

Parent & Athlete Athletics Agreement

Trinity Christian School Athletic Department

1.1. This agreement must be filled out and handed in to the school office by one (1) week before the first regular practice of the first sport an athlete chooses to participate in during any school year.

Purpose of this Agreement

2.1. The purpose of this document is to inform athletes and their parents of important policies and procedures for the TCS Athletics program.

2.2. Athletes and their parents are required to sign a statement at the end verifying that they read and understood the contents of this document. Furthermore, each will have to agree to support each of these policies and follow each of these procedures.

Goals of the Athletic Program

3.1. The Athletic program is designed to fit within the overall educational program, challenging students to pursue excellence in all their endeavors.

3.2. A large part of the value of athletics is the character development that can be encouraged if an athletic program is organized properly. This is at least one lesson to be learned from the athletic imagery throughout the New Testament.¹

3.3. Our athletics program is not intended to be a “recreational” program in the way that a community sports program might be. While we do not idolize winning, we also cannot claim to be pursuing excellence and also be egalitarian with regard to issues like playing time. This is similar to many other areas in life; different young people are more naturally gifted at different things.

3.4. While athletics should be enjoyable at times, a team's primary goal is to work together to achieve victory. This should be done in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner, but it nonetheless remains the stated goal of athletic competition.

Communication with the School & Coach

4.1. The Athletic Department maintains its own portion of the school website, and an increasing amount of useful information is available there:

General athletics page: tcsnj.org/athletics

Athletics schedules: tcsnj.org/schedule

Athletics forms: tcsnj.org/forms

4.2. All communication with the school about athletics should be done by one of the following methods:

athletics@tcsnj.org

973-809-5694

All athletics inquiries EXCEPT regarding transportation; text messaging welcomed (actually preferred!) at this number as well

973-334-1785

School office in case of emergencies

¹For more information on this, please consider listening to the four sermons on “Christ-likeness as Seen in Athletic Imagery,” preached by Pastor George McDearmon, and freely available from SermonAudio at <http://tiny.cc/McDearmonAthletics>.

4.3. Parents who have a concern about a particular team should observe the following order in their communications²:

4.3.1. If you have a legitimate concern, first approach the team's Coach.

4.3.2. If the issue cannot be resolved, approach the Athletic Director.

4.3.3. If either the parent or the Athletic Director believe that the issue has not resolved, they should go speak with the Head of School (or, in his absence, the Administrative Director), together if possible.

4.4. Coaches who have a concern about one of their athletes should speak to the athlete directly. If the issue is more serious, they should inform the Athletic Director and contact the athlete's parents.

4.5. Each Coach will inform his players of the best way to get in touch with him, and will also establish procedures for contacting each player.

4.6. Any athlete planning to miss any athletic event must inform his Coach as soon as he becomes aware of the schedule conflict. Missing athletic events, except for family or medical emergencies, may result in appropriate penalties. These may include, but are not limited to, loss of playing time or removal from the team.

4.7. Unless there is a compelling reason why they are unable to do so, athletes are expected to communicate directly with their coach(es) instead of having their parents communicate for them.

Playing Time

5.1. Playing time is an earned privilege.

5.2. Playing time will be distributed at the discretion of the Coach using the following guidelines based on level of competition:

5.2.1. For junior high teams, Coaches are instructed to give each team member the opportunity to play based on practice attendance, ability, effort, attitude, and game strategy.

5.2.2. For varsity teams, there is no guarantee of playing time. Coaches are instructed to use ability, effort, attitude, and game strategy to distribute playing time.

5.2.3. Evaluation of these factors is at the Coach's discretion, and neither the Coach nor the Athletic Director will discuss complaints regarding playing time with an athlete's parents. An athlete who would like to know what he can do to earn more playing time should respectfully ask his coach for constructive criticism.

Forms to be Filed

6.1. Each athlete must maintain a completed Sports Medical Form filed with the Athletic Department.

6.1.1. These forms are good for one (1) calendar year, and therefore need not be resubmitted for each sport. However, parents should make sure that an appropriate physical examination is scheduled around the same time each year so that there is no gap between valid medical forms. In any such gap, an athlete may not be permitted to practice or compete.

6.1.2. The following dates are useful goals to ensure that these medical forms are filed in a timely way:

An athlete planning to compete in	...	should file a medical form by
Fall Sport	→	August 15 th
Winter Sport	→	November 15 th
Spring Sports	→	February 15 th

6.2. Each athlete must maintain a completed Parent & Athlete Athletics Agreement and Concussion Acknowledgement Form filed with the Athletic Department.

