

Juan Diego Academy High School Athletic Handbook



2019-2020

Information and Directives

For

Parents and Athletes

Of

Juan Diego Academy High School



Accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference
Education Department and AdvancED.



Texas Catholic
Conference of Bishops

Dear Parents, Students, and Coaches,

“[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”.

- Pope John Paul II

Welcome to Juan Diego Academy! In choosing to attend Juan Diego Academy you have elected a Christ centered Catholic education and academic excellence. Many wonderful opportunities await you!

As a school community, we all must consider the appropriate role of athletics here at Juan Diego Academy. A core characteristic of Catholic Christianity and Catholic schools is the concept of relationship and community and the conviction that human kind is made for each other. Our prayer is stronger in community. Academic achievement is greater in a community with a similar mission and goals. Our athletic program adds another dimension to our school community. Pope John Paul II says “that as manifestations of the communal Body of Christ, athletics serve to unify all individuals, including coaches, student athletes, and families in a spirit of peace”.

This handbook outlines the philosophy and reflects the policies of the Juan Diego Academy Athletic Program for the 2019-2020 school year. Please read this document carefully, sign the attached agreement, and return it to school by 8/30/19. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of the Juan Diego Academy Athletic Program during the 2019-2020 school year.

Juan Diego Academy Athletics extends the work of Juan Diego Academy by offering another environment in which high human and spiritual ideals can be fostered to help children grow towards a deeper understanding of themselves and their roles in God’s great world. Thank you for doing your part to help positively affect and develop the lives of all children by building a peaceful environment within our school, our parish, and in our community.

Just as those who create a document such as this are a work in progress, so is this Athletic Handbook therefore; statements in this handbook are subject to amendment at the discretion of Juan Diego Academy. Juan Diego Academy will notify parents/guardians of significant changes when practical. Juan Diego Academy reserves the right to make immediate changes to this handbook at its discretion.

In Peace,

Juan Soliz
Athletic Coordinator

Juan Diego Academy Athletics

Mission Statement of Juan Diego Academy

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

Mission of Juan Diego Academy Athletics:

The Juan Diego Academy Athletic Program dedicates itself to the pursuit of excellence in athletics within the framework of a Catholic community and in accordance with its primary role as an educator and spiritual guide. The athletic program is committed to providing opportunities for each individual student athlete to reach his/her highest potential while developing the qualities and spirit of a Catholic Christian.

Philosophy:

“Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.”

Corinthians 9:24 -25

We recognize that the imperishable crown offered by Jesus Christ far exceeds any of the perishable crowns or trophies offered by this world. As a Catholic school, Juan Diego Academy up holds Christian values and principles. Though our athletic teams strive to win in the sense of having the best score, we recognize the real value of Catholic school athletics is realized only if it fosters the development of the human person both in spirit and in body by cultivating Christian character, strengthening personal integrity and responsibility, and promoting the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors.

Participation on a team is a **privilege**. With this privilege come responsibilities in the areas of preparation, attitude, sportsmanship, and academics. These responsibilities exist both in and out of school, both in athletic and non athletic settings. We recognize the need for God’s support and guidance in meeting these responsibilities.

Conference Affiliation:

Juan Diego Academy participates in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), a league comprised of area Catholic schools. In addition to playing non district and district games, Juan Diego teams often play other schools in the area. Thus, Juan Diego athletes play students from diverse backgrounds and skill levels.

Registration Information

Non discriminatory 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 or race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic programs.

Athletic Permission Form:

Juan Diego Academy students wishing to participate in a sport shall fill out a Juan Diego Academy Athletic Permission Form. This form is accessible at the end of this handbook and in the athletic office in the gym. Permission forms shall be completed and returned on or before the deadline set before the first try out / practice date. Any student who decides to participate on a team after the deadline shall see the Athletic Coordinator 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. Please indicate in the spaces provided at the top of the form, which sports the student may be interested in playing.

Fees

All sports offered at Juan Diego Academy have costs required for operation. Student athletes and their families are required to pay a \$150 per athlete per sport (Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, and Golf) fee to cover part of the operating costs, uniform cost, equipment cost, and tournament fees.

General Information

Levels of Competition:

Development of the skills fundamental to each sport receives primary emphasis on each athletic team offered at Juan Diego Academy. Each team experience, however, may be slightly different depending on the level at which the team is competing.

Levels

Varsity, at this level, athletes strive to prepare for a STATE CHAMPIONSHIP and for the collegiate level. Junior Varsity at this level serves as transitions from the developmental level to varsity level teams. Freshmen though each team at Juan Diego Academy emphasizes the development of fundamental skills. *Tryouts may occur at the discretion of the coach.* Playing time at the varsity level is up to the discretion of the head coach. On Junior Varsity, coaches shall attempt every effort to play every team member in each game. Freshmen level, coaches shall attempt to give everyone equal playing time.

Athletic Teams at Juan Diego Academy

Juan Diego Academy offers the following sports as recognized by TAPPS.

