Athletic Department welcomes the contributions of all students. We recognize the value of a diverse school community and are committed to providing equal athletic opportunities to both male and female athletes. No student enrolled at Holy Trinity shall, based on gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation be denied the benefits of, excluded from or otherwise discriminated against in any Holy Trinity sponsored activity.

UNDER DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY

This handbook is an extension of the expectation and guidelines set forth in the Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy Family Handbook. Please note, the use of alcohol, tobacco, or tobacco-like products, performance-enhancing supplements, or other intoxicants and mind-altering substances by student-athletes, coaches, spectators, and officials on Holy Trinity property is prohibited.

HAZING

The practice of hazing will not be tolerated at Holy Trinity. Hazing includes any abusive or humiliating activities that have the potential to cause physical or mental harm for any purpose including initiation.



STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING AND SPORTS PERFORMANCE

The weight room is open to all HTEA athletic teams. To have your team utilize the facility, you MUST schedule your times and dates with the Director of Athletic Performance. Please make sure that you read and review the Weight Room Rules and Expectations listed below. All coaches must explain these rules to their teams. If a student-athlete is seen breaking any of the rules, he/she will be asked to leave.

- Prior to participation, all student-athletes must undergo an orientation on the proper execution of various exercises and on the possible consequences if proper technique is not employed.
- If a student-athlete has an injury that in any way inhibits a portion of the workout, the student-athlete will receive a modified program outlining which movements are to be avoided and which ones may be substituted. The Athletic Trainer will collaborate on this comprehensive program.
- Student-athletes are required to use collars once there is any weight on the bar.
- Student-athletes should return dumbbells to the rack in the proper order. They should not drop or throw weights or dumbbells.
- Student-athletes should show respect for equipment and facilities at all times.
- The weight room requires concentration. Horseplay, loud and offensive language or temper tantrums are not permitted.
- Anyone in the strength and conditioning room should wear proper training attire, particularly shirts and athletic shoes.
 - o No jeans or mid-riffs are allowed
 - Shoes should be tied at all times
- Student-athletes should utilize spotters when necessary
- There will be no use of equipment without the supervision of a HTEA staff member.
- No food, soda or gum is allowed in the strength and conditioning. Water only!
- All equipment removed from the closet must be returned before leaving. No equipment should leave the weight room.
- Report any injuries to the supervisor immediately.
- All cardio and weight equipment must be wiped down after each use. Towels and disinfectant spray are available throughout the weight room.
- Report any broken equipment to the supervisor.
- Please use all equipment properly. If you have ANY questions, please see the Director of Sports Performance. SAFETY FIRST!



ATHLETIC TRAINING DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Holy Trinity Athletic Training Team assumes no liability for any actions taken by a player, coach, spectator or others resulting in harm or injury to its affiliates. The Holy Trinity Athletic Training Team will, however, provide immediate care to those injured affiliates within its scope of practice. Should care outside of the certified athletic trainer's scope of practice be warranted, said injured person will be referred to a physician and/or hospital for further evaluation. It is ultimately the athlete and his or her guardian's decision as to the medical course of action in regard to treatment of an injury.

ATHLETIC TRAINER

The HTEA Athletics Department will provide a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) for athletic training services to athletes under the supervision of a licensed practicing physician. The ATC will maintain open communication with coaches, parents/guardians and physicians regarding an athlete's injury status, treatment and rehabilitation protocol, while maintaining HIPAA standards of care.

Weekends and holidays will be handled as needed. Medical coverage for practices and games will be determined based on the sport's risk for injury, the sport's risk for potential life threatening injury or medical emergency, amount of potential contact and location. The ATC will provide athletic training services for all home athletic contests and away varsity football games. In the case of a time conflict, an away football game will supersede any home contest of another sport. Prevention of athletic injuries will be provided by the ATC in the form of prophylactic taping, wraps and braces. The ATC will provide immediate medical care to injured athletes and refer the athlete to a physician or other medical facility as necessary. The ATC will develop and provide rehabilitation programs for athletic injuries under supervision of a licensed referring physician. The ATC will maintain accurate and prompt record keeping in regard to the athletes and any athletic injuries or medical conditions pertaining to the athlete. All medical files will be housed with the school nurse. The ATC is responsible for creating a budget, ordering and keeping inventory of all athletic training supplies. The ATC will coordinate and schedule pre-participation physicals with the availability of the team physician.

