



Juan Diego Academy

Student-Athlete/Parent

Handbook

2016-2017

Juan Diego Academy
Catholic Regional High School
5208 South FM 494
Mission, Texas 78572
(956) 583-2752

Juan Diego Academy

Catholic Regional High School



Justice + Devotion + Action

Dear Parents, Students and Coaches,

Welcome to Juan Diego Academy (JDA)! In choosing to attend JDA, you have elected to receive a Christ-centered Catholic education and to pursue academic excellence. Special opportunities await us.

Athletics, recognized as an integral part of education, complements our greater mission at JDA. Lessons of commitment, teamwork, tenacity and overcoming adversity are advanced on our courts and fields. These lessons go beyond the “x’s and o’s” and into the heart. It is the hope of our president, principal and our administration that our student athletes develop a love for Christ through service to their teammates and their school.

This handbook outlines the philosophies, policies, and guidelines which will govern the Juan Diego Academy athletic program, as well as some of the more important rules and regulations required by the school and governing leagues. Please read this document carefully, sign the attachment agreement and return it to school before the first practice. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies and procedures of the Juan Diego Academy Athletic Program during the 2016-2017 school year.

We look forward to a great year in athletics.

Go Lions,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond Kellman'.

Raymond Kellman
Athletic Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Schmidt'.

Bob Schmidt
President & Principal

Juan Diego Academy Vision and Mission Statement

Juan Diego Academy is a Christ-centered, Catholic learning community forming young men and women to answer the call to lead and be active participants in their Church and community.

As a Catholic regional high school, Juan Diego Academy

- Offers a quality, comprehensive academic curriculum
- Utilizes the latest in technology and innovation
- Educates the whole person: mind, body, and spirit
- Instills a sense of Christian responsibility and service to others
- Trains leaders to meet the current and future challenges of society

Juan Diego Academy Athletic Mission Statement

The mission of the Athletic Department at Juan Diego Academy reflects the mission of the school. Juan Diego Academy, therefore, dedicates itself to the pursuit of excellence in athletics within the framework of a Catholic learning community committed to developing leaders to meet the current challenges of society and educating the whole person: mind, body and spirit.

Registration Information

Nondiscriminatory Policy

Juan Diego Academy Athletics admits any students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic programs.

Athletic Permission Forms

JDA students wishing to participate in a sport must fill out a transportation athletic permission form. Permission forms must be completed and returned on or before the deadline set before the first tryout/practice date. Any student who decides to participate on a team after the deadline should see the Athletic Director before attending practice. Deadlines are not intended to prevent a student from participating on a sports team, but they are necessary to make sure that team sizes do not become too large to allow for proper instruction of participants. A permission form need only be completed one time during the school year.

Transportation and Travel

1. When athletic events are being held at JDA, athletes will be responsible for their own transportation.
2. On away games, a starting lineup, backups and two additional players (Volleyball 14, Basketball 12 Soccer 24) will travel.
3. When travel outside of Mission, TX, occurs, JDA will provide transportation that all athletes will be required to use. Exceptions will occur on a case by case basis.
4. For post event transportation, athletes often are allowed to ride home with their parents when the proper waivers have been filled out and submitted in a timely manner.
5. Athletes wishing to ride home with other relatives or adults after an event will be considered on a case by case basis. A signed parental waiver and/or verbal confirmation are required.
6. On any athletic trip, the coach, not the bus driver, is responsible for the team on the school bus.
7. Students and Coaches are not allowed to wear metal cleats or track spikes on any bus.

Fees

Student athletes and their families are required to pay a fee of \$125 per athlete, per sport to help offset costs for transportation, uniforms and equipment, tournament fees, and officials.

Financial constraints should not inhibit any student from participating in student athletics. For financial assistance for JDA athletics, please contact the athletic director.

Multiple Sports and Activities

In regards to multiple sport participation, student-athletes may not participate in multiple team sports at the same time. Students may, however, participate in an individual sport (Golf, track & field, cross country, tennis) and a team sport at the time if agreed upon by the coaches of both sports. Consistent, open communication between the student-athlete, his/her parents, and the two coaches involved is paramount.

In regards to multiple activity participation, student-athletes will not be discouraged from participation in non-athletic department (i.e. fine arts, debates, academic competitions, etc.) programs. However, student-athletes must take into account the seriousness of the commitment to an athletic team and the time necessary to reach a high level of excellence. As with any team, athletes will depend on each other for success. Student-athletes are expected to consider their responsibility to their teammates as an obligation to be taken very seriously.

Creation and size of teams is determined by many factors including, but not limited to, the number of participants interested in a sport, facilities, and coaching resources. Decisions will be made on a season by season basis in order to insure a healthy experience for all parties involved.

Dress Code and Grooming Regulations

Per the *JDA Student-Parent Handbook*, student-athletes must follow all regulations accordingly.

