
TRINITY EPISCOPAL ATHLETICS

PARENT AND STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2019-2020

Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

We would like to welcome you to the Trinity Episcopal Athletic Program! We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development. Trinity believes in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly structured, well-organized sports program meets students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our pledge to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. Likewise, we believe that parents have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations to the student-athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is best achieved through mutual communication between the Athletic Department, the student-athletes and the parents of each of our student-athletes. One way that we have committed to accomplishing this objective is through this athletic handbook for students, parents and coaches. The most important reason that our department exists is to ensure that students have an opportunity to partake in and enjoy sports during their time at Trinity. As an athletic department, we can assure you that student-athletes and the teams are the guiding force in everything we do and every decision that we make. This handbook shall ensure a promising and successful venture between the Student-athlete, the parents and the coaches.

Thank You very much for taking the time to read the athletic handbook. It will not only allow you to become familiar with our policies and procedures, it will also allow for a smooth transition for you as a new or continued member of the Trinity Tornado athletic program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

GO TORNADO!

Sincerely,

Dwayne Bryant

Director of Athletics and Physical Education

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Philosophy:

We believe that athletics is an integral part of the full experience at Trinity Episcopal School. The opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics is offered to all Middle School students (grades 5-8) regardless of skill or experience. Through participation in athletics, students are provided the opportunity to represent their school with pride and to develop a deepened sense of school spirit. Interscholastic athletics is a co-curricular program at Trinity. The Physical Education and Athletics Department works in concert with the academic departments to promote the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional growth of all students. We are committed to excellence and we strive to provide every student with an environment in which to succeed.

The Athletic Department seeks to hire qualified coaches to instruct sport-specific skills and values. Our coaches are teachers first and strategists second; the practice area is their classroom. While it is inherent in competitive athletics to strive for victory, that is only one criterion in determining a team's success. Helping a team reach its maximum potential athletically and personally is the ultimate goal. Coaches teach life lessons by fostering the development of four important relationships.

Relationship to Team – Putting the team first, understanding the team is each individual person's responsibility and learning to work within a group and collaborate in achieving goals. Learning self-sacrifice in the name of team.

Relationship to Teammates – Working with teammates to achieve a common goal. Developing the skills to communicate and collaborate effectively with others.

Relationship to Coach – Fulfilling a role as defined by the coach and trusting that the coach knows what is best for the team. Respecting and working with authority. Developing self-confidence to communicate with an authority. Being an advocate for themselves when communicating with the coach.

Relationship to Self – Opportunity for leadership. Learning to persevere through adversity: demanding practices, disappointing performances and controversial calls by officials. Striving for continual improvement. Challenging oneself to set personal goals and strive to achieve them. Accepting responsibility for one's actions. Taking pride in one's work and striving for excellence in all efforts. Building character by developing the values of humility, sportsmanship, hard work, self-discipline, dedication and commitment to team.

We want to do all we can to help each student-athlete reach their maximum potential. It is our mission to develop the whole student, not just the athlete.

The Athletic Department seeks to provide interested and committed student-athletes with the following:

- A well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics.
- To teach the value of competition and respect for the game, teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials

- To foster the development of athletic skills.
- To develop a strong work ethic, self-discipline and self-sacrifice.
- To teach the value of commitment, teamwork and cooperation.
- To develop good, sound judgment, character, and leadership.
- To teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play.
- To develop loyalty and pride in one's self, their team, and the school community.

The Athletic Department expects the following of each participant in the school athletic program:

- To be a worthy representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by School, community, athletic department and team expectations.
- To maintain health and fitness levels by following the training rules prescribed by the coach.
- To reflect the knowledge that commitment to victory is nothing without your teammates and commitment to hard work in practice and in games.
- To understand that athletics is just one part in the big picture with the cornerstone being that a Trinity Tornado student strives to achieve excellence in all areas.
- To learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities.
- To express feelings intelligently and appropriately.
- To accept the responsibilities of team membership, support teammates, be positive and have positive Interaction with coaches, teachers and always be respectful.
- To balance a demanding academic schedule with the demands of being on a Tornado athletic team.