Season	Girls	Boys
Fall	Volleyball Cross Country	Soccer Cross Country

Winter	Basketball	Basketball
Spring	Track Golf	Track Golf

Transportation and Travel:

- When athletic events are being held at Juan Diego Academy, students shall be responsible for their own transportation.
- For athletic events outside of Mission, Tx. Juan Diego Academy shall provide transportation that all students are required to use.
- All athletes **SHALL** travel together on all away games if transportation is provided. You may travel back with a parent/guardian with **written permission** that has been approved by the Head Coach.
- **Exceptions to this policy will be handled on a case by case basis.**
- Responsibility for supervision on the school bus rests with the coach not the bus driver. Disciplinary consequences shall occur for inappropriate conduct on the Juan Diego Academy van, school bus, or other arranged transportation.

Notification of Tryouts:

Announcements of tryouts/sport sign up shall be announced a month prior to the beginning of each sport. Any student may sign up for any Juan Diego Academy sports team.

Multiple Sport

Students may not participate in multiple team sports at the same time. Students may however, participate in an individual sport (Volleyball, Cross Country, golf, track & field) and a team sport at the time if agreed upon by the coaches of both sports. Consistent, open communication between student, parent, and coaches is vital in these situations.

Dress Code and Grooming Requirements:

All students participating in sports are expected to strictly adhere to the dress code guidelines as stated in the current Student-Parent Handbook at all times.

Athletic Practice Times:

Beginning with the first day of classes, practice time for all athletic activities shall be limited to no more than 8 hours per week, including weekends. No practices or games are allowed on Sundays. No Practices may start earlier than 6:30 AM or end later than 7:00 PM.

The maximum length for any single practice session is two hours (excluding driving time for off-campus practices – soccer, track & field, etc..). Volleyball and boys soccer practices before the first day of school may not exceed three hours per day and 15 hours per week.

Communication Using Social Media

Coaches may choose to communicate to both students and parents using communication apps such as WhatsApp and Remind. All students and parents will be included in these message chains. Communication from coaches is oneway only through these apps. Students and Parents are to contact the coach through the athletic office or through professional e-mail. The policies and procedures in the Student-Parent Handbook are followed concerning all other technology and communications. Athletic office number is 956-583-2752 ext. 325 and email is jsoliz@juandiegoacademy.org.

Sportsmanship and Manners

All students are expected to represent Juan Diego Academy as “humble servants and noble saints,” in keeping with the high standards of our school. This conduct is expected in the classroom, on the athletic court or field, traveling to and from events, and socially (including on the internet and social media). Students, parents, and guests are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and guests. Good manners are the rule, not the exception. Anyone falling short of this expectation will be disciplined up to and including dismissal from events, suspension or dismissal from the team or group, and dismissal from Juan Diego Academy. Minor disciplinary actions such as excessive lateness to practices or games, receipt of a technical foul, use of inappropriate language will be referred to that athletic coordinator who will determine consequences. Other disciplinary actions are carried out in accordance with the Student-Parent Handbook. Parents will be notified of all disciplinary action by the Athletic Coordinator.

Expectations of Spectators and Guests

1. Spectators and guests at Juan Diego Academy events are expected to remember that they are attending to support their team or group. Only language and cheers that are positive and uplifting shall be used.
2. Spectators and guests shall respect the integrity and judgment of game officials/judges and appreciate their willingness to undertake their work. Officials and judges shall be treated with respect at all times. Decisions of these officials are to be accepted without quarrel or controversy.
3. Members of the Juan Diego Academy community shall at no time engage in inappropriate behavior such as:
 - The use of profanity
 - Fighting, Arguing
 - Attempts to intimidate ridicule and/or verbally abuse Juan Diego Academy faculty, staff, opposing teams, guests, officials, and members of the press or the general public.
4. Spectators at athletic events 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 and guests may result in removal from the contest facility and/or prohibition from attending future events. Juan Diego Academy is held responsible for the behavior of its spectators at all TAPPS events. The school is liable, therefore; may receive disciplinary action as a result of behavior on the part of any member of our school community that is in violation of TAPPS, or any other governing body’s standards and rules.

Substance Abuse

The use, possession, purchase or distribution of tobacco, vapes, alcohol, or other controlled substances (including performance enhancing drugs) of any form, either on or off campus, is strictly prohibited. Violations shall be handled as per policy outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook and may include suspension or removal of the student from the team or activity.

Gambling

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

Harassment

Juan Diego Academy is committed to maintaining an atmosphere that is free from violence, personal abuse, bullying, intimidation or any other form of harassment. The athletic department supports and abides by the Juan Diego Academy harassment policy as outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Hazing

Hazing and other acts of initiation of students before, during, or after athletic or extracurricular events are strictly forbidden. Before school activities and events, students shall 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 as outlined in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Student Expectations and Requirements

Students and parents shall 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 Juan Diego Academy.

