



Saint Theresa Catholic School

Athletic Handbook

2019 - 2020

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N.B.: The procedures, calendars, and forms contained within this *Handbook* are provided for information purposes. The School's administration reserves the right to change the procedures and policies as presented in this *Handbook* at any time throughout the year. Proper notification will be given if necessary changes occur.

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INTRODUCTION

This *Athletic Handbook* is provided to inform students and parents of the athletic procedures and policies of Saint Theresa Catholic School. We ask parents to read carefully all sections of the *Handbook* and review them with their child(ren).

Saint Theresa Catholic School operates in accordance with the Archdiocesan Board of Education Policy Number 621 which states:

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

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston guarantee all students the rights and 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.

Saint Theresa 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 Education Association (NCEA).

Saint Theresa 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 judgement and discretion in addressing situations with fairness and consistency.

The enrollment of a child at Saint Theresa Catholic School in athletics is 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, those contained in this *Athletic Handbook*.

Our Athletic Association is governed under the West Houston Christian Athletic Conference (WHCAC) guidelines (www.whcac.webs.com).

West Houston Christian Athletic Conference Statement of Purpose:

WHCAC was founded in 1992 by six Christian Schools with a desire to provide junior high students an opportunity to play sports in a competitive setting. Our main goal is for the athletes to show sound character and an authentic spirit of Christ while competing.

The philosophy and goals of the WHCAC are as follows:

- *We believe that God enjoys watching His children have fun!*
- *We believe that as coaches, we are men and women of God first, and our athletes should see us as examples of honesty, integrity, and good sportsmanship.*
- *We believe that as athletes our students should understand that the same determination, commitment, sweat, and “give it all you’ve got” attitude that it takes*

to be a good student and a good athlete, are the same ingredients used to make a successful Christian

- *We believe that all schools participating in this conference should do everything possible to ensure the excellent reputation of the conference within their community, as well as among their own student body and parents.*

PHILOSOPHY & AIMS OF ATHLETIC COMPETITION

Sports are a key component of the education, teaching, and formation of students at Saint Theresa Catholic School. Athletics are a means to form the will, channel the passions, and develop teamwork through commitment and selflessness. Team sports also provide students with the opportunity to exercise Christian virtues, especially obedience, patience, fortitude, humility, and natural virtues such as punctuality, order, discipline, perseverance, honesty, self-mastery, and self-denial. Student athletes must therefore respect and obey the authority of their coaches and observe all game rules.

Saint Theresa Catholic School offers team play for girls in Basketball, Soccer, Track, Volleyball, and Baseball (coach pitch for K-1st, machine pitch for 2nd-3rd). We offer team play for boys in Basketball, Soccer, Track (4th-8th) and Baseball.

Additional sports are periodically considered if there is sufficient interest on the part of students and parents. The Athletic Program falls under the jurisdiction of the School, and is administered by the Athletic Coordinator, full- and part-time Coaches, and parent volunteers. The Booster Club is a parent organization that supports the Athletic Program. Saint Theresa Catholic School is a member of the Greater Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA) and the West Houston Christian Athletic Conference (WHCAC) and is bound by all rules of the leagues.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right, for any student. Participation requires a commitment on the part of both the student and his or her parents. Students earn the privilege of participation through maintaining a commitment to academics, demonstrating effort, and showing dedication, desire, and self-discipline. To be eligible for participation in athletics, every student must meet the following conditions:

Academics and Conduct:

State law requires that students be in good academic standing before participating in any extracurricular activity. To be eligible to participate in sports, students must maintain an average of “C-” or better in every subject area and have satisfactory conduct in all classes in order to fully participate on a Saint Theresa Catholic School sports team.

Opportunity to participate is determined by regular eligibility checks, which are held two weeks after the mid-point of the first quarter. The first check of the second, third, and fourth quarters is

a check of the final grades of the previous quarter. If a student is placed on academic or behavioral probation, or is ineligible to play as defined below in Sections a), b), and c) below, the period begins on the day following the grade check and continues for two school weeks until grades are reassessed. If a student athlete does not improve academically or behaviorally in the deficient class or classes, he or she will remain ineligible to play through the next two-week period until reassessment.

