

ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Athletic Handbook



2024-2025

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Mission Statement	3
GHCAA	3
Eligibility of Students	3
Enrollment	3
Physical Evaluation Form	3
Financial Obligations	3
School Attendance	4
Attendance for Practices and Games	4
Academics / Citizenship	4
Uniforms and Equipment	4
Electronic Devices, Including Cell Phones	5
Transportation	5
Pick-Up	5
Competition Level / Playing Time	5
Scholar Athlete of the Year	6
Monarch Award	6
Volunteers	6
Coach's Code of Ethics and Responsibilities	6
Parent /Spectator's Code of Ethics and Responsibility	7
Sportsmanship / Code of Conduct	7



INTRODUCTION

St. Edward Catholic School offers interscholastic athletics for all students. The athletic program is under the jurisdiction of the school and administered by the school administration and coaches employed by the school.

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Edward Catholic School athletic program supports the mission and vision of the school. The athletic program also supports the responsibility that is shared by the school and the parents to encourage the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical development of our students.

St. Edward Catholic School believes that athletics provide a unique opportunity in which the student can learn important values such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, hard work, leadership skills, commitment, healthy competition, and fair play.

GHCAA

St. Edward Catholic School is a member of the Greater Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA) and is currently classified as a small D1 school. The GHCAA is dedicated to fostering human development, within the framework of a Christian environment, encouraging a positive vision in our young men and women through exercise, positive athletic competition, and fully recognizing the dignity of each student in Christ's image.

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Students must earn the privilege of participating through hard work, dedication, and self-discipline.

ENROLLMENT

Students must be enrolled in a Catholic school within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to participate in any athletic program offered at the school.

PHYSICAL EVALUATION FORM

Students must submit the Houston-Galveston Archdiocese Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form to the school to participate in athletics.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Students must be in good standing on all financial obligations to the school, e.g., tuition and fees. Students are required to pay an athletic fee for each sport in which they participate. Athletic fees are due once official rosters have been turned into the GHCAA. The athletic fees are non-refundable. The fee will consist of \$175 per student, per sport. The athletic fees will be charged to the parent/guardian FACTS account.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A student must be in attendance on a day that a school is in session to participate in any games or practices on that day. A student that leaves school early due to illness may not participate in practices or games on the same day.

ATTENDANCE FOR PRACTICES AND GAMES

Consistent and productive practice is essential for any athletic team to be successful. All team members are expected to attend all practices, meetings, and games. If a student cannot attend an athletic contest, meeting, or practice for any reason the coach of that sport must be notified prior to the event. Acceptable reasons to miss practice may include church functions, doctor appointments, family obligations, emergencies, and academic-related school functions. It is highly encouraged that appointments are not scheduled on the day of a game or contest. Excessive unexcused absences from team practice can result in dismissal from a team.

If an athlete feels the need to quit a team for any reason, he or she is highly encouraged to talk to the head coach before doing so. If, after such a conversation occurs, the student still feels that quitting is necessary, he or she should turn in all issued equipment immediately. If an athlete decides to quit a team the athletic fees will not be refunded.

ACADEMICS / CITIZENSHIP

Athletes must be passing in all subjects in order to be eligible to participate or to try-out for an athletic team. Team members who are not passing after Progress and Report Cards are issued, will not be allowed to participate in games for a two-week time-period, starting on the day following the report. Athletes will continue to attend and participate in all practices with the team. After two weeks, if the failing grades are passing, the student will be allowed to play in the games. If the grades are still failing, one more week of not playing will be imposed. Failure to attain a passing grade after this last period will result in the dismissal from the team.