Definition of Excellence

First let's define winning. Winning on the scoreboard is not always in our control. We cannot always control our level of talent. Certainly it is important that through a strong work ethic we maximize what we have, but everyone is born with a certain amount of God-given ability. Injuries can also play a major role in whether or not a team is successful on the scoreboard. If we base our criteria for success on "winning them all", we will be needlessly disappointed most of the time. Winning must be defined in such a way that we maintain a level of control. If success is not achieved, positive steps can be taken to assure positive results. There should never be a feeling of helplessness or despair, only a continual examination of attitudes and practices that brings about improvement. How is this to be done? Our criterion for success on the field or court is the achievement of excellence. Unlike victory over an opponent, we have control of our standards of excellence. What is excellence? Excellence is the ongoing process of becoming better than we once were, particularly in the areas listed below.

Excellence

- Superior Work Ethic

- Personal Humility
- Team Oriented
- Determination
- Mental Toughness
- Actions Deserving of Victory
- Loving One Another
- Belief, Faith and Trust
- Sacrifice
- Commitment

All of these areas must be present to achieve excellence. The success of our teams will be a reflection on the degree to which the individuals on our teams develop these areas as fundamental components of who we are as individuals and team.

ROLES

The Director of Athletics, parents, coaches and student-athletes all play an important role in the development of the athletic program and most importantly the student-athletes. These roles are defined below.

Director of Athletics:

The Director of Athletics is responsible for administering the Athletic Program at Trinity. The duties include but are not limited to: hiring and training good, ethical coaches, coordinating the athletic budget, scheduling games and coordinating practice schedules with head coach of each sport, conflict resolution, and overseeing all aspects of the Department of Athletics. I will advise the Administration, staff, teams, coaches, and parents of any changes and communicate the needs of the Athletic Department to the administration, the CFO and all other appropriate members of the Trinity community.

The Athletic Director is expected to provide appropriate instruction and support to all part-time and full-time coaches. I must also be a positive representative of Trinity and the Athletic Department.

Coaches:

The coach is responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which his/her student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. The coach is also responsible for confirming game and carpool schedules with team parents, turning in a roster prior to the season, distributing and collecting uniforms and equipment, completing game, injury and/or incident reports, and communicating with parents. The coach must also ensure that student-athletes are exhibiting good behavior on and off the court. The coach is expected to be a positive representative of the Trinity Athletic Department. This includes ensuring that the coach conducts himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. He/she is expected to make decisions based on the collective interest of the team, while also developing each student-athlete to his/her fullest potential. The coach must be clear

in expectations and available to student-athletes for positive mentorship on and off the field/court. He/she is expected to maintain high personal standards, motivate the players and promote sportsmanship at all times. Any coach who is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next athletic contest and will have to meet with the Director of Athletics for a briefing on the incident that lead to the ejection.

Student-Athlete

The student-athlete is expected to be a positive addition to the Trinity Athletic Department. If a student-athlete must discuss an issue with the coach, he/she must communicate in a respectful manner to try and find a solution. If a situation cannot be reached, the Athletic Director may assist. Student-Athletes will be representing Trinity on and off the playing court/field and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively upon our program and school. Student-Athletes are expected to be respectful and exhibit good behavior in class, in practice, in games and in the community. If a student-athlete fails to conduct himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school, he/she may be subject to penalties which may include game suspensions or dismissal from the team. Any player who is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next athletic contest and will need to meet with the Director of Athletics to discuss the circumstances of the ejection.

Parents:

Parents play a vital role in the Trinity Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all parents to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard. We are so appreciative of the assistance parents provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to an athletic event, volunteering to serve athletics as a team parent, and/or sacrificing family time to accommodate athletic schedules. We also appreciate the support parents provide our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for parents to be mindful of and respect what the coaches are trying to do by avoiding interference or public criticism, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members. In regards to games, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator or student-athlete. Any Spectator/Parent who acts in a disruptive manner will cause a game to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed. If a parent or spectator of Trinity is ejected from a game, they will not be able to attend the next game at home or away.