²This order is based on the principles contained in Matthew 18:15-17. Even though your concern may not involve sin, the principles of (1) going directly to the person with whom you disagree and (2) then speaking to others only if the issue is not resolved, are still valid.

6.2.1. These forms are valid for one school year. The simplest course of action is to file one at the beginning of each school year.

6.3. Athletic participation requires a permission slip to be turned in before an athlete may practice or compete.

6.4. All forms are available at tcsnj.org/signupforms.

Athletic Fees

7.1. Trinity Christian School requires participants in TCS sports programs to pay an Athletics Fee according to the following schedule:

Per sport (per student)	\$100
Max per student (per year)	\$200
Max per family (per year)	\$300

7.2. Athletic fees will be charged to each family's school Easy Pay account according to participation.

Transportation

8.1. TCS is not always able to secure a bus driver, so some transportation to athletic events is provided by parents on a rotating schedule. Each family is expected to contribute unless there are legitimate hindrances.

8.2. Each team needs a volunteer ride coordinator to set up and maintain the schedule or drivers. If no parent from a given team volunteers for this position, that team risks having their season canceled.

8.3. Students may only drive themselves or others to or from an athletic events as provided in the student handbook.

Standards for Athletic Apparel

9.1 At all times:

9.1.1. Although school dress code does not apply in all details, the principles still apply. You still represent the school, your church, your family, and the Lord.

9.1.2. If you are convinced that any garment issued to you by the school is not modest on you, tell your Coach or athletic department staff immediately.

- Tell us before game-day!
- This is not supplying an excuse for exchanging a size or style you happen to simply dislike.
- You may not modify anything school-issued without permission.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, pinning, taping, or rolling sleeves of uniform shirts; wearing uniform garments inside out; and placing tape over a portion of the uniform.

9.1.3. You may (and sometimes should) wear appropriate rule-approved layers underneath.

- Because of league and athletic association rules, anything added to a competition uniform must be approved by your coach.

9.2. During practice and before/after games:

9.2.1. Guys: Being shirtless is not an option when it is a matter of public display.

- This includes, but is not limited to, the locker hall, competition and practice areas, and the school bus.

9.2.2. Girls: Shirts and shorts may be no tighter, shorter, or otherwise more revealing than the school-issued athletic uniform.

- Uniform shorts, and athletic practice shorts, are to extend to the bottom of the fingertips when arms are at the side.

9.3. During Competitions:

9.3.1. Wear team uniforms only.

- However, you may (and sometimes should) wear appropriate rule-approved layers underneath.
 - Anything added to a competition uniform must be approved by your Coach!

9.3.2. Follow all other standard high school athletics rules. For example, do not wear any jewelry, including watches or colored wrist-bands.

9.3.3. Regarding outerwear on the way to athletic events, at athletic events, and leaving athletic events:

9.3.3.1. You must wear some outerwear over your competition uniform while still at school and while being transported to your competition. *This includes at least short sleeves, longer shorts, socks and appropriate footwear (shoes or slides).*

9.3.3.2. Wear team warmups if issued or gym outerwear if they are not. At the very least, wear school colors to foster team spirit and school loyalty.

9.4. Guidelines for when athletes change apparel for school activities

9.4.1. For practices: Athletes change for practice at the end of the school day; any exceptions must have approval of the administration.

- For soccer: cleats are not to be worn while in the school building; bare feet are not permitted.

9.4.2. For competitions – What: Athletes are to wear school-issued outerware for all sports. This identifies you as a member of the team.

- If the team has an alternative TCS-themed team coverup, this may be worn; no exceptions.
- If the team has not received school-issued outerwear, TCS gym wear is to be worn.

9.4.3. For competitions – When: Athletes are to change for competition after their last class before departure for their competition.

- If an exception is made, it will be made by the administration and announced to athletes; athletes who ignore this guideline are subject to a demerit.

9.5. Issuance and return of team uniforms

9.5.1. Athletes are given a uniform with a specific number, not only on the shirt, but on the inner labels on all issued pieces.

- Athletes should mark their numbers down in their homework assignment book so it is known.

9.5.2. Athletes may never help themselves to another uniform piece without permission from the individual keeping the record.

9.5.3. Uniforms are to be returned at the designated date; failure to return all uniform pieces will result in the withholding of uniform for the next sport and/or withholding of the next report card.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FINAL PAGE INTACT; DO NOT CUT OFF ANY PORTION.

I have read and understand the contents of this agreement, and commit myself to support its policies and to abide by its procedures.

Date: __/__/__

Printed name:

Athlete

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian

Signature:

Athlete

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian