



## **Notre Dame Athletic Program Mission Statement**

The Notre Dame Athletic Program is an integral part of the overall educational focus of the school. The Notre Dame Athletic Program seeks to achieve excellence by providing a program designed to promote good fundamental training, continuing athletic interest and a competitive spirit while practicing Christian values and good sportsmanship. Notre Dame Catholic School is committed to the highest quality athletic program possible.

### **Notre Dame Athletic Programs**

The Notre Dame Athletic Program is open to students as follows:

Soccer (co-ed)	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Girls Volleyball	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Basketball	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Track	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Golf	Grades 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Baseball/Softball	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
Tennis	Grades 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>

### **The Coach's Code**

Notre Dame has great expectations of its coaches. In order to maintain our standards and ensure excellence in training our students, this coach's code has been developed as a guide. Coaches are required to follow the policies and procedures of the AIAL (Archdiocese Interscholastic Athletic League) and the Notre Dame Coaches Code.

#### **A. Participation**

At the "B" team level coaches should play their athletes in at least 25% of the game. It is recognized that team size may impact this. Coaches should remember that "B" team is focused on participation and development.

At the "A" team level, our emphasis is still on participation and development however the AIAL has records standings, playoffs, and championships. Therefore, there will be more of an emphasis on competition.

## **B. Requirements**

All coaches are required to have a criminal background check that complies with Diocesan requirements before they begin any practice. They are also required to take on line courses in safety, hydration, concussions and game administration.

## **C. Personal Behavior**

A coach is required to set a good Christian example at all times. The coach should lead the team in prayer before games and practices. Coaches are to refrain from protesting the calls of the officials to the point that the team and the school are shown in poor light. Coaches are to follow all rules outlined in the faculty handbook. They are to exhibit and encourage sportsmanship among other coaches and athletes.

a. **Facilities:** The Coach is responsible for school areas used during the time of practice. **The coach is to ensure that no unauthorized persons enter the gym during practice.** If his team is the last of the night, they are responsible for locking all doors, turning out all lights and putting all equipment away.

b. **Participants:** The coach is to remain on the premises following practices and games to ensure that parents or family member have met participants. Until students are picked up by their parents, students are to be visually supervised by the coaches. Coaches should adhere to the practice schedule and give at least one full day notice to the Athletic Director of any expected changes.

## **Division of Teams**

**“B” team-** Students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> are typically on the “B” team where the focus will be development and participation. Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade may also participate on the “B” team if we are limited on the number of students

**“A” team-**Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to participate on the “A” team. Students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade are not eligible for the “A” team without the Athletic Directors and the AIAL commissioner’s permission.

## **Rules for Athletics**

- **Physicals:** All athletes are required to have a physical examination on a yearly basis. The AIAL has their own physical form to be filled out by parents and a doctor. These forms will be sent out at the beginning of the year and are available at the Athletic Director’s Office.
- **Fees:** The fees for athletic participation are detailed below and are to be paid to Notre Dame for each sport played. Both the fee and physical should be turned in before practice begins. Fees are payable to Notre Dame Catholic School and are to be turned in directly to the school accountant.

Sport	Fee
Soccer, Basketball	\$75.00
Volleyball, Tennis, Baseball/Softball	\$55.00
Golf, Track,	\$25.00

**Eligibility:** NDCS has chosen to strengthen our extra-curricular program which includes athletics by following a **No pass, no play** rule. This rule stipulates that students who participate in extracurricular activities must achieve a passing grade (70% or higher) each 9 weeks (report card) in order to qualify to continue participating in extracurricular activities. If a student receives at least one failing grade on his/her report card during a given 9 weeks (report card grades, not progress report) the student becomes ineligible to participate until the failing grade or grades have been improved to passing levels (progress report). In addition, a student who consistently displays disrespectful behavior in classroom, on campus or at any school related function after being reminded of the discipline plan is subject to suspension from the team or is removed from the team for a period of time to be determined. This policy may be changed by the Pastor/Principal at any time with notice given to parents in writing.

**Attendance:** Students must be in attendance at school in order to participate on game day. (See school handbook)

The Athletic Director of the school is responsible for verifying eligibility by review of report cards and progress reports, communicating with faculty, informing coaches, players and/or parents.

### **Rules of Conduct for Athletes**

Students are representatives of Notre Dame when they participate or attend any school sport. **It is a privilege to be in athletics, not a right.** Athletes are to conduct themselves at all times, during practice, games, and before and after games in a Christian manner. Athletes are expected to sit in the stands and support teammates or work on school assignments. Violations will lead to play time penalties and/or withdrawal from the team, depending on the severity. Disciplinary problems should be referred to the Athletic Director. (See Attached Code of Conduct)

### **Responsibility of Notre Dame Spectators**

- Demonstrate sportsmanship at all times.
- Censure fellow spectators whose behavior is unbecoming.
- Do not applaud errors by opponents or penalties assessed against them.
- Do not heckle, jeer, stomp feet, or distract the opposing players.
- Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach. Refrain from being a second guesser and criticizing players and coaches.

- Avoid profane language and rude behavior, which are contrary to the values of Christian behavior and good sportsmanship.
- Respect the game officials at all times. Only the coach should talk to the officials about a call.
- Never be rude or disrespectful to spectators from the other school.
- Be a good example for your children.

Spectators with severe violations or repeated minor violations will be prohibited from attending Notre Dame Games the remainder of that sports season.

### **Traveling to out of town games**

Student athletes are required to ride with the team on the bus to all out of town games. During games, students are the responsibility of the coach. Once the game is over and a parent wishes to take their child, the parent or guardian must sign out the child with the responsible coach.

***A handwritten note must be provided in advance to the coach if parents are transporting their child from the game.***

***If you are transporting someone else child, you must complete a transportation waiver liability form in addition to the hand written note.***

It is suggested that you send a snack and some spending money for your child. If time permits, the team may stop and eat before returning back to Kerrville. Athletes will call parents when the bus pulls in to Comfort, to allow parents enough time to get to the gym parking lot. Please arrive promptly to pick up your child on away games. Many times it is late in the evening when we return, and the child needs to be picked up ASAP to get home and get rest for the next day.

*Cell phones ARE NOT to be used on the bus. They are to be off and away unless approved by the coach for contacting parents. For homework purposes, a note must be provided by the teacher.*

### **Uniforms**

Students are issued uniforms for each sport and are expected to take proper care of them. Uniforms are returned at the end of each sports season. Students have 3 days from the last game to return uniforms. If the uniform is not returned or returned unusable a fee of \$50.00 will be assessed. **Uniforms must be returned washed and folded.**

In cases where uniforms need to be special ordered, instructions will be given on purchase location. The student-athlete is responsible for all charges including shipping if items are to be special ordered

### **Letter Jackets/Award Patches**

Letter Jackets are eligible for those who participate in any sports. To qualify for a Letter Jacket and/or award patch the student athlete must complete the following

Student-athlete must remain academically eligible for the entire season

Student-athlete must participate in all scheduled athletic performances

Student-athlete must follow the code of conduct, with proper participation in practice and games.

Note: Teams that earn League Championships automatically qualify for each participant on that team to earn letter/award status. Prepaid jackets will be ordered by the school.

### **Club Sports**

A club sport's program is an activity not affiliated with Notre Dame Catholic School.

We feel that our athletes' obligations are to their school team first.

### **How to Express Concerns**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about a coach or situation, please contact the coach 24 hours *AFTER* the event. After a parent has spoken with the coach and the issue is unresolved, they may contact the Athletic Director. Principal should be informed of serious offenses by players, coaches or parents.



## Code of Conduct

As an athlete representing Notre Dame Catholic School, I agree to the following Code:

1. I will treat my teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, spectators, and all others involved in our athletic events with respect at all times.
2. I will give my best effort and full attention to my coach and do my best to follow their instructions.
3. I will attend all practices and games as detailed on my schedule.
4. I will encourage and help my teammates.
5. I will work to personally improve each day and have fun in the process.

Consequences for Violations of the Code of Conduct:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- warning and possible loss of play time
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- loss of playtime in practice or game
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- potential dismissal from the team

I understand that the Athletic Handbook is on the school website at [www.notredameschool.cc](http://www.notredameschool.cc) under the Athletics tab.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Our signatures serve to confirm that we have reviewed the Notre Dame Athletic Program Handbook and agree to support the Notre Dame Athletic Program and coaches in their efforts to implement these policies and procedures.

(Revised: 8/25/2018)