Athletic Opportunities:

SPORT	AVAILABLE TO	SEASON
Volleyball	Girls 5-6; 7-8	Fall
Flag Football	Boys and Girls 5-6-7-8	Fall
Tackle Football	Boys 7-8	Fall
Cross Country	Boys and Girls 5-8	Fall
Golf	Boys and Girls 5-8	Fall
Basketball	Girls 5-6; 7-8	Winter
Basketball	Boys 5-6; 7-8	Winter
Swimming	Boys and Girls 5-8	Winter
Soccer	Boys and Girls 7-8 (Only)	Winter
Golf *	Boys and Girls 5-8	Spring
Soccer	Boys and Girls 5-6 (Only)	Spring
Lacrosse	Girls 5-6; 7-8	Spring
Lacrosse	Boys 5-6; 7-8	Spring
Track and Field *	Boys and Girls 5-8 (co-ed)	Spring
Tennis*	Boys and Girls 5-8 (co-ed)	Spring
Baseball	Boys 6/7/8	Spring
Softball	Girls 6/7/8	Spring

**individual sports*

Conference Affiliations AIPL (Austin Interscholastic Parochial League)

Trinity participates in the AIPL. (Austin Interscholastic Parochial League). The purpose of the Athletic Conference is to provide a positive environment where athletic competition is kept in its proper perspective, emphasizing sportsmanship, honor, character, and competitive spirit.

School Representatives to the League**Head of School**

Marie Kidd

Head of School

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Middle School

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Athletic Department

Dwayne Bryant-Director of Athletics

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League Member Schools:

Austin Jewish Academy
Austin Waldorf School
Paragon Prep Middle School
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
St. Francis School
St. Stephen's Episcopal School
Trinity Episcopal School

Team Membership:

Trinity is committed to providing all students interested in competitive athletics the opportunity to participate by offering a no-cut athletic program. If you miss all of tryouts, you will be automatically placed on the lowest division team and shall not move up higher than the next divisional level. If you attend tryouts but are unable to attend all days of tryouts, you will be evaluated solely on the days you attend. Any player abusing their privilege of participation, can lead to disqualification for participation.

Academic Eligibility:

Student-Athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes. Trinity is a rigorous academic school and the expectation is that all student-athletes will remain in good academic standing. However, in the rare instance where a student-athlete is not doing well and it is deemed due to lack of effort, that student-athlete will not be allowed to play until the teacher has notified the athletic department that the student-athlete is in good standing.

Conduct Eligibility:

Student-athletes representing Trinity are expected to maintain satisfactory conduct in all of aspects of school life. Any student- athlete who does not maintain satisfactory conduct in all aspects of school life will be subject to a behavioral probation that will follow the same guidelines as the academic probation.

Club/Select Teams:

Trinity Athletics will take precedence over club teams or non-Trinity teams. Student-athletes will not be excused from Trinity practices or games in order to attend games or practices sessions for club or any outside of Trinity team. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate his/her participation on club or non-Trinity teams prior to the start of the season so that any potential conflicts may be worked out. Failure to communicate before the season may result in the removal of a student-athlete from the team.

ATHLETICS REQUIREMENT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL:

A student may be excused from athletic practice only by a dated note from a parent or guardian stating the reason for the student not taking class that particular day. The note must first be presented to the Nurse. She will call the parent if more information is required and then forward the note to the Director of Athletics. Without a note, the student will be expected to fully participate. If a student has a doctor's note excusing them from PE they are not permitted to participate in athletic events for Trinity including games and practices while the note is in effect. For exemptions of three days or longer, a note from a physician is required.

TRINITY ATHLETICS EXCUSED VS. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PRACTICES AND GAMES:

The following constitutes what is considered an excused or unexcused absence from a Trinity athletic practice or game. All absences can affect student-athlete's playing time. This is not to punish Student-athletes. This is to recognize those student-athletes who are able to make every practice and every game.

The following will be considered excused absences:

1. Family Emergencies:
 - A. Close relative in a hospital
 - B. Car accidents
 - C. Home emergency (i.e. Flooding, Fire etc.)
2. Funerals
3. Official high school visits
4. Doctor's appointment with a note
5. Sick or injured (Injured players are still required to attend practices unless it is prohibited by the doctor.)
6. Academic study hall or school related requirements

The following will be considered unexcused absences:

1. Family Trips (Including but not limited to:
 - A. Relative's birthdays
 - B. Family reunions
 - C. Vacations
2. Sporting events not affiliated with Trinity
3. Sports teams that are not a part of Trinity
4. Parent business trips
5. Public appearances

The same excused or unexcused guidelines apply for student-athletes who have to leave practice early.