Of particular note for boys, the face is to be cleanly shaven and no long hair will be allowed. Tattoos are not allowed to be visible.

Games, Tournaments & Practice Times

No team shall participate in more than

- a. Three (3) tournaments plus 19 regular season games (volleyball, boys and girls basketball)
- b. Two (2) tournaments, plus 23 regular season games (volleyball, boys and girls basketball)
- c. One (1) Tournament, plus 25 regular season games (volleyball, boys and girls basketball)
- d. One (1) Tournament, plus 14 regular season games (boys and girls soccer)
REGULAR SEASON ONLY- DOES NOT INCLUDE POST-SEASON

Practice time outside the school day is limited to 7 hours per school week per activity from Monday 12:01 a.m. through the end of the school day Friday. This does not include travel time to games/matches scheduled during the school week.

The maximum length of any single practice session is two and a half hours. Practices starting before the first day of school may not exceed three hours. (Volleyball and Boys Soccer)

Social Media Policy

At JDA, student-athletes are allowed to use social networking as a way to communicate with others, share in their athletic endeavors, record awards and experiences, and network within and outside the school community. While social networking is fun and valuable, there are some risks we need to keep in mind when using these tools. Student-athletes are advised to use good judgment; be respectful, responsible, and ethical; and be accurate and appropriate. Students must also respect private and personal information as well as posting images with care. It is the policy of Juan Diego Academy's Athletic Department to uphold the *JDA Student-Parent Handbook* in the event of a technology policy violation.

TAPPS

Juan Diego Academy participates in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools in the following sports: volleyball, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, and track & field. TAPPS, which has been in existence for over 30 years, is the largest state association of private schools in the nation with over 250 members that compete in five classifications. Juan Diego Academy supports and abides by all TAPPS By-Laws governing the athletic and other extracurricular activities sanctioned by TAPPS, including policies on student-athlete eligibility, and guidelines on the conduct and behavior of all participants and spectators at athletic and extracurricular activities.

General Policies

Sportsmanship

All student-athletes are expected to represent JDA in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both on and off the court or field. Student-athletes are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches for each sport along with input from the athletic director, and in consultation with the school president & principal. This can range from sitting out at practice to a one-game suspension. In extreme cases when an athlete has been ejected from a game, multi-game suspensions and dismissal from the team may be appropriate. The athletic director, in consultation with the president & principal, will make the final decision following a meeting with the athlete, coach, and parent.

Expectations of Spectators

1. Spectators at Juan Diego Academy athletic events are expected to remember that they are attending the contest to support and cheer for their team. Only language and cheers that are positive and uplifting should be used.
2. Spectators should respect the integrity and judgment of game officials and appreciate their willingness to undertake their work in full view of the public. Officials will be treated with respect. Decisions of the officials are to be accepted without quarrel or controversy.
3. Members of the JDA community should at no time engage in inappropriate behavior such as:
 - *the use of profanity
 - *fighting and arguing
 - *attempts to intimidate, ridicule and/or verbally abuse JDA faculty, staff, opposing teams and their fans, or officials.
4. Spectators must observe TAPPS prohibitions on face painting, air horns, etc., indoors, and any other relevant prohibitions deemed necessary in the handbook or other prohibitions announced by game or school officials.
5. Failure to comply with the school's behavior expectations for spectators may result in removal from the contest facility and/or prohibition from attending future events. It should be understood that, according to league regulations, JDA is deemed responsible for the behavior of its spectators. The school or the school district is liable and therefore may receive disciplinary action as a result of behavior on the part of its patrons that is in violation of TAPPS, UIL or any governing body's standards and rules.

A continued pattern of inappropriate conduct by students or parents is subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the *Student-Parent Handbook*.

Substance Abuse

The use, possession, purchase or distribution of tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances (including performance enhancing drugs) of any form, either on or off campus, is strictly prohibited. Violation of this policy subjects a student-athlete to disciplinary actions deemed appropriate by school administration and may lead to the involvement of local law enforcement. Penalties could include multiple-day suspension, permanent removal from the team or dismissal from school.

Violations will be handled as per policy outlined in the *Student-Parent Handbook* (pgs. 30-32).

Gambling

Gambling in any form is prohibited. Violation subjects the person(s) involved to disciplinary action.

Harassment

Juan Diego Academy Athletics is committed to maintain an atmosphere that is free from violence, personal abuse, bullying, intimidation or any other form of harassment. The athletic department will uphold the JDA harassment policy as cited in the *Student-Parent Handbook* (pages 35-37).

Hazing

Hazing and other acts of initiation of students before, during, or after athletic or extra-curricular events are strictly forbidden. Before school activities and events, students will be advised of the school's policies in an attempt to ensure the safety of all participants as well as maintain the personal dignity of each student and the reputation of the school. Students found to be guilty of hazing or other acts of initiation are subject to serious disciplinary consequences.