To participate in athletics, a student must have a grade of E or S in Conduct. If the student receives more than three demerits in a season, the athlete is immediately ineligible for athletics. A student who serves a detention will not be available for practices or games on any days that the detention is served. Any student that is expelled or withdraws from school will immediately become ineligible to participate in St. Edward Catholic School athletics.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

School-issued uniforms and equipment are to be used exclusively for St. Edward Catholic School games, competitions, practices, and special activities. These uniforms are not to be used for any non-school related function. Care must be taken to keep uniforms and equipment in good condition. At the end of each sports season, all issued uniforms and equipment, in clean and good condition, must be returned to the school. Failure to do so may result in an assessment of a fee equal to the cost of the uniform. Students may not compete in another sport or activity until uniform matters are resolved.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES, INCLUDING CELL PHONES

Student-athletes are not permitted to use electronic devices, including cell phones, while on school campus. If communication is needed between the student-athlete and parent, then the coach must be notified by the athlete prior to the cell phones use. If a student-athlete is seen using an electronic device or cell phone they will be given one warning. If the student-athlete commits the offense again then the phone will be taken away by the coach, principal, or athletic director. The phone will be given back to the parent only.

TRANSPORTATION

St. Edward Catholic School is not responsible for getting students to away competitions. There is no transportation bus for athletics and the school cannot provide transportation to the athletic event. It is the parent/guardian responsibility to get athletes to their perspective away competitions.

PICK-UP

Student-athletes must be picked up immediately at the practice/game conclusion with definite plans prearranged. A 5-minute grace period for student-athletes will be allowed prior to late fees of \$1.00 per minute being assessed. This policy adheres to the general St. Edward Extended Day Program (SEED) policy for late pick-ups.

COMPETITION LEVEL / PLAYING TIME

St. Edward Catholic School will compete at the varsity (8th grade A-team) level for all offered sports. Depending on the number of participants, some sports may also have junior varsity (B-Team) and C-team. For the younger level teams, every participant in a sport will receive some playing time in games and contests throughout the season. Coaches will strive to put players in a position to have a positive and successful experience in games and contests. The development of the team and the individual will be considered when making these decisions.

Varsity level competition lends itself to an emphasis on competitive success. Athletes will receive playing time at the discretion of the coaching staff with the intent of giving the team the best chance for overall success. Although winning is a point of emphasis, the rules of play, good sportsmanship, the welfare of team members, or the mission of the school will not be sacrificed.

Decisions regarding playing time are the sole responsibility of the head coach and his or her staff for that sport. Playing time will be determined by a variety of factors including, but not limited to; skill, athletic ability, following directions, attendance, and dedication, accepting constructive criticism, attitude, work ethic, respect, willingness to be coached, potential for improvement, and performance in practice and games.



SCHOLAR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

At the end of each school year one male and one female student-athlete are chosen by their coaches and athletic director as the Scholar Athlete of the Year. The criterion for this award is as follows:

- Must be an 8th grade student-athlete.
- Have the highest academic grade point average.
- Must play one sport in 6th grade.
- Must play two sports in 7th and 8th grade.
- Maintain academic eligibility throughout the season.
- Must not serve detentions or suspensions during their 8th grade year.

MONARCH AWARD

At the end of each school year one male and one female student-athlete are chosen by their coaches and athletic director as the Monarch Athlete of the Year. The Monarch Award is awarded to a student-athlete that exemplifies excellence in sportsmanship, citizenship, leadership, service, scholarship, and enthusiasm. The criterion for this award is as follows:

- Must be a student-athlete in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade.
- Must play at least two sports in a school year.
- Must not serve detentions or suspensions during the school year.
- Must not be the 8th grade Scholar Athlete of the Year.

VOLUNTEERS

As with most Catholic Schools, we depend heavily on the generosity of the parents. Without the donations of time and money from the parent community, our school mission would not be achieved. This is true in all areas of the school including athletics. Each season we need lots of volunteer support to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Parents should not expect to help coach unless specifically asked by the head coach or administration. However, there are lots of other opportunities to help support the team. Each coach may need support in different areas. This will be addressed at each team specific pre-season parent meeting. Volunteers in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston are required to complete and maintain CMGConnect Training. The CMGConnect online training replaces the former Safe Environment Program (VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children”) that was previously offered through our Archdiocese. Individuals are now required to complete all Safe Environment Training online. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