We want to establish a culture of commitment to Trinity athletics. We understand that sometime things happen that are out of your control. Please make sure to always communicate with your child's coach no matter the situation. We want to work with you to make Trinity's athletic program the best it can be.

Practice and Game Attendance:

The following will be the steps for possible dismissal from the team for unexcused practice and/or games absences.

First Unexcused Absence: Player will receive a warning.

Second Unexcused Absence: Player must sit out the next practice and a note will be sent to parents

Third Unexcused Absence: Player will miss first half of the next game and a note will be sent to parents

Fourth Unexcused Absence: Player will miss an entire game and a note will be sent to parents

NOTE: If a student has a total of four missed games and or practices, they may continue with the sport but will not receive credit for the sport which will affect their ability to receive the Trinity Tri-Athlete award and/or the Trinity Iron Man and Iron Woman Award.

Practice Days and Times:

The practice times will be as follows:

5/6 Grade Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 1:55 PM to 2:50 PM

7/8 Grade Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 2:55 PM to 4:30 PM

The following sports will have practice times and days outside school the schedule times and students participating in these sports are required to take either PE or Dance.

5-8 Boys and Girls Golf Sundays 11:30 A.m.-1:00 P.M.

5-8 Boys and Girls Tennis Saturday and Sundays times TBA

5-8 Boys and Girls Swimming Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6 a.m-7:15 a.m.

There will be no practices on “half days” and “no school days” unless otherwise specified and approved by the Director of Athletics.

Team Selection/Playing Time:

It is our goal in team selection to find opportunities not only for participation, but more importantly, for success. Trinity has a no-cut policy which means every student-athlete who wishes to participate on a Trinity team providing there are enough student-athletes to make a team shall be appropriately placed. The AIPL offers competition at the 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A levels. Placing each student-athlete at the level where he/she can contribute physically and gain positive feelings from his/her efforts is important to the coaching staff.

Disappointments are inevitable when teams are selected, and it is very important that student-athletes feel the support of teammates, parents, and coaches. We believe in our coaches. Their job is to manage and direct a specific sport. Their responsibilities include evaluating and selecting student-athletes for teams, as well as determining the degree to which each student-athlete will participate and they do this with considerable thought and sensitivity. During the selection process, coaches will evaluate skill level, athleticism, physical conditioning, positional play, trainability, punctuality, and various other attributes. We want our student-athletes to learn the value of being on a team and the contribution each must make. Team members have a responsibility to themselves, their teammates, and their coaches to

learn and perform their role on the team. Teamwork requires the development of many interpersonal skills such as listening, following directions, accepting constructive criticism, being respectful, and supporting teammates and coaches. Student-athletes have an obligation to participate in practice sessions and games with full commitment and enthusiasm.

Playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. Regardless of the subjective nature of the process and the potential for disagreement, the coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches **WILL NOT discuss playing time, decision making or game strategies with parents.** All student-athletes who choose to participate on a Trinity team should fully understand that by joining a team they are accepting the pleasures and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team.

Required Forms for Participation: forms:

Prior to the start of each season, all parents and student-athletes must complete the following

- Trinity Athletic Expectations Form (**Acknowledgement of this form and returned signed to your child’s coach.**)
- Athletic Identification/Medical Release Form
- Physical Examination Form (must be completed by Physician)

Financial Obligation:

Although the school pays for most of the cost associated with the athletic program, some sports, by nature, require specialized equipment or uniforms for which the cost is shared between the school and the parents of the student-athletes. Below are the costs associated with each sport:

NOTE: These fees are subject to change. Each season we re-evaluate and adjust them accordingly.

SPORT	Fee each
Basketball	\$125
Baseball	\$150
Cross Country	\$125
Flag Football	\$125
Fall Golf	\$100
Lacrosse	\$125
Soccer	\$125
Tackle Football	\$450
Tennis	\$100
Track	\$100
Volleyball	\$125
Swimming	\$275
Spring Golf	\$100

Attendance:

Attendance at all games and practice sessions is mandatory for all team members. If a student-athlete will not be attending a practice, meeting, and/or athlete contest, the coach must be notified at least one day prior to the event being missed. Any student-athlete who has more than three absences (excused or unexcused) may result in limited playing time. Practice is held rain or shine unless otherwise noted by the coach. If a student-athlete is absent from school or arrives after 11 a.m., he/she may not be able to practice or play in a game that day unless the absence or tardy has been excused. If a player must miss practice (excused or unexcused), he/she will be expected to make up any work that was missed.