If a medical professional determines that a student-athlete is physically unfit to participate in athletics or physical education class, written notification from a medical professional is required for the student-athlete to resume participation in athletics. A parent cannot grant this permission. If a student is not physically able to participate in physical education class, then he/she is not permitted to participate in athletics during the same time period.



HIPAA Privacy Notice

We understand that medical information about you and your health is personal. We are committed to protecting medical information about you. We create a record of the care and services you receive from the HTEA Athletic Training Team. We need this record to provide you with quality care and to comply with certain legal requirements. This notice applies to all of the records of your care generated by the HTEA Athletic Training Department. Your personal doctor may have different policies or notices regarding the doctor's use and disclosure of your medical information created in the doctor's office or clinic.

This notice will tell you about the ways in which HTEA may use and disclose medical information about you. We also describe your rights and certain obligations we have regarding the use and disclosure of medical information.

We are required by law to:

- Make sure that medical information that identifies you is kept private.
- Give you this notice of our legal duties and privacy practices with respect to personal medical information.
- Follow the terms of the notice that is currently in effect.

We may use medical information about you to provide you with medical treatment or services. We may disclose medical information about you to doctors, nurses, technicians, healthcare students or others who are involved in taking care of you after your injury. For example, a doctor treating you for a broken leg may need to know if you have diabetes because diabetes may slow the healing process.

We also may disclose medical information about you to people outside the HTEA Athletic Training Department who may be involved in your medical care after you leave us such as physicians used to provide services that are a part of your care. We will also provide your physician or a subsequent healthcare provider with copies of various reports that should assist him/her in treating you once you're referred for treatment.

We may disclose to a family member, other relative, close personal friend, or another person you identify, medical information relevant to that person's involvement in your care.



Protected Health Information (PHI)

PHI is information related to a person's healthcare treatment and the payment for those services. PHI includes information that could reasonably identify an individual and sensitive health information. Some examples would include, names, address, phone number, social security number, date of birth, diagnosis/prognosis, procedures, medications, physician name and specialty and test results.

Health care providers often need to discuss patient information in places, such as the

Athletic Training Room or a semi-private room, where privacy is often difficult to achieve. From time to time, these discussions may result in an "incidental" disclosure of PHI.

The goal of the privacy regulations is not to prevent discussions related to treatment, but rather to ensure that the organization and its employees are doing what is reasonable to protect a patient's PHI. Whenever possible, conversations containing PHI will be avoided in public places such as hallways, elevators, lounges and cafeterias.

Head Injury Protocol

The HTEA Athletic Trainers will follow the protocol set forth by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) concerning the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of suspected mild traumatic brain injury.

Return to Play

A student with a concussion will not be allowed to return to play/activity until he/she is symptom free or unless otherwise directed by the AHCP involved. Play/Activity includes but is not limited to HTEA sports team practices and games, participation in weight lifting/conditioning, participation in PE class, participation in dance class or theater rehearsals. It is the student/parent's responsibility to notify any applicable recreational, club, and travel teams in the event that a head injury is sustained.

A graduated return to play/activity protocol will be completed by the student and supervised by the Athletic Trainer. The gradual return to play/activity protocol consists of 6 stages. Once the AHCP involved has cleared the student to begin this gradual return, the student will complete one stage per day, and may only proceed on to the next stage of the protocol if they have demonstrated a tolerance for the physical exertion without increasing signs and symptoms during or after activity. Should the physical exertion cause an increase in the signs or symptoms the student will discontinue the activity and return to the previous stage. The stages are as follows:



- 1. Stage One: Complete physical and cognitive rest
- 2. Stage Two: Light aerobic activity to increase the heart rate to no more than 70% max HR, no resistance training
 - a. In order to begin stage two, the student must have a signature of the AHCP involved on the FHSAA Post Head Injury/Concussion Initial Return to Participation form (AT18).
- 3. Stage Three: Sport-specific exercise (Aerobic + Strength training)
- 4. Stage Four: Non-contact practice and/or drills (Non-contact sport specific drills)
- 5. Stage Five: Full contact practice
 - a. Once a student completes stage five, he/she will have to follow up with the same AHCP to be medically cleared for full participation.
- 6. Stage six: Return to full activity

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This policy provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training. Sudden cardiac arrest is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it's not treated within minutes. Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest include, but not limited to: sudden collapse, no pulse, no breathing. Warning signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest include: fainting during exercise or activity, shortness of breath, racing heart rate, dizziness, chest pains, extreme fatigue.