The Athletic Coordinator will notify the Coaches, parents, and student athletes of their play status within 24 hours of the eligibility ruling. Circumstances where student athletes prevent themselves from playing are as follows:

- a) Each student must have a final grade of **78** or above in every class to participate in the sports program at STCS. Therefore, if the average grade in any class is below the aforementioned mark, he or she will be ineligible to play.
- b) In the event that a student athlete is suspended from school, he or she will be ineligible to play on a Saint Theresa Catholic School sports team for a period of two weeks and may lose the privilege of participating in Saint Theresa Catholic School athletics, at the discretion of the Athletics Coordinator and the Headmaster. 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 on the day that written or verbal notice of suspension is given to the student and/or parent and will continue for ten school days. The student may attend practices with the exception of the actual day(s) of a suspension. The student cannot participate in game play and cannot travel with the team during the ten-day period.
- c) Student athletes who display inappropriate behaviors that lead to a major referral, may, at the discretion of the Headmaster, Assistant Principal, or Coach be subject 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 and parent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Head Coach, Coaches, or Sponsor in concert with the Athletic Coordinator are responsible for the team selection process for each sport. Absence from practice may affect a student athlete's play time. Play-off and championship game participation is at the Coaches' discretion, meaning that not every team member is guaranteed playing time. Middle School teams are competitive and not all players may play every game.

Team Meeting: All Coaches will hold pre-season meetings. Attendance of at least one parent is strongly encouraged. Students are provided with a copy of the *Athletic Handbook*, fee requirements, practice schedules and game schedules. Addresses for game venues will be sent to parents via email. Parents are responsible for knowing all information presented at the meeting.

PRACTICES

Consistent and productive practice is essential for any athletic team to be successful. Students are therefore expected to attend all practices, games, and meetings called by the Coach. If a student must miss 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. Parents are expected to pick up student athletes immediately after practice and at the conclusion of any game.

UNIFORMS, FACILITIES, & EQUIPMENT

School issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for all Saint Theresa games, competitions, practices, and special activities. Athletic uniforms may only be worn for athletic competitions. Uniforms may not be worn outside of school or on Spirit Day unless specific permission is given by the Headmaster or Athletic Coordinator. Uniforms will be distributed at the beginning of the season and collected at the conclusion of team play for the sport in question.

Saint Theresa Catholic School is responsible for providing the facilities and equipment needed for practices and games. Students are responsible for personal equipment such as socks, shoes, kneepads, safety glasses, shin guards, and other designated items.

TRANSPORTATION

Only parents or parentally designated adults will be permitted to pick up players from “away” competitions. Students must be signed out by the parent or designated adult. In the event of scrimmages or a weekend competition or tournament, parents are responsible for arranging transportation. Parents must provide transportation to all games.

INSURANCE & INJURIES

Saint Theresa Catholic School provides medical insurance for students participating in athletic activities through an affiliated insurance agency. Coverage will be secondary to a family’s existing policies or as a primary provider in cases where this is the only insurance available. Complete documentation of the injury and situation is to be recorded and submitted by the attending staff member.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A student athlete whose conduct, dress, or other behavior is unbecoming of a Saint Theresa student, or whose behavior reflects poorly on the reputation of the School, can be declared immediately ineligible for athletic competition, at the discretion of the attending adult. Such decisions are made by the Coach and Athletic Coordinator in consultation with the Headmaster.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Students must be in good standing on all financial obligations to the School; this includes all tuition, fees, etc. Students will be required to pay an athletic fee for each sport in which they participate. **Athletic fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full prior to the first practice date.** Students wanting to play sports that need financial assistance should contact the Athletic Coordinator in advance of the first practice date.

ATTENDANCE

Students with an absence on the day of a game or practice may not participate in athletic activities that day. A minimum of a half day attendance is required to participate in athletics. Students must complete at least 3.5 hours of school in order to participate in activities. If a student leaves school prior to 11:30 a.m., they may be ineligible to participate in the scheduled activities.

SPORTS PROTOCOL

All students that will be playing sports must depart with their parent, guardian, or other parentally designated adult at the time of School dismissal.

Parents that have children in After Care must make their own arrangements for their child to be picked up for practice.

Parents, guardians, or other parentally designated adults must pick up students after practice at the end of practice. As a result of late pickup, parents may forfeit the remainder of their child's season, and the child will be escorted to After Care. All After Care fees will be charged for that day.

In case of one Coach at practice, the child will remain with the Coach until the last practice session for the day and after practice, the child will be escorted to After Care. All After Care fees will be charged for that day.

Students must leave campus property if they need to change into sports uniforms. If students need to use the restroom, the Coach will escort the student to the restroom and stand outside the bathroom making sure no one else will enter while students are changing. At no time will any student be allowed back in the school building after practice.

If a student has a medical condition and is in need of an Inhaler, Epipen, etc., parents or guardians must be present at games and practices to administer medication, if needed. If parents or guardians are not present to accompany a child with a medical or severe allergic condition, the child will not be able to participate in practices or games.