Religious Commitments:

Trinity understands that from time to time a student-athlete may need to miss practices or games in order to fulfill religious obligations. The student-athlete should discuss their religious commitments with their coach prior to the start of each season. Missed practices or games due to religious obligations will be considered an excused absence.

Holidays:

In order for teams to remain cohesive, effective and competitive, student-athletes may be expected to play and/or practice during non-religious holidays (i.e., Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break, Labor Day, etc.) time periods. These dates and times will be announced by the coach as early as possible in an effort to allow families to plan accordingly. If there is any question and the dates have not been announced, please contact the coach and/or Director of Athletics.

Illness & Injury:

All injuries should be reported to the coach, trainer and/or athletic director at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

- Tell the coach and/or Director of Athletics that you are injured before leaving the court/floor/field or school.
- No matter how small the injury, inform the coach/athletic trainer and get treatment.
- No one shall miss practice without a doctor's permission. If you are injured and unable to participate, **you are still required to be at practice and games. If you are injured and miss practice, it will count as an unexcused missed practice or game.**
- A second notice from the doctor should be given to the coach and athletic trainer to end physical restrictions. **No student-athlete will be allowed to practice or play without a note from the doctor and clearance from the athletic trainer.**
- Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and/or very hot should notify the coach, athletic trainer and/or Director of Athletics immediately.

Classwork and Games:

On occasion when student-athletes must miss class to participate in scheduled athletic events, they are responsible for turning in class work that is due that day and they are responsible for making up any missed work in a timely fashion. If a student-athlete arrives home late from an athletic contest or misses class the day before a test due to an athletic contest, it is at the teacher's discretion to allow the student-athlete to test at an alternative time. If the student-athlete must leave class early on a testing day due to an athletic contest, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to reschedule the test for a date that is agreed upon by the student-athlete and teacher.

Practice Gear and Game Uniforms:

Student-athletes will be expected to purchase and wear their Trinity PE attire for all practices. All game safety equipment must be worn during practices and games. This is a shared responsibility of the coach and student-athlete. Failure to bring ones equipment or uniform may result in the student-athlete not participating in the practice or game. **Student-athletes will not be given an extra uniform on game day if they forget to bring theirs.** The coach of each team will give further instructions regarding required practice gear. It is our highest recommendation that all parents and student-athletes strongly consider wearing mouth guards during contact sports contests and practices.

Athletic Practice Attire:

All middle school students are expected to dress in required Trinity athletic attire daily.

- Any Trinity t-shirt
- Navy blue Trinity designated uniform athletic shorts **Option #1-original issued Trinity issued athletic shorts, shorts, #2-runners style of shorts with Trinity logo, #3-spirit store Tornado athletic shorts**
- Appropriate athletic shoes

Dress Code Infractions = Blue Violation (Blues regarding the Athletic / PE uniform policy will only start over at the beginning of each trimester; not every three weeks like other blues.)

1. **First Offense** – Teacher / Coach has conversation with student regarding offense. Enters a blue violation (Athletics /PE Unpreparedness) into Veracross under student behavior.
2. **Second Offense** – In addition to actions taken in first offense, an email goes home to parents, physical education coordinator, athletic director and dean of students.
3. **Third Offense** – In addition to actions taken in first two offenses, student is assigned to Activity Period Detention.
4. **Fourth Offense** – In addition to actions taken in first three offenses, student is assigned to After School Detention, Teachers, MS support team and parents are notified. **If the student**

is playing a sport for Trinity and their ASD falls on a game day they will not be allowed to participate in the game.