It is strongly recommended all coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are regularly trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Training is encouraged through agencies that provide hands-on training and offer certificates that include an expiration date.

Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are required at all FHSAA State Series games, tournaments and meets. The FHSAA also strongly recommends that they be available at all preseason and regular season events as well along with coaches/individuals trained in CPR.

What to do if your student-athlete collapses:

- 1. Call 911
- 2. Send for an AED
- 3. Begin chest compressions



Heat Related Illness

The HTEA Athletic Training Department will follow protocols set forth by the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) concerning the recognition, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of heat related illnesses included but not limited to dehydration, heat exhaustion, exertional heat stroke, and any sickle cell-related event.

Heat Acclimatization

Heat acclimatization for equipment intensive sports will be conducted following guidelines set forth by the NFHS and FHSAA. Heat illness is a cause for concern for high school student-athletes beginning pre-season practices in the warm, summer months and other times of extreme heat. The most serious heat illness, exertional heat stroke, is one of the leading causes of preventable death in these athletes. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated. The following policy provides guidelines and procedures for conducting preseason practices and activities to insure the well-being of student-athletes. The intent of this policy is to require FHSAA member schools to follow a preseason acclimatization and recovery model for all sports that enhances student-athlete well-being. The policy also requires individual schools, or districts, to select and promote a method of environmental monitoring to be used outside the acclimatization period and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete.

Zachary Martin Act

Monitoring Heat Stress. The following governs procedures for monitoring heat stress: Each member school must monitor heat stress. Heat stress is determined by measuring the ambient temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover at the site of the athletic activity. The following guidelines are to be adhered for the following heat stress readings (as suggested by the SMAC):

WBGT	Activity Guidelines
< 82.0	Normal Activities – Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 3 min each during the workout.
82.2 - 86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 min each.
87.1 - 90.0	Maximum practice time is 2 h. For Football: players are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice. If the WBGT rises to this level during practice, players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing to shorts. For All Sports: Provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 min each.
90.1 - 91.9	Maximum practice time is 1 h. <u>For Football</u> : No protective equipment may be worn during practice, and there may be no conditioning activities. <u>For All Sports</u> . There must be 20 min of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of practice.
≥ 92.1	No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT is reached or move to an indoor air conditioned environment.



Cooling zones must be available for each outdoor athletic contest, practice, workout or conditioning session. Cooling zones must include the immediate availability of cold-water immersion tubs or equivalent and can also include the following: ice sponges and towels or tarps that can be filled with ice and wrapped around individuals to rapidly cool internal body temperature. The presence of an employee or volunteer trained to administer cold-water immersion is required.

Each member school's emergency action plan must include a procedure for onsite cooling using cold-water immersion or equivalent means before a student-athlete is transported to a hospital for exertional heatstroke. Coaches must adopt a heat injury prevention philosophy by promoting unrestricted access to water at all times and a student-athlete should never be denied access to water.

Student-athletes who participate in activities that last for an extended amount of time or multiple activities in a day should be provided electrolytes to assist in rehydration. Rest breaks must involve unlimited hydration intake and rest without any activity involved.

Each athletic coach involving outdoor practices or events shall annually complete training in exertional heat illness identification, prevention and response, including the effective administration of cooling zones.

Lightening

In the event of inclement weather, the Administrator on Duty (AOD) and/or the Athletic Trainer have the authority to make decisions regarding the commencement and continuation of games and/or practices. It is the responsibility of the AOD and/or the Athletic Trainer to obtain weather reports prior to the start of practices and games and notify coaches and officials of a safe place to go should a storm conflict with a practice or game. The AOD and/or Athletic Trainer is responsible for informing coaches and officials when it is safe to resume practices and/or games.

At Holy Trinity, we utilize Earth Networks Total Lightning Network®. If inclement weather is in the area coaches will be notified via email and text message. If there is a strike within 8 miles away, a siren will sound and Sports Medicine staff, coaches, and officials must begin to clear all outdoor venues. All participants and spectators must go to safe locations. Safe locations include fully enclosed cars for spectators (primary) and the Field House for coaches and players. At 0-8 miles, everyone should be in a safe location. After a strike within the 0-8 mile radius occurs, a 30-minute time period will begin.

