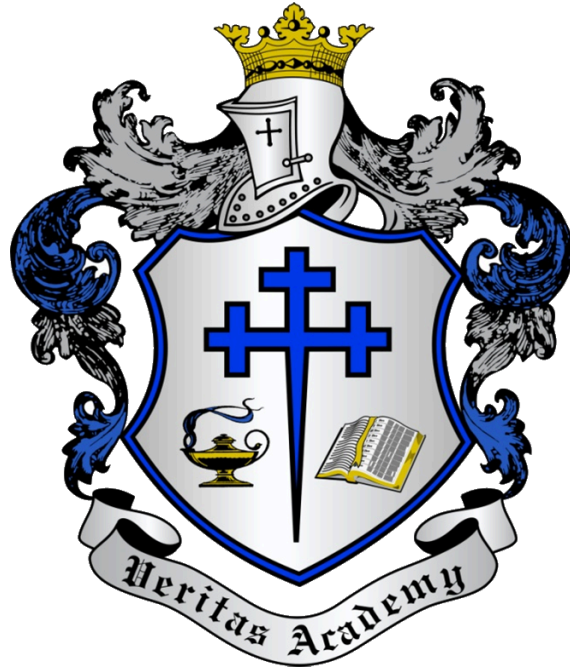


VERITAS ACADEMY



STUDENT ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2025-2026

LAST REVISED JUNE 4, 2025

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ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Veritas Athletics is to encourage students in building character by working as a team to accomplish goals they could not achieve alone. We strive to guide each student to become:

1. A courageous Defender, who rises above fear to uphold truth and protect the vulnerable.
2. A selfless, servant-leader—prepared, assured and poised;
3. A tenacious competitor—gracious in victory, resilient in defeat;
4. A contagiously joyful, hopeful, positive encourager of others;
5. A loyal, honorable, reliable person of constant character;
6. An attentive observer and industrious doer, propelled by their own initiative;
7. A champion of justice, but abounding in grace and mercy;
8. A humble, thankful, grateful child of God.

SPORTS OFFERED

School of Logic (5th - 8th grades) SL

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cheer (7-8th) - Girls ● Cross Country - Boys & Girls ● Flag Football (5-6th) - Boys ● Football (6-man, 7-8th) – Boys ● Volleyball – Girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basketball – Boys & Girls ● Soccer – Coed ● Wrestling - Boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseball (6-8th) – Boys ● Softball (6-8th) - Girls ● Track - Boys & Girls

School of Rhetoric (9th - 12th grades) SR

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cheer - Girls ● Cross Country – Boys & Girls ● Football (6-man) – Boys ● Volleyball – Girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basketball – Boys & Girls ● Soccer – Boys & Girls ● Swimming – Boys & Girls ● Wrestling - Boys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baseball – Boys ● Softball – Girls ● Tennis – Boys & Girls ● Track - Boys & Girls

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

TAPPS

At the School of Rhetoric level, Veritas is a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS). All team and individual sports compete for TAPPS championships.

CAPPS

At the School of Logic level, Veritas is a member of the Capitol Area Private and Parochial School league. All team and individual sports compete for CAPPS championships; with the exception of 6-man tackle football, soccer, wrestling, baseball, and softball.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Veritas Academy athletes should model Jesus Christ both on and off the field/court of athletic competition. Scripture commands us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind”; and ‘Love our neighbors as yourself.’”

Coaches, parents, and athletes are expected to demonstrate and foster an environment of respect for

authority, for others, and for the rules and standards of the school, athletic competition, and God's Word.

In the event that an athlete is disciplined for behavioral issues at school, athletic participation does not supersede the athlete's obligation to fulfill the assigned disciplinary action. The Athletic Director or Coach may also assign extra disciplinary measures or remove any player from practices or games for the purpose of discipline or behavioral issues. Suspension from school automatically extends to include suspension from athletic activities during the duration of the suspension.

If an athlete is suspended from a game due to ineligibility or discipline, the athlete is still required to attend the game and must be in uniform, otherwise the suspension will not be fulfilled. If an athlete misses a suspended game for any reason, additional games may be suspended. Exceptions can be made if the ineligible student is suspended due to failing grades.

If a student or fan is removed from a contest for any reason, they are responsible for all fines required by TAPPS.

REGISTRATION FOR SPORTS

Registration for all sports should be made during course requests in the spring. July 1st is the deadline to register for all SLR Sports. There will be no refunds issued for sports dropped after this date. *A sport lacking the required enrollment on July 1st will be dropped for that year.* With approval from the athletic department, students may add a sport at any time after this date if the sport makes its enrollment requirement on July 1st and the team has room for more participants.

By registering for a sport, you are giving the athletic department's licensed trainer permission to treat your athlete for any and all soreness and injuries not requiring a doctor's intervention. Any injuries that require a doctor's intervention must involve our licensed athletic trainer as a consultant in the recovery process.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Parents are encouraged to support their athlete and team in a vocal and positive manner that does not reflect negatively on the school or the body of Christ. We ask that parents refrain from "booing" or cheering against opponents. Please do not speak to the coaches, players, or officials negatively. Parents who become verbally abusive to officials, coaches, players, or other fans, will be asked to leave the event.

