

2012-13
BLESSED TRINITY
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
POLICY HANDBOOK

September, 2012

I. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this handbook is to document and communicate the policies, procedures, and philosophies of the Blessed Trinity Athletic Association (BTAA).

BTAA exists to provide students with opportunities to participate in organized sports as representatives of Blessed Trinity Catholic School (Blessed Trinity), and its goals are to:

- Encourage the mental, emotional, and physical development of each student-athlete
- Provide an atmosphere that is enjoyable for each participant
- Teach student-athletes an understanding of each sports activity as to rules, strategies, and skills needed for proficiency
- Foster respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, spectators, rules, playing facilities, and equipment

II. MEMBERSHIP

- Any parent, or guardian, of any Blessed Trinity student, or any parent, or guardian, of a non-student participant (see eligibility below) is a member of BTAA.

III. ELIGIBILITY

- Any registered and attending student of Blessed Trinity Catholic School shall be allowed full participation in all sports activities, provided he or she meets the age or grade requirements for said activity and is eligible for participation in extra curricular activities according to the school handbook.
- Any non-student whose family is duly registered in any of the participating parishes of Blessed Trinity shall be allowed full participation in all sports activities, provided he or she meets the age and-or grade requirements for said activity and is eligible for participation in extra curricular activities according to the Blessed Trinity school handbook.
- Any non-student whose family has been invited to participate in a sport by special invitation of the Athletic Director(s) (AD) shall be allowed participation in only the activities of that sport, provided he or she meets the age and-or grade requirements for said activity and is eligible for participation in extra curricular activities according to the Blessed Trinity school handbook. Such an

invitation may not conflict with the policies of the league(s) in which Blessed Trinity is participating for that particular sport. Eligibility coincides with the season of the particular sport.

- No student shall be eligible for any sports activity without submitting a registration form signed by a parent, or guardian.
- Eligibility may be denied any student who does not meet the registration deadline for a sports activity at Blessed Trinity.
- Student athletes shall be suspended from practices and competitions for conduct below a standard expected by BTAA, including:
 - Behavior deemed detrimental to his or her team and to Blessed Trinity, or deemed not in keeping with accepted community standards, and will be in effect until lifted by the team coach, in consultation with the AD.

IV. FINANCES

- Payment of dues is not required for membership.
- BTAA may assess player fees for sports activities and bar participation for anyone failing to pay by a prescribed deadline.
- No participant shall be barred from an activity because of an inability to pay all, or part, of a fee, provided it is communicated to the AD prior to the prescribed deadline.

V. GOVERNANCE

- BTAA is governed by a Board of Directors (the Board) and administered by the AD of Blessed Trinity.
- The Principal, or designated Associate Principal, has certain preemptory powers over BTAA and the AD in the best interests of the School and its students.
- The Blessed Trinity School Board has mediation powers regarding authority disputes among BTAA, the AD, and the Principal.
- Ultimate authority over BTAA rests with the Canonical Administrator appointed by the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.
- BTAA shall meet as a Board monthly at a regularly scheduled time and date, or more frequently when matters come before it. Announcement of meetings as to time, date, and place shall be published to all school families at least seven days in advance.
- Any interested person may attend Board meetings, and anyone wishing to address the Board shall notify the AD, or BTAA President, at least three days prior to a scheduled meeting. Such person shall be limited to five minutes of

speaking time. Board members shall listen to the speaker and may ask follow-up questions, but shall not be required to comment, or deliberate, at that time.

VI. VOLUNTEERS

- All members are invited by the Board to volunteer their time to support BTAA activities and are encouraged to undergo a background check, attend Virtus (or equivalent) training, and pledge to the archdiocese's Volunteer Code of Conduct.
 - Failure to complete all three items will limit a member's options for volunteering.
- Members are expected to volunteer, as they are able, to support contests hosted by BTAA in which their families participate.
 - Such support may include, but is not limited to, helping to set up and clean up before and after games, working as a minor game official (scorer, clock operator, side judge, chain gang, etc.), and attending to concessions.
- All coaches and site managers are required to have completed a background check, Virtus (or equivalent) training, the archdiocese's Volunteer Code of Conduct pledge, and the CDC's "Heads Up! Concussion Training in Youth Sports" training.

VII. SPORTS OFFERINGS

- The Board, in consultation with the AD, determines which sports activities to offer students and at which grade levels.
- BTAA has the right to not field a team in any sport at any grade level if the number of interested players is not sufficient to warrant a competitive entry, as deemed by the Board.

VIII. UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT

- BTAA shall provide each player with a uniform consisting of at least a matching jersey, or shirt. Providing other uniform parts such as shorts, pants, socks and hats is optional and may be required to be provided by the player. Footwear, gloves, and similar personal items are the sole responsibility of each player.
 - Uniforms shall be whenever possible in the official school colors of hunter green and gold, as adopted in 1994 by the School Board.
 - Uniforms shall display the official sports logo, as adopted in 1994 by the School Board as the name "Blessed Trinity" and the stylized word "Tigers," or the alternate "paw logo."