BOOSTER CLUB

An active Booster Club is essential to building up a solid foundation of success for our Athletic Program. The STCS Booster Club is an organization comprised of Saint Theresa Catholic School parents, alumni, and friends who subscribe to the following mission:

The mission of the Griffin Booster Club is to support and promote Griffin athletic activities, promote school spirit, provide financial assistance to sustain the programs, and to act in an advisory capacity to the administration for individual sports teams and athletic activities at Saint Theresa Catholic School.

By joining the Griffin Booster Club, you will help us provide a balanced program that encourages our student athletes to make Christian character a top priority while they pursue a high quality education and lifestyle consistent with Saint Theresa Catholic School values and standards.

Although our athletes receive a great deal of help and encouragement from the STCS faculty, staff, and administration, nothing can take place of the enthusiastic support of their parents.

We urge you to join the Griffin Booster Club and become an active member. Many of the benefits which your children enjoy in the Athletic Program will be provided by our Booster Club. In order to ensure that these benefits can continue for your child as well as future students, recruitment of new, active members is essential.

The funds that we raise through the efforts of the Griffin Booster Club will help pay for equipment and facilities enhancements for our student athletes. We work closely with the Saint Theresa Catholic School Athletic Coordinator to ensure that we meet the needs of the different programs.

Our desire is for all parents of Saint Theresa Catholic School students to be Booster Club members and support our student athletes and Coaches as we build the name recognition and reputation for exemplary sportsmanship of Saint Theresa Catholic School.

SPORTSMANSHIP & CATHOLIC IDENTITY PLEDGES

*“Sports have, in themselves, an important moral and educative significance.
...They are a training ground of virtue, a school of inner balance and outer control,
an introduction to more true and lasting conquests.”*

- Pope Saint John Paul II

Students, parents, and Coaches of Saint Theresa Catholic School are all expected to conduct themselves as disciples of Christ, in a way that will positively reflect on our faith and Saint Theresa Catholic School. Any student athlete whose conduct, dress, or other display of behavior may discredit the reputation of the School may be declared ineligible for athletic competition.

Such decisions are made by the Coach in consultation with the Athletic Coordinator and the Headmaster and are final.

The following pledges for STCS student athletes, parents, and Coaches are meant to serve as a guideline for the expectations that we have for the STCS Athletic Program.

As a student athlete of Saint Theresa Catholic School, I pledge to:

- *Embrace my academic obligations, understanding that my participation in sports is a privilege earned through good grades and consistent effort and a good attitude in the classroom.*
- *Treat opponents with respect, including before, during, and after contests.*
- *Win with character and lose with dignity.*
- *Respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contest.*
- *Accept the responsibility of representing my team and Saint Theresa Catholic School in a positive way.*
- *Compete in a way that exemplifies my Catholic faith and values, as a disciple of Christ.*
- *Show respect for my Coaches at all times.*
- *Recognize that I am not just an individual, but part of a team, and to respect, encourage, and work together with my teammates at all times.*

As a parent of a Saint Theresa Catholic School student athlete, I pledge to:

- *Remind my son or daughter that participation in sports is a privilege earned through good grades and consistent effort and a good attitude in the classroom.*
- *Remain in the spectator areas during the games and at half time.*
- *Respect decisions made by contest officials.*
- *Be a role model as a disciple of Christ, by positively supporting the teams, and not shouting instructions or criticism to the players, Coaches, or officials.*
- *Refrain from making negative comments or gestures towards players or parents of the other team, Coaches, or officials.*
- *Remember that as a parent I am a role model for our students, and my actions will portray our faith and school in a positive way.*

As a Coach or Parent Volunteer for Saint Theresa Catholic School, I pledge to:

- *Treat athletes, officials, and opponents with respect, including before, during and after contests.*
- *Win with character and lose with dignity.*
- *Respect the judgement of officials and abide by the rules of the contest.*
- *Accept the responsibility of representing my team and STCS in a positive way.*
- *Coach in a way that exemplifies my Catholic faith and values, as a disciple of Christ.*
- *Foster each athlete's development of physical skills, sense of worth, and good sportsmanship.*
- *Supervise athletes at all times and insure that athletes are picked up after practices and games.*
- *Be knowledgeable of all policies, rules, and regulations in the STCS Student and Family and Athletic Handbooks; observe and enforce procedures and polices contained in Handbooks with consistency and without discrimination or favoritism.*
- *Work with the Athletic Coordinator to maintain inventory of equipment and uniforms, maintain accurate records, schedule times and facilities for practices and games, and prepare facilities to host games as needed.*