Prerequisites for Participation

Each JDA student-athlete desiring to participate in Lion Athletics must have the completed and signed documents (physical, medical history, assumption of risk, and TAPPS Acknowledgement of Rules) before the first day of practice in any given sport.

Student-Athletes

Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the Juan Diego Academy community in a favorable way. By joining the school's athletic program, a student becomes a representative of his/her team and of JDA.

Eligibility and Probation

Student-athletes are expected to maintain academic and behavioral standards in keeping with the Juan Diego Academy *Student-Parent Handbook* and the teachings of the Catholic Church. These regulations and procedures apply while on school premises, during practices and competitions, and in the public arena. A student will be considered ELIGIBLE to participate in interscholastic athletics at JDA if the most recent academic report reflects the student:

- Carries a full course load (7-8 credits—no more than one study period may be scheduled);
- Has no failing grades during the current marking period (no grades below 70);
- Has no unsatisfactory mark during the current marking period.

Eligibility is determined on the day report cards are issued, or at the beginning of the tenth day after report cards are issued with the approval of the Administration.

Ineligible students may attend scheduled practices but may not participate in any competition until eligibility has been restored. An ineligible student remains ineligible until the next progress report or on the tenth day following the date the next progress reports are issued. If progress reports indicate that the student is passing all classes, eligibility is restored. If eligibility is not restored at the progress reports, it will be reviewed at the next report card.

Passing summer school courses may remove a student's ineligible status incurred during the previous school year. Eligibility would begin ten days following the date report cards are issued. (Pg. 13-14).

A student-athlete will be considered ON PROBATION should his/her most recent academic report reflect any one or a combination of the following academic grades or conduct:

1. One failing grade or unsatisfactory conduct mark in any course
2. One Incomplete in any subject

A student-athlete will also be considered ON PROBATION should his/her behavior require:

1. Removal from a classroom
2. After-school detention
3. Out-of-school suspension

Probation is one, two (2)-week period* during which a student-athlete works to improve his/her grades and/or conduct. During this two-week period, a student is still considered a full, participating member of the athletic team, but time should be spent wisely in improving one's grades and conduct. Student-athletes are encouraged to seek extra help from those teachers in courses where he/she is struggling, either before school, during the tutorial period, or after school. Juan Diego Academy faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and personal growth as teenagers.

**The only exception to the two-week probationary period is the Incomplete. As soon as the student-athlete makes up the work that caused the incomplete AND the work is to the satisfaction of the appropriate teacher, the student-athlete is no longer on probation.*

Students who commit serious violations of the school's policies/procedures are subject to disciplinary measures by their coach up to, and including, dismissal from the team in consultation with the athletic director and the president & principal.

Evaluating Probationary Improvement

A student-athlete remains a full, participating member of a team if his/her grades at the end of the probationary two-week period reflect a passing average or better in every class, and the student-athlete maintains conduct in keeping with the *JDA Student-Parent Handbook* and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Ineligibility

Should a student-athlete earn a grade under 70 or a mark below satisfactory conduct, he or she will be deemed ineligible. A student-athlete will also be considered ineligible for interscholastic sports at JDA should there be no improvement after the two-week probationary period (student-athlete may practice at the discretion of the coach). Ineligibility means that a student-athlete may NOT participate in interscholastic athletics at JDA for the remainder of the season or until the end of the quarter. This will result in the removal of the student from the team's roster.

All student-athletes are allowed one (1) probationary period per school year. Should a student-athlete fail to meet the academic and behavior standards outlined above more than once during a school year, he/she will be considered ineligible and will no longer be permitted to participate in interscholastic sports at Juan Diego Academy for the remainder of the school year.

Student-Athlete Expectations

A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to all students as set forth in the *Juan Diego Academy Student-Parent Handbook*. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others behaviors that reflect good sportsmanship. If behavior infractions occur, student-athletes may face both a school and an athletic consequence.

Attendance

All student-athletes must be marked as present in school on the day of practice or a game in order to participate. Please see the *Student-Parent Handbook* for what constitutes an absence.

All student-athletes must recognize the time commitment made to a team. One is expected to attend all practices and games. If one cannot attend a practice or game, the coach and/or athletic director must be notified in advance. Consequences for a missed practice or game will be as outlined by the coach/team at the beginning of the season in addition to the natural consequences

that result from missing practice, instruction or game experience. Practices are ONLY excused on days off observed by JDA; games shall remain mandatory.