Every time a strike occurs with the 0-8 mile radius, the 30-minute clock starts over. After a 30-minute time period has been completed without another strike, the siren will sound again and the Sports Medicine staff will allow coaches and/or officials to resume outdoor activities.



FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (FHSAA) PERTINENT POLICIES

Holy Trinity is a full-member school of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and is required to control our interscholastic programs in accordance with the regulations of the Association. Listed below are a few regulations outlined by the FHSAA to provide a better understanding of the Association's rules for our coaches, parents and potential student-athletes. Please check the FHSAA website at www.fhsaa.com or contact the Director of Athletics if you have any questions or would like further explanation or clarification of the rules.

POLICY 21: Off- SEASON CONDITIONING

- **21.1.1 Off-season**. "Off-season" means the period of time during the regular school year but outside the defined sport season for a specific sport.
- **21.1.3 Conditioning.** Weight training is the use of free weights and stationary apparatus. Cardiovascular conditioning is distance and interval training. Plyometrics is the use of preset conditioning programs. Conditioning IS NOT teaching sport specific skills and drills and DOES NOT involve the use of sport specific equipment (i.e. starting blocks, hurdles, rebounders, ball machines, bats, balls, rackets, etc.).
- **21.3** Off-season conditioning program participants shall file with the school the "FHSAA Consent and Release of Liability Certificate" and the "FHSAA Preparticipation Physical Evaluation" form.
- **21.4** Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.
- **21.5** Supervision by school personnel is required.

POLICY 22: NON-SCHOOL TEAM AND/OR OFF SEASON PARTICIPATION

- **22.1.3 Coach.** "Coach" means any person, regardless of whether he/she is employed by the school or volunteer, who instructs, supervises, or otherwise manages student-athletes in conjunction with a practice, tryout, drill, workout, evaluation or competitive activity.
- **22.1.4 "Involved in Any Respect."** "Involved in any respect" means engaged in anything to do with a non-school team, including but not limited to coaching, scheduling, transporting, officiating and the hiring of officials, training, taping, managing team expenses, purchasing of uniforms and equipment, etc.
- **22.2** During the off-season, a coach shall not have contact with students outside the normal teacher-student classroom environment except to:



- **22.2.1** make arrangements for and assist in the conduct of physical examinations; or
- 22.2.2 explain eligibility regulations; or
- 22.2.3 solve insurance problems; or
- 22.2.4 review films; or
- 22.2.5 conduct off-season conditioning as defined in "Off-Season Conditioning" as per Policy 21.
- **22.3** A coach, prospective coach of any member school or any individual involved in any respect may not be involved with a non-school team in a sport unless the non-school team is affiliated with an outside agency promoting athletic participation opportunities.
- **22.3.2** Participation must include competition in the published scheduled events of the outside agency.
- **22.3.3** Student athletes and coaches, where applicable, are not permitted to wear any portion of a school's athletic uniform.
- **22.3.4** All fees or assessments, collected or paid for participation must be made to or from the outside agency.
- **22.3.5** Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.
- **22.3.6** Member schools may make their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities available to outside groups or organizations provided a fully executed usage agreement is provided and available upon request.

POLICY 36: ATHLETIC RECRUITING

- **36.1.1 Athletic Recruiting Forbidden**. Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct and is forbidden by FHSAA Bylaws (FHSAA Bylaw 6.3).
- **36.1.2 Scope of School's Responsibility.** School's Responsibility for the conduct of its interscholastic athletic program includes responsibility for:
- **36.1.2.1** The acts of any employee or athletic department staff member;
- **36.1.2.2** The acts of third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, that is a representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program; and
- **36.1.2.3** The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting at the request, direction, or otherwise on behalf of any employee or representative of the school's athletic interests.
- **36.1.2.4** The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting on behalf of any student athlete.
- **36.1.4 Academic Recruitment Permissible**. A school may conduct an academic recruitment program that is designed to attract students to the school based upon its total educational and extracurricular (athletic and activities) program. A school must not use an academic recruitment program as a disguise for athletic recruiting.