- All, or part, of the uniforms issued by BTAA may not be altered in appearance, or replaced altogether, without permission of the AD.
- Players shall, unless instructed otherwise, turn in their uniforms at the completion of the season.
 - Failure to return a uniform will result in a player's receiving an invoice for the uniform, which until resolved, will mean ineligibility of said player for further sports participation.
- The Association shall provide each team with the equipment necessary to play the sport, such as balls, bats, batting helmets, bases, goals, markers, and nets.

IX. ATHLETIC FACILITIES

- BTAA shall secure regular practice facilities for each team representing Blessed Trinity.
- BTAA shall secure a facility to be considered a home game site for each team representing Blessed Trinity.

X. PLAYER SELECTIONS

- BTAA shall provide an opportunity for every student who wants to play an offered sports activity, regardless of ability.
- When there are a sufficient number of players to warrant more than one team in a particular division of a sport, the AD shall divide the players into teams as equally as possible, based on (past) observations of players' abilities. This shall apply only to the 6th-grade level and below.
- At the 7th and 8th grade levels, taking into account registrations from each grade, players may be divided into teams of greater and lesser abilities based on evaluations observed by the AD, appropriate team coaches, or others invited by the AD. BTAA shall publish the announcement of such evaluations in writing at least seven days in advance.
- The AD has discretion over whether a player at a younger grade level may join, or be considered, for a team in an older division.
- The AD has discretion over whether a female player is allowed to become a member of a male team.

XI. COACHING

- The AD has the power to appoint, hire, discipline and terminate head coaches of Blessed Trinity teams.

- Whenever possible, the AD shall secure volunteer coaches. But if none is available, stipends may be paid to secure the services of a coach.
 - The AD will confirm compliance for eligibility of youth sports coaches with all archdiocesan policies and state and local laws before a coach is appointed, or hired.
- Head coaches may name assistant coaches for their teams, with confirmation by the AD.
- Head coaches may establish team rules, set practice schedules, specify reporting times for competitions, assign playing time, and discipline players.
 - Coaches shall make an effort to give all players substantial playing time. However, at the 7th and 8th-grade level, an effort shall be made to utilize talent so as to make the team as competitive as possible.
 - All players who are eligible to participate in a contest are expected to receive playing time in that contest.
- Head coaches are responsible for facilities secured in the name of Blessed Trinity while in use for practices and competitions.
- Head coaches are responsible for their players until practices and competitions are concluded and the players have transportation home.
- BTAA shall conduct written evaluation surveys of head coaches by parents of players within 14 days of a season's conclusion. Survey results shall be used as an aid in the selection of coaches for future seasons.

XII. COMPETITION

- BTAA coaches shall have their teams ready to compete at the time scheduled for a game, match, or meet.
 - No team representing Blessed Trinity shall be required to compete without being accorded at least 5 minutes warm up time on the playing surface.
 - No team representing Blessed Trinity shall be required to accept a change in a start time for a regularly scheduled competition without at least 48 hours' notice before the original start time.
- A BTAA coach may withdraw a team from a game, regardless of the competitive consequences, if he or she deems that playing conditions are dangerous or hostile.
 - No team representing Blessed Trinity shall be required to commence or continue to play in which the physical environment could reasonably be expected to result in injury due to lightning, defective equipment, wet

- floors or obstructions, but not including mud-, snow- or ice-covered fields.
- No team representing Blessed Trinity shall be required to commence or continue in a competition in which the fan environment is verbally abusive, physically intimidating, or violent.

XIII. LIABILITY

- Parents and guardians shall be responsible for obtaining medical and accident insurance to cover any participants in sports activities. BTAA shall not carry insurance for playing injuries.

XIV. CONDUCT

- All members are expected always to represent Blessed Trinity and BTAA in a positive manner.
- Failure to deal with other persons in the athletic program in a respectful, rational and Christian-like manner shall result in the expulsion of an offending person from all premises utilized by the program for a period to be determined by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - The child, or ward, of a person who fails to abide by an expulsion order shall be barred from participation in the Blessed Trinity athletic program.

XV. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- If a player, parent, or coach has a grievance with another person associated with the athletic program, the first attempt at resolution shall be to talk with the offending person.
- If the aggrieved person is still not satisfied, the next step shall be to ask the AD to resolve the matter.
- In the event there is still no resolution, the President of the Association shall be consulted.
- In the event there is still no resolution, a meeting of the aggrieved person, the offending person, the coach (if requested), AD, President and School Administrator shall be called to consider the matter and reach a consensus.
- In the event there is still no resolution, the Conciliation Procedures in the Blessed Trinity Parent/Student Handbook shall be followed.