Uniforms/Warm-Ups Care:

Trinity uniforms or warm-ups are to be worn only during interscholastic competition, practice, and on approved home game days with approval by school administration. Launder uniforms in warm water, not hot, and never use bleach. Ironing may cause damage, as will very hot dryers. Student-athletes are responsible for all items issued to him/her. Any lost, damaged or stolen items must be paid for by the student-athlete before another is issued. **The cost to replace a uniform is \$75 and \$150 for a tackle football uniform.** All uniforms and warm-ups are due the day after the final game of the season or on a date set by the coach. If the items are not turned by the set date, the previously mentioned action will take place the day after the due date. **Student-athletes accounts will be automatically charged for missing gear or items.** In the event the school year ends and an 8th grade student-athlete has not returned all items issued to him/her, grades may be held until the items are returned or paid for.

Dropping/Dismissal from a Sport:

There will be times when some student-athletes make the decision to leave a sport before or during the season, although we highly discourage it. Should a student-athlete drop or be dismissed from a team, they must follow the steps listed below:

- **The student-athlete must talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. A conference with the parents, student-athlete, coach, and Director of Athletics or any combination thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before a student-athlete leaves the sport.**
- **If a student-athlete leaves the sport, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class. In addition, all equipment must be turned in clean and undamaged. The student-athlete must pay for any equipment not turned in.**
- **A student athlete will not be permitted to participate in the next seasons sport if they leave the team of a previous season for any reason other than a medical one.**
- **Student-athletes will not be allowed to leave one sport for another once teams have been selected. For example, a student-athlete will not be allow to quit volleyball to join cross country.**

Commitment is a valuable lesson to be learned. We want to make sure our student-athletes understand, by choosing to join a Trinity team, they are choosing to be committed to that team for the duration of the season.

Guidelines for Athletics/Fine Arts Cooperation:

A student-athlete in 7/8 grade will be allowed to participate in the fall play and spring musical only if agreed upon by the athletic department and the performing arts department.

Practice and Game Cancellation:

In the event that the coach must cancel a practice, it is the responsibility of the coach to notify the team and parents. Inclement weather does not determine whether practice will or will not be held—the coach and/or Director of Athletics makes the determination. When available, indoor facilities may be used to hold practice in these circumstances. If a change is made in the practice schedule, parents and student-athletes will be notified as soon as possible. In most cases, it is the responsibility of the host school to make decisions regarding game cancellations. When hosting an event, Trinity will make every effort to make cancellation decisions by 2:00pm on the day of the event. When a game is cancelled, the coach may choose to hold a practice in its place. If so, this information will be communicated to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

Season Awards/Award Ceremony

All athletic awards will be voted on by the coaches and will include things such as practice habits, game performance and overall contribution to the team. All awards will be handed out at the end of year sports awards ceremony. The awards ceremony will be a formal recognition of the accomplishments of each team, individual athletes and overall success of our athletics program. Team awards will be MVP, MIP and Coaches Award. In addition, there will be an “Iron Man” and “Iron Woman Award” given to those athletes who have participated in 12 seasons of athletics here at Trinity. There will also be a “Trinity Tornado Award” which is given to the Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

ATHLETICS BANQUET

An athletics banquet will be held in May to recognize our athletes and coaches. The following awards will be presented:

Trinity Tri-athlete Award: Awarded to all Trinity athletes who participate in team sports (not individual sports due to the substantial commitment required for team sports that is not required for individual sports) in all three seasons, fall, winter and spring.

Coaches' Award: Awarded to the player on a team that exhibits the following qualities: a positive attitude, strong work ethic, teamwork, sportsmanship and a love for the game.

Most Improved Award: Awarded to the athlete who consistently showed growth throughout the season. This athlete improved in their skill, attitude and/or participation and contributed to the team's success.

Most Valuable Player Award: Awarded to the player that showed a higher level of skill in their sport as well as showed leadership skills. They were a team player and led by example. They consistently worked hard in practice and games and placed the team's success above individual success.

Trinity Tornado Athletic Award: Presented to the best all-around grade 8 male and female athletes who exhibit the qualities of leadership, skill, work ethic, attitude and team spirit. They were one the best players on their team in their number one sport while contributing to the teams success in other sports.