- 36.1.5 **Financial Assistance Permissible**. Private schools, as well as developmental research schools operated by state universities, may administer school-based financial assistance programs for students who attend those schools. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student's athletic interest, potential or performance is not permitted.
- **36.1.6 Impermissible Benefit.** Student-athletes must not receive impermissible benefits, which are benefits that are not given or generally not given to all other students in the school.
- **36.2.1 Athletic Recruiting.** "Athletic recruiting" is any effort by a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school's athletic interests to pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- **36.2.1.1 Representative of a School's Athletic Interests.** "Representative of a school's athletic interests" refers to any independent person, business or organization that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that schools interscholastic athletic program. This includes:
- (a) A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school; (b) The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
- (c) Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school; (d) A volunteer with that school's athletic program;
- (e) A member of an athletic booster organization of that school;
- (f) A person, business or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is
- otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program.
- **36.2.2 Improper Contact.** "Improper contact" is contact, either directly or indirectly, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, with a student or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. See Policy 37.
- **36.2.3 Impermissible Benefit.** An "impermissible benefit" is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or generally made available to all students and/or their families who apply to or attend a school, or that otherwise is prohibited by FHSAA rules. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete or his/her family is not a violation of FHSAA rules if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the school's students or family members and is not based in any way on athletic interest, potential or performance. See Policy 37.
- **36.2.4 Financial Assistance.** "Financial assistance" is funds from various sources that are administered and provided by a school to students to pay or assist in paying costs directly related to their education at the school. See Policy 38.
- **36.3.1 References to Athletic Program.** Any presentation conducted as part of a school's academic recruitment program must promote the school's overall educational and extracurricular programs. Any mention of the school's interscholastic athletics program must be limited to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school's athletic facilities. It is



understood that the presentations and activities of all persons involved in the school's academic recruitment program must avoid any references to the school's athletic program that might pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for purposes of athletic participation. All such presentations and activities must be in keeping with the general spirit of the rules prohibiting athletic recruiting.

36.3.2 Open Houses. A school may conduct an open house for prospective students and members of their families. Information distributed and presentations made during the open house, as well as advertisements for the open house, must limit references to the school's athletic program to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school's athletic facilities. No information can be distributed, or any statement made that in any way implies that the school's interscholastic athletic program is better than any other school's interscholastic athletic

program, or that a student would be better served by participating in interscholastic athletics at that school as opposed to any other school.

POLICY 37: IMPROPER CONDUCT AND IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS

- **37.1.1 General Regulation.** No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may make contact, either in person or through any form of written or electronic communication or through any third party, with a student, or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- **37.1.2 Specific Prohibitions**. Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, representatives of the school's athletic interests or third parties with a student includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- **37.1.2.1** Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any member of his/her family, in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- **37.1.2.2** Visiting or entertaining the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics. **37.1.2.3** Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively a school's athletic program or implies a school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending a different school.
- **37.1.2.4** Answering an inquiry by the student or any member of his/her family about athletic participation opportunities at a school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend a different school. The student or family member instead should be immediately referred to the school employee responsible for registrations or admissions.
- **37.1.2.5** Providing transportation to the student or any member of his/her family to visit a school, to take an entrance examination for a school, to participate in an athletic tryout at a school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member, other representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, as part of an effort to pressure, urge or facilitate the student's attendance at a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- **37.1.2.6** Attending an elementary school, a junior high school, a middle school or a non-school athletic



contest to identify prospective student-athletes who might be recruited to attend a school. **37.1.2.7** Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee, other representative of the school's athletic interests or any other person, such as an alumnus of a school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.), a coach of or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, a scout for a professional team or other third parties, to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.8 Making or arranging any other contact with the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

- **37.1.3 Contact Initiated by a Prospective Student**. When a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school's athletic interests is contacted by a student who does not attend that school and/or any other member of his/ her family, about the school's interscholastic athletic program or attending the school, the school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the school's athletic interests must immediately refer the student and/or his/her family member to the appropriate school personnel who have the responsibility of registering and admitting prospective students. Only during the summer period, as defined in Policy 20, and once the student has registered, been accepted and no longer attends the previous school may the student have contact with athletic department staff members or representatives of a school's athletic interests.
- **37.1.4 Casual Contact with Students in Normal Community Settings.** It is not considered a violation of this policy for an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of a high school to have casual contact with a student who does not attend that school or any member of the student's family in a normal community setting. At no time during such contact, however, may the employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of the high school pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a high school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- **37.2.1 Impermissible Benefit.** No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may be involved, directly or indirectly, in giving an impermissible benefit to any student or any member of his/her family for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics, or to any student-athlete who already attends a school