Parents should also refrain from talking to athletes or "coaching" from the sidelines or stands during the course of a game. Athletes need to hear one voice during athletic competitions. That voice should be the coach of their team. Parents should also refrain from talking to the coaches on game day. If you have comments, questions or concerns, please pray about them and contact the coach the following day.

All parents of athletes will be asked at various times to volunteer with such things as setting up for games, collecting admission, and performing official contest related duties such as first down markers at football games and clock or scorebook keeping at volleyball and basketball games. *All parents are asked to help with the clean-up process after all games.*

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Athletes must abide by all school rules.

All athletes must complete the season with their team before participating in another Veritas Sport. *If an SR athlete drops a sport after July 1st and before the season starts causing an entire team to drop, he/she will be ineligible to participate in any other Veritas sport for one calendar year. If an athlete leaves a*

team or quits before the end of the season, he/she will be ineligible to participate in any other Veritas sport for one calendar year. Any appeals to this suspension will be made through the Veritas Academy Administration team. An athlete that becomes injured must still attend practices and games to support the team. Exceptions may be granted for diagnosed medical conditions only.

Multi-sport athletes must prioritize playoff competition over district competition and district competition over non-district competition.

Athletes must wear the appropriate competition or travel uniform specified for each sport, when representing Veritas. Athletes may not wear jerseys and issued practice shirts to school, even on spirit day. Athletes may wear any *purchased* gear (including team shirts/sweatshirts/warm-ups) on spirit day.

Students cannot ride with another student from practice back to school, from school to practice, or from school to games. Students must ride to away games on transportation arranged by the school, or with parents. They may not drive themselves to away games. Cell phones are to be given to the coach when the team leaves school for a game. Travel time is to be spent bonding with teammates or on schoolwork.

ATHLETIC FORMS

The following forms are ***required for all athletes prior to the beginning of the season*** and forms must be submitted to the athletic directors via email (mikaela.sibley@veritasacademy.net) or hard copy.

- **Physical:** Requires a Doctor's appointment or clinic visit. All players **MUST** submit a physical **PRIOR TO the first practice** of the season. Physicals should be submitted via a TAPPS form for all 5th-12th grade athletes. The form expires every 12 months.
- **Medical Health History:** Medical history forms must be signed by the student and parent yearly and must be submitted via a TAPPS form.
- **Athletic Handbook Agreement:** All SL and SR athletes and parents are responsible for reading and signing the handbook yearly and following the policies.
- **TAPPS Student/Parent Acknowledgement of Rules Form:** This signed TAPPS participation form, signed by a parent, is required for SR athletes ONLY. If an SR student transfers in from another high school, there are additional forms required by TAPPS.

SCHEDULING

The athletic department does its best to schedule games and practices well in advance of the season. Because we cannot control facilities, league changes, or changes made by an opponent when we travel to their home court/field, changes to schedules will inevitably occur. Additionally, since a majority of our coaches are part-time, there will most likely be occasional changes throughout the season due to their work schedules. In the CAPPs league (5th-8th grade sports), schedules are generally not created until the season starts.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts allow coaches to place like-skilled players together which aids in each player's development. Tryouts can be one day to five days depending on the sport and grade level. If a student misses tryouts, he/she will be placed on the lower level team. Coaches reserve the right to pull players up from lower level teams at any time. In order to try out for a team, students must be enrolled for the following school year.

A roster spot on any one team in a previous year does not guarantee the same spot on the same team the following year. For example, a junior basketball player who earned a varsity spot last year as a sophomore is not guaranteed to make the varsity basketball roster in his junior year.

UNIFORMS

Practice Uniforms

All athletes must be in the Veritas Athletics shirt and Veritas-colored shorts (black, silver, white, or royal blue) or issued practice bottoms. One practice uniform shirt will be provided to each athlete per year. Failure to comply with this policy will result in loss of game time. If an athlete is at practice out of uniform, they will be suspended for a minimum of one quarter of the following game. If this is a recurring problem, the athlete could be removed from the team.

Game Uniforms

All teams will be provided with a game uniform, with the exception of swimming who must purchase a predominantly black suit for practice and competition. The only allowed accent colors on swimsuits are white, silver, and royal blue. Shoes must be black, silver, white, or royal blue only. No other trim colors or logo colors are allowed. All undergarments, shirts, or leggings worn under a uniform must be the same color as the jersey. All socks must be matching with the entire team. Girls sports bras must be white, black, or match the jersey. Headbands, compression sleeves, knee pads, or anything else worn visibly, must match the game uniform or the rest of the team. All game uniforms must be returned. A charge will be assessed for uniforms not returned.

Travel Uniform and Accessories

Team issued warm-ups are required to be worn as travel uniforms and are required for wear to and from all games.

SCHOOL OF LOGIC TEAMS (SL)

At the *SL* level, participation and instruction are the main emphasis. Winning is an important goal, but not at the expense of participation and instruction. Coaches at the SL level strive to see that all players on the Black and Silver teams who show up prepared and on time, work hard at practices, and have a good team attitude, will receive playing time in games. The Blue team's desire and goal is to be competitive and win which will naturally result in the more skilled players receiving more playing time. All players have the opportunity for skill development in practice with the chance to improve and earn increased playing time. Equal playing time is not guaranteed.