Student-Athletes who make the choice to quit a team or sport once the season has begun (season defined as the first day of practices through the last team meeting day) are prohibited from returning to that team/sport except under special circumstances and only if the following conditions are met:

1. The student & student's parents must arrange a meeting with the coach/athletic director to discuss the rationale for quitting and returning to the team;
2. The coach/athletic director agrees to accept the student back on the team per circumstances involved;
3. The student apologizes to the coach(s) and, if deemed necessary/appropriate, to the team.

*The returning student-athlete will be suspended from the competitive schedule for a period of 1-3 games **at the discretion of the coach, in consultation with the athletic director.***

Student-Athletes quitting a team/sport once the competitive schedule has begun will not be allowed to return to the team during that season.

The principal, athletic director and coaches will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his or her child from a team for any reason. However, once the child is removed, he or she may not return to that team for the remainder of that sport's season.

Stewardship

All student athletes are expected to be good stewards of all equipment, facilities, and uniforms entrusted to them.

1. Locker rooms, weight room and all other facilities are expected to be clean and orderly at all times.
2. Student-athletes are required to use assigned lockers to store equipment, uniform and personal items and those lockers should be cleaned and locked at all times.

Athletic Uniforms

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take care of the uniform. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform (if available) will be issued, once the lost uniform has been paid for in full. Uniform pieces which are damaged outside of practice or competition will be replaced at the expense of the student-athlete. The replacement cost for a uniform top or bottom is \$80.00. The replacement cost for both is \$160.00.

Attendance

During the school year, student-athletes are expected to give the in-season sport in which they are participating first priority and are not permitted to train for another sport in any manner during that time period unless approved by the current in-season head coach.

During the summer, all student-athletes are expected to work on and develop their athletic abilities. JDA will provide resources and opportunities to encourage student-athletes to improve during this time. While it is understood that family and personal time take priority during the summer, the student-athlete is expected to take advantage of at least some opportunities to train and condition for the upcoming athletic season.

Communication with your child's coach

Direct communication between the coach and players is essential to a team's success. This is the best way for any questions or conflicts to be handled. At the beginning of each sports season, a meeting will take place between the coach, student-athletes, and parents of student-athletes at which time the following items will be explained:

1. The coach's philosophy
2. Goals and expectations for the team
3. Locations and times of all practices, contests and travel plans
4. Team requirements, special equipment, strength and conditioning programs
5. Procedures for addressing injuries occurring during participation
6. Team rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions
7. Lettering criteria
8. Team selection process

At any other time during the season, if a meeting is requested between a parent and a coach, the student-athlete must be present at the meeting as well. A meeting will not take place between a parent and a coach without the student-athlete present.

Guidelines to use when requesting a meeting with your Child's Coach

1. Please consider waiting 24 hours before placing a call or sending an email to request a meeting.
2. Do not attempt to confront a coach or request a meeting before or after games or practices. This is ***never*** an appropriate time.
3. If a coach cannot be reached, please call the Athletic Director or the President & Principal to help set up the meeting.

Per guidelines in the *Student-Parent Handbook*, the administrative chain of command will be followed. Please seek to address concerns **with a team coach** before taking concerns to the athletic director or the president & principal.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches

1. Concerns about your child's general welfare
2. Ways to help your child improve
3. Concerns about your child's behavior
- 4.

Things not appropriate for discussion and are left to the coach's discretion.

1. Playing time
2. Player positions
3. Team strategy
4. Play calling
5. Other student athletes

The President & Principal may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed, and has the final decision with regards to any policy. Changes will be made public in the weekly E-News, or other special e-mailing or web site posting.

The President & Principal has the authority to remove a student or cancel a season if student-athletes or parents are not adhering to guidelines stated in the JDA Athletic Handbook, Student-Parent Handbook, or TAPPS By-Laws.

"[I] consider sports as an instrument of education when it fosters high human and spiritual ideals; when it forms youth in an integral way in values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, solidarity and peace. Surmounting differences of cultures and ideologies, sports offers an ideal occasion for dialogue and understanding among peoples, for building the desired civilization of love. To put into practice these values, based on the dignity of the human person, in face of possible interests that might darken the nobility of sports itself." –Blessed Pope John Paul II (Sept. 16, 2002)

Student Name: _____

2016-2017 Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook Contract

We have received the 2016-2017 Juan Diego Academy *Student-Athlete/Parent Handbook* and have familiarized ourselves with its contents. We support and agree to abide by the policies contained therein.

I, the undersigned student, promise as a matter of personal honor and integrity to act at all times in accordance with the code of conduct outlined in this handbook. We understand that these policies are applicable for the 2016-2017 school year, unless otherwise notified of changes by the principal. Furthermore, we understand that the 2016-2017 Juan Diego Academy *Student-Parent Handbook* takes precedence over the Athletic Handbook at all times.

Print Student-Athlete's Name

Student-Athlete's Signature

Date

Print Parent/Legal Guardian's Name

Parents/Legal Guardian's Signature

Date