Gym/Locker Rooms:

All Trinity (Student-athletes) will be using the locker rooms to change for PE/Practices. It is the responsibility of the students to keep the locker rooms clean. If it is determined the student(s) are responsible for damage or vandalism to the locker rooms, they will be required to pay for the repairs and student-athletes could possibly be dismissed from the team. The student-athletes and those participating in PE are encouraged to put all valuables and personal items in the school locker room for safe keeping. The Athletic Department, coaches, or Athletic Director are not responsible for lost or stolen items (uniforms, equipment, school issued materials, or personal items) that in the locker room or surrounding athletic facilities.

Bullying and Hazing:

Trinity forbids any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as a forced, required, intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity, or which encourages violation of any federal, state, local, or school law for the purpose of initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization affiliated with Trinity. This applies regardless of the willingness of the participant. Hazing, with or without the consent of a student, is prohibited and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

Bullying is described as intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity. Bullying is used as a method of intimidation towards another for the purpose of showing physical or mental power over another. If it is determined that a student-athlete has been bullying another student, the student doing the bullying will be disciplined which could lead to dismissal from a team.

Trinity Athletic Department reserves the right to impose a disciplinary action or other condition which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation. This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of season, as well as possible expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year. Serious infractions will impact the students standing at the school.

Parent/Coach Communication:

Parent Meeting: The coaches for each sport during the three sports seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring) will hold a parent meeting if necessary. Parents are encouraged to be in attendance. The meeting will allow parents to meet the coach for their student-athletes sport, ask questions, and receive all information pertinent to the season. Coaches will not be held responsible for a parent's lack of information if the parents do not attend the meeting.

Communication Tools:

Coaches will communicate regularly with parents and student-athletes in person, via email or by phone. The coach will provide a contact number for parents and student-athletes to use in the case of an emergency ONLY.

Addressing Concerns or Issues:

Step 1: One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. When there is a concern, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly. It can be very satisfying for all parties involved when student-athletes and coach are able to find mutually agreeable solutions for an issue that they are attempting to resolve.

Step 2: If the coach and student-athlete are unable to resolve the issue together, then parents may contact the coach. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the parent should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. An upset parent should wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach. Under no circumstances should a parent approach a coach or another parent in a harsh manner or immediately before, during, or immediately after a practice or a game. Taking this time to reflect on the situation, as well as honest and respectful communication should allow for more effective dialogue ensuring a more successful experience for everyone. **It is not appropriate for a parent to request feedback from the coach about team strategy (including playing time), play calling, or other student-athletes.** It is appropriate for a parent to contact the coach with concerns about their son/daughter's behavior, their skill development, advice and mistreatment.

Step 3: If the discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, parents and coaches may contact the Director of Athletics to discuss the situation.

Step 4: If the Athletic Director is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, the parent may contact the appropriate administrator.

NOTE: The Director of Athletics will not speak with any parent about a situation unless the first three steps have been taken.

DETACH THIS PORTION AND RETURN SIGNED AND DATED TO YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S COACH

This page must be signed and returned to your coach no later than Monday, September 11, 2017. If not signed and returned by the due date, the student-athlete will not be allowed to practice or participate until it is signed and returned.

Trinity Student-Athlete/Parent Contract for Participation

We/I have read and agree to fully abide by the terms of Trinity Episcopal School Athletics Handbook. Failure to comply with the policies set forth in the handbook may result in my suspension and/or dismissal from a sports team and, potentially, my dismissal from the sport program for 2017-2018 athletic season. We understand that we must sign this document and turn it in to the Athletic Director or Head Coach prior to being issued a uniform and included on a team roster.

_____	_____	_____
Print Student-Athletes Name	Student-Athletes Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Print Parent(s) Name	Parents(s) Signature	Date

“AS A PLAYER, THERE WAS SO MUCH THAT WAS OUT OF MY CONTROL. WHAT I COULD CONTROL WAS MY ENERGY, MY EFFORT AND MY ATTITUDE. EVERYDAY I TRIED TO BRING GREAT ENERGY, IT LIFTED EVERYONE ON MY TEAM. I TRIED TO HAVE GREAT EFFORT, IT ENCOURAGED EVERYONE MY TEAM TO BRING GREAT EFFORT. I TRIED TO HAVE A GREAT ATTITUDE; TO SHOW PASSION AND LOVE FOR WHAT I WAS DOING. I BELIEVE IF I DID SO WOULD EVERYONE ELSE ON MY TEAM!”

DWAYNE BRYANT