COACH’S CODE OF ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We believe that athletic competition should be fun but that it should also be a significant part of a sound educational program. We believe that coaches are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to ensure that their sports programs impact important life skills and promote the development of good character. Our coaches have the responsibility to model and teach Christian values and abide by the mission statement of St. Edward Catholic School. The following are expected of St. Edward Catholic School coaches:



- The coach will treat all people with respect and require the same of student-athletes.
- The coach will not taunt, use profanity, or engage in any other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- The coach will use positive coaching methods to ensure enjoyability, increase self-esteem and foster love and appreciation for the sport. The coach will never engage in physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse or any conduct that demeans the student—athlete or others.
- The coach will understand St. Edward Catholic School's academic program and always emphasize that academics are the student's first priority.
- The coach will enforce the athlete code of ethics fairly and consistently.
- The coach will maintain appropriate, professional relationships with student athletes and respect proper teacher-student boundaries.
- The coach will be a good sport, be gracious in victory, and accept defeat with dignity. The coach will promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship and never cheat.
- The coach will be a worthy role model and always be mindful of a coach's high visibility and great influence.
- The coach will communicate clearly with parents and make sure that all parents understand the coach's philosophy, expectations, team rules, practice, and competition schedules.
- The coach will strive to improve coaching competency and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles as well as staying current in CPR and basic first aid.

PARENT/SPECTATOR'S CODE OF ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY

- Parents/Spectators are to reflect the same Christian behavior and sportsmanship required of coaches and athletes.
- If a parent/spectator exhibits unruly disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior, the game official and/or coach will temporarily stop the game and deal with the unruly spectator and, if necessary, will remove him/her from the premises.
- The parent/spectator will support the team through the willingness to supervise/transport the child to and from games.
- The parent/spectator will display a Christian attitude toward coaches, referees, students, and other.
- The parent/spectator will cooperate with the athletic department, administration, and coaches in their exercise of authority in the areas of student eligibility.

SPORTSMANSHIP/CODE OF CONDUCT

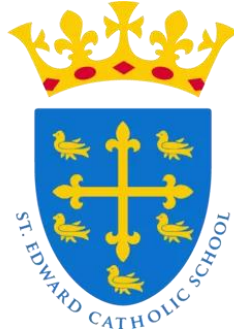
The conduct of a student-athlete at St. Edward Catholic School is closely observed in many areas of everyday life. It is important that the actions of the student-athlete are always above reproach.

- In the area of athletic competition, the student-athlete must be gracious in defeat, modest in victory, always maintain complete control of himself/herself, never use profanity, and never resort to fighting or illegal tactics.



St. Edward Catholic School Athletics 2024-2025

- The student-athlete should set forth the example for all students by following the policies set forth by the school, the administration, and individual teachers. The behavior pattern is also expected in the hallways, in the locker room, on the playground, in the parking lot, etc.
- It is expected that the student-athlete will adhere to the rules and regulations as may be established by the school and that the student-athlete will respect the rights, privileges, and property of other members of the school community.
- At athletic events, the student-athlete represents himself/herself and the St. Edward Catholic School community. It is expected that all athletes will behave in an acceptable manner.
- Student-athletes are responsible for their own conduct, and violation of established rules and regulations may subject them to disciplinary measures or dismissal from the athletic team.
- Discipline is the responsibility of the head coach; however, it is imperative that all policies of the school administration be strictly followed.
- At St. Edward, we define the fundamentals of sportsmanship as follows:
 1. Exercise representative behavior always by exemplifying the highest moral character and by adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards.
 2. Exhibit respect for the officials.
 3. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game/contest/event.
 4. Lose without complaint, win without gloating, and treat your opponents with fairness, courtesy, and respect.



Athletic Handbook and Sportsmanship Acknowledgement Form 2024-2025

DETACH AND RETURN

We have read and discussed the St. Edward Catholic School Athletic Handbook. We agree to follow the school procedures, regulations, and policies that are covered. We understand that failure to abide by the school procedures, regulations, and policies may jeopardize a student's continued participation in the athletic program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Grade

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Print Student Name

Date

Date