SCHOOL OF RHETORIC TEAMS (SR)

At the *Junior* varsity level, the emphasis is on developing higher skill levels and preparing athletes for the Varsity level. Players who show up prepared, on time, work hard at practices and have a good team attitude, will receive playing time in games.

At the *Varsity* level, we strive to be as competitive as possible in order to win each contest. The most skilled players will receive the most playing time in order to achieve this goal.

ELIGIBILITY

Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 4.0 academic and/or elective credits, including Leadership, during each semester in which they are participating in Veritas Athletics.

The official grade checks will be at the nine-week mark of each semester, and at the end of the semester. *If a student is failing two or more classes at the date of grade check, they become ineligible to play.* SL is ineligible for *one week*, while SR is ineligible for *two weeks*. If, after that time, a student is still failing two classes, they will remain ineligible and grades will be checked each week. If a student fails two classes within a semester, they will be ineligible for the first two weeks of the next semester and will regain eligibility if they are not failing at that time. A failing grade is any grade below 70.

INJURY

When a student athlete is diagnosed with an injury by a doctor or athletic trainer that removes them from a practice or game, they must be cleared by a doctor or athletic trainer before being allowed to return to practice or games. A written doctor's note of release is required. Concussions will require notification to both the academic and athletic departments to ensure the protocols to be followed and monitor appropriate timing for the return to play and/or academics. A Doctor's assessment is required and written notification is required to suspend or return to play for both academic and athletic departments.

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary issues will be addressed between the coach and the athlete. Any offense could result in suspension of playing time. No suspension will be considered fulfilled unless the athlete is at the game in uniform supporting their team. If the discipline issues continue, the consequences will escalate up to an athlete being removed from the team without refund of team fees.

VARSITY LETTERING POLICY

Athletes in grades 9-12 may earn a varsity letter in a sport under the following conditions*:

Team Sports

- Start in at least 25% of varsity games.
- Play in approximately 25% of each game.

Individual Sports

- Cross-country, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field – Represent Veritas at TAPPS qualifying or state meet.
- Wrestling – Be the number one wrestler for Veritas in any weight class at the TAPPS state competition.

Team Managers

- A student must manage for three seasons.

Completion of the Season

- A team member must complete the season on the team roster. If a player quits a team, or is dismissed from a team, he or she may not qualify for a varsity letter.

If an injury, or season ending injury, impacts the minimum playing/participation time qualifications, then it is at the discretion of the Varsity Head Coach and Athletic Director to determine whether or not the playing/participation time condition would have been met based on the athlete's contribution at the time

of the injury.

The Veritas Letterman Jacket is part of the Veritas uniform. Guidelines will be issued with the “Letter” upon ordering the jacket. The letter, pins and bars are provided to the athlete. The cost of the jacket is at the athlete’s expense.

*Note: Coaches may petition the AD for recognition of a student who does not meet these standards but has made a significant impact upon the team.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Direct communication between the coach and player is very important, and is usually the best way for any questions to be answered or conflicts to be worked through. Inevitably, there will be times when a meeting between a parent and coach is warranted. Please call or e-mail the coach to arrange a convenient time for a phone conversation or meeting. Try to exercise the 24-hour rule – wait 24 hours before placing that call or sending that email. Too often our emotions get the best of us. And remember, *before or after practice or a game is never an appropriate time to approach a coach*. Coaches will be happy to meet with you, but it may be a few days before a convenient time can be arranged.

A meeting with the coach is an opportunity to exchange information and respectfully discuss any concerns or questions you may have. Hopefully, the meeting will promote better understanding and communication, but the meeting should not be viewed as an opportunity to convince the coach that your child should be playing more, playing a different position, or that the coach should be employing a different strategy. After the meeting, just as before the meeting, your support of the team and the coach is expected. If there is a significant issue that you believe requires additional discussion, the Athletic Director, coach, and you can meet together to resolve the issue.

If issues cannot be resolved after meeting with the coach and the Athletic Director, then a meeting involving the SL Head of School or the SR Head of School, along with the Athletic Director, coach and you should take place. Any unresolved or escalated issues should then be taken to the Head of School.

Parents should never contact opposing schools, officials or the TAPPS or CAPPs office to voice complaints over athletic contests, opposing players, coaches, fans, or officials. All concerns and/or opinions should be communicated directly with Veritas Academy’s Athletic Director.

CAMPUS FACILITY USE

To use the weight room (separate from organized team or school workouts), athletes must work out in groups of three and notify the athletic department (via email) the date and time of their intended use. Before using the weight room the athletes must be trained by an athletic staff member to ensure their knowledge of safety guidelines.

AGREEMENT

I, (print student name) _____ have read and understand the Student Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by these guidelines to the best of my ability.

I, (print parent name(s)) _____ have read and understand the Student Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by these guidelines and help my student athlete participate in Veritas Academy athletics well.

Printed student name

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date

Parent signature

Date