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, in public, and while on social media. A student shall be considered eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at Juan Diego Academy if their most recent academic report reflects the student:

- Carries at least 6 credits;
- Has no failing grades during the current marking period (no grades below 70);
- Has no unsatisfactory conduct marks on their progress report and no discipline referrals 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 Principal.

Ineligible students may attend scheduled practices but shall 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, as stated in the Student-Parent Handbook.

A student shall be considered on probation shall his/her most recent academic report reflect any one or 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 shall also be considered on probation shall his/her behavior require:

1. Removal from a classroom
2. 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 are struggling either before school or after school. Juan Diego Academy faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and personal growth as young adults.

**The only exception to the two-week probationary period is the Incomplete. As soon as the student 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.*

Evaluating Probation Improvement

A student remains a full, participating member of a team/group 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 Juan Diego Academy Student-Parent Handbook and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Ineligibility

Should a student earn a grade under 70 or a mark below satisfactory conduct, he or she will be deemed ineligible. A student will also be considered ineligible for interscholastic activities at Juan Diego Academy should there be no improvement after the two-week probationary period (students may practice at the discretion of the coach). Ineligibility means that a student may not participate in interscholastic athletics at Juan Diego Academy 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 /group's roster.

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

Attendance

Students must be marked as present in school on the day of a practice, game, or event in order to participate. Please see the Student-Parent Handbook for what constitutes an absence, and consequences for excessive absences.

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, please make sure the coach and/or athletic coordinator has been notified in advance. Consequences for a missed practice or game will be informed by the team rules 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.

Quitting or Dropping a Sport

Students who make the choice to quit a team or group once the season or preparation period of the event has begun (season/preparation period defined as the first day of practices through the last team meeting day/day after the event) are prohibited from returning to that team/activity 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 and athletic coordinator to discuss the rationale for quitting and returning to the team;
2. The coach and athletic coordinator agrees to accept the student back on the team per circumstances involved;
3. The student apologizes to the coach(es) and, if deemed necessary/appropriate, to the team or group.

The returning student shall be suspended for a period of time/competition **at the discretion of the coach, in consultation with the athletic coordinator.**

Students quitting a team/group once the competitive or performance schedule has begun will not be allowed to return to that team/group during that season.

The Principal, athletic coordinator 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 shall not return to that team for the remainder of that sports 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.**

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, students 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. Juan Diego Academy 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 Coaches

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

1. The coach philosophy
2. Goals and expectations for the team
3. Locations and times of all practices, contest and travel plans
4. Requirements, special equipment, preparation programs
5. Procedures for addressing injuries and accidents occurring during participation
6. Rules, guidelines and consequences for infractions
7. Criteria for earning a Letterman Jacket

At any other time during the season, if a meeting is requested between a parent, student, and the coach, the student must be present at the meeting. A meeting shall not take place between a parent and a coach without the student 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.
3. If a coach cannot be reached, please call the Athletic Coordinator to help set up the meeting.

Guidelines in the Student-Parent Handbook shall be strictly adhered to regarding the handling of conflicts between parents and members of the faculty/staff of Juan Diego Academy. Please seek to address concerns **with a team coach** before taking concerns to the athletic coordinator.

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

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

1. Playing time
2. Playing positions or role of the child in the group

3. Team strategy
4. Play calling
5. Other students

Changes or amendments to this handbook

As stated earlier, this handbook is a work in progress therefore; the Athletic Coordinator may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed, and has the final decision with regards to any policy. Changes shall be made public in the weekly E-news, or other special e-mailing or web site posting.

The Principal has the authority to remove a student or cancel a season if students or parents are not adhering to guidelines stated in the Juan Diego Academy Athletic Handbook, Student-Parent Handbook, or TAPPS By-Laws.

**Athletic Registration Form
2019-2020**

Name of Athlete _____

Grade: _____

Sports: Basketball _____ Soccer _____ Volleyball _____ Cross Country _____

Track & Field _____ Golf _____

Insurance

The following information must be completed and signed by the appropriate parent or guardian and turned in to the Athletic Coordinator before participation in student athletic activities will be allowed. If the following information is not complete, this form will be returned to you.

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell/Emergency Phone Number: _____

Email _____

All students participating in student athletic activities at Juan Diego Academy must have their own medical coverage. Students will not be allowed to participate in student athletic activities unless the following information is submitted and the form is signed by the parent or the guardian of the student.

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Holder: _____

Policy and Group Number: _____

Address or phone number of insurance company:

Signature of Parent or Guardian:

Student Name: _____

Athletic Handbook Acknowledge Form

We have received the Juan Diego Academy Athletic 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 current school year, unless otherwise notified of changes by the principal. Furthermore, we understand that the policies and procedures in the current Juan Diego Academy Student-Parent Handbook take precedence over this handbook at all times.

Student's Name (Print)

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's/Legal Guardian's Name (Print)

Parent's /Legal Guardian's Signature

Date