

# ATHLETIC HANDBOOK



# **St. Gerard Catholic High School**

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San Antonio, Texas 78203  
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[www.stgerardsa.org](http://www.stgerardsa.org)**

**Peter Rivera, Principal**

**MASCOT  
Royals  
Lady Royals**

**SCHOOL COLORS  
Royal Blue & White**

## **Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS)**

### **Boys Classification**

Football: Division 4 District 3  
Boys Basketball: 2A District 6  
Baseball: 1A/2A District 4

### **Boys Sports**

Varsity Football  
Varsity Basketball/ JV Basketball  
Varsity Baseball  
Varsity Track & Field: 2A District 3

### **Individual Sports**

Boys Tennis  
Girls Tennis

### **Girls Classification**

Volleyball 2A District 6  
Girls Basketball: 2A District 6  
Softball: 1A/2A District 3

### **Girls Sports**

Varsity Volleyball/JV Volleyball  
Varsity Basketball/JV Basketball  
Varsity Softball  
Varsity Track & Field: 2A District 3

### **Auxiliary Sports**

Cheerleading  
Dance Team

Information in this handbook is designed to inform the student-athlete and their parents/guardians of the basic rules, regulations, and policies concerning the St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Program. In addition, the information in this handbook is provided for the safety of our student-athletes and is developed with the best interest of our student-athletes. The rules, regulations, and policies are designed to protect and uphold the integrity of St. Gerard Catholic High School and the St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Programs.

All student-athletes at St. Gerard Catholic High School will adhere to all information outlined in this handbook. Failure to comply with the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in this handbook will result in a suspension and/or expulsion of participation in any one and/or all of St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Programs.

Participation in St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Programs is a privilege. The Principal reserves the right to deny and/or limit participation of a student-athlete in any of our athletic programs for one or more violations of school and athletic rules, regulations, and policies.

The St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Department is committed to upholding and practicing the established Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) and district rules, regulations, and policies governing athletics.

#### **Goals of the St. Gerard Royal Athletic Program**

1. To foster academic and athletic achievement in our students-athletes by emphasizing the importance of sacrifice, self-discipline, and dedication to achieving goals.
2. To develop the desire in our student-athletes to continually improve through practice and the development of a strong work ethic.
3. To provide our student-athletes the opportunity to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect for others as a means of learning good citizenship.
4. To develop in our student-athletes a respect for rules, property, and authority.
5. To provide our student-athletes the opportunity to work as team members in order to achieve shared goals while learning the importance of cooperation and teamwork.
6. To provide our student-athletes the opportunity to pursue lifelong physical fitness, conditioning, and better health habits.
7. To develop in our student-athletes a sense of team loyalty and school spirit.
8. To encourage our student-athletes to achieve academic success while keeping athleticism in proper perspective.
9. To exhibit Christ-like character in actions, thoughts, and words.

#### **Substance Abuse**

The St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletics Department has established zero tolerance substance abuse policy. Student-athletes found to be in violation of this policy will face definite expulsion from St. Gerard Catholic High School and the Athletic Program. Documentation of all prescription drugs for approved medical conditions must be provided to the Athletic Department prior to participation in our athletic programs.

### **Departure from an Athletic Activity**

The St. Gerard High School Athletic Department recognizes three types of departure from an athletic program. Please note no athletic fee refunds will be given for any departure:

1. Leaving - Season ending injury, poor health status, family emergency or academic performance all may lead to permissible departure from the team only after being discussed between parents, the head coach, and principal.
2. Quitting - Regardless of reason, any student-athlete quitting an athletic program after he/she has started the athletic program will not be eligible to participate in the next athletic sport of his/her choice. The only exception to this rule is if the student-athlete and head coach have clearly communicated up front that a quit might be in play.
3. Dismissal - Regardless of reason, any student-athlete who is dismissed from an athletic program for conduct, rules infractions or disciplinary reasons will not be eligible to participate in any athletic programs.

### **Student-Athlete Ejections**

If a student-athlete is ejected from an athletic event the following disciplinary action will be imposed:

#### **First Offense**

The student-athlete will be fined by TAPPS and suspended for seven days from game play.

#### **Second Offense**

The student-athlete will be fined and dismissed from the athletic program for a period not to exceed 12 months.

### **Parent/Guardian Ejections**

If a parent/guardian is ejected from an athletic event the following disciplinary action will be imposed:

#### **First Offense**

The parent/guardian will be removed from the premises by the on-site law enforcement officer or game administrator and will be suspended from participating for a period of seven days to include any events during that time-frame.

#### **Second Offense**

Parent/guardian will be banned from all athletic events for a period not to exceed 12 months.

### **Attendance**

St. Gerard Catholic High School student athletes must be in attendance a minimum one-half day to participate in their athletic activity

### **Conflict Resolution**

1. General issues involving athletics should be directed to the student athlete's coach in order to solve the problem.
2. If the parent/guardian remains unsatisfied, a meeting with the school principal and coach(s). All meetings with coaches and the principal that involve parents/guardians will be scheduled by appointment only through the school office.

Student-athletes and parents/guardians should note that playing time and other student-athletes will not be discussed in these meetings.

### **Appeal Procedure**

The appeal must state specifically why the decision should not be implemented. The principal shall render a decision within five days. The decision of the principal is final. If the principal made the original decision, that decision will be final.

### **Attendance**

Practices are not optional unless indicated as being so in rare situations by the coach. In the event that a student-athlete must miss a practice, please make every effort to contact the coach.

### **TAPPS Athletic Contests Prohibited Activities**

1. Live animal mascots, cannons, firearms, fireworks, bull horns, noisemakers, etc. are prohibited at TAPPS athletic contests. No dogs, except service animals, are allowed at TAPPS contests.
2. Noisemakers are prohibited at TAPPS events held in field houses / gyms.
3. In events held in field houses / gyms, megaphones may be used only by cheerleaders in uniform. Megaphones must not be used to strike walls, bleachers, or playing surfaces.
4. Bands, when permitted, shall play only during time-outs and intermissions. Individual instruments may not be used as noisemakers.
5. No sound systems, other than the one(s) provided by the host school are allowed at TAPPS secured sites or at neutral sites unless mutually agreed.
6. Body paint and like decoration shall not be permitted by players or spectators. (Exception: Small markings as sold by cheer or other school organizations on the cheek are permitted)

This rule applies to all games held at neutral sites. If a TAPPS school is not going to permit this activity at their facility, the opponent should be notified in advance of the contest.

Except in their normal course of business, emergency vehicles shall not flash lights or sound sirens during the course of a game.

### **Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians**

Athletic competition of interscholastic student-athletes should be fun and should also be a significant part of a sound educational program. Everyone involved in athletic programs has a duty to assure that their programs impart important life skills and promote the development of good character. Essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of athletics is achieved when all involved consciously teach, enforce, advocate, and model these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Parents/guardians of student-athletes can and should play an important role and their good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this code can dramatically improve the quality of a student-athlete's athletic experience.

STUDENT-ATHLETE & PARENT/GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE PAGE

I have received the St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Handbook, and I have read and understand all rules, regulations, and policies contained in this handbook, and understand that my son/daughter must follow all contents of this handbook in order to participate in any and all St. Gerard Catholic High School Athletic Programs.

I also have read and understand rules, regulations, and policies as they pertain to parents/guardians.

Student-Athlete Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student-Athlete Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The principal can amend this handbook and its policies.