



# Homeschool Participation Manual

*Values. Distinction. Opportunity.*

*The mission of Trinity Christian Academy is to glorify God  
by providing students a Christ-centered, Bible-based education,  
by influencing them for salvation,  
by instructing them in values for Godly living, and  
by providing a program of academic and extra-curricular excellence.*

***Accredited by:***

*FACCS - Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools  
SACS CASI - Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Council on Accreditation and School Improvement  
MSA CESS- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools*

***Affiliate Accreditation:***

*NCPSA - National Council for Private School Accreditation*

***Affiliated With:***

*FAANS – Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools*

Revised June 2018

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
Philosophy of Athletics .....	3
Purpose.....	3
FHSAA Compliance.....	3
FHSAA Requirements for Participation of Home Education Students.....	3
Other FHSAA Eligibility Requirements .....	4
Limit of Eligibility.....	4
Age.....	4
TCA Requirements for Participation of Home Education Students.....	4
Code of Conduct.....	5
Behavior and Dress.....	5
Eligibility.....	6
Financial Responsibilities.....	6
Team Ratios .....	6

## Philosophy of Athletics

We are a Christian school, therefore, our philosophy in the athletic program is to give an athlete the opportunity to receive Christ as personal Savior (John 3:16, John 6:47). We want to encourage the development of wholesome Christian attitudes and principles. We believe through athletics, we can build a foundation of good character qualities not taught in the classroom (ITim. 3:10-15). We want each athlete to be a good testimony to others on and off the playing field or court (I Tim. 4:12). We want to strive for good sportsmanship and integrity in our athletes, and an awareness of the impact of his or her influence on the behavior of others (Heb. 12:1). We pray at the end of the athlete's participation, he or she can say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course). I have kept the Faith." (II Tim 4:7)

## Purpose

Trinity Christian Academy supports the school choice rights of parents. Part of that support is demonstrated through allowing home education students to participate in athletics at Trinity. School choice is a right, but participation in athletics at Trinity Christian Academy is a privilege. This privilege carries with it certain responsibilities and obligations. Part of the responsibilities is mandated by the Florida High School Athletic Association (hereto known as FHSAA) and others by Trinity Christian Academy (TCA). The purpose of this manual is to communicate these responsibilities and obligation.

## FHSAA Compliance

As a member of the FHSAA, Trinity Christian Academy is in compliance with the FHSAA bylaws as they pertain to student athletic eligibility:

*A middle/junior high student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each semester. A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester. (s.1006.15(3)(a)1, Florida Statutes) , (FHSAA Handbook)*

## FHSAA Requirements for Participation of Home Education Students

**9.2.2.1.1 Home Education Student Requirements.** To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, Florida Statutes)

- (a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides; and
- (b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wants to participate; and
- (c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students;

And

- (d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and
- (e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
- (f) must be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.  
**(FHSAA Handbook)**

## **Other FHSAA Eligibility Requirements**

There are other eligibility requirements that the FHSAA requires out of student/athletes that also applies to home education students:

### **9.5 LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY**

**9.5.1 High School Student Has Four Years of Eligibility.** *A student has four consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date he/she begins ninth grade for the first time. This does not imply that the student has four years of participation. A student becomes permanently ineligible four consecutive calendar years from the date he/she begins ninth grade for the first time.*

**9.5.2 Middle School Student Has 1-Year Limit of Eligibility in Each Grade.** *A middle/junior high school student may participate only one year in each grade level of middle school or junior high. A middle school or junior high student who repeats a grade will not be eligible during the grade being repeated.*  
**(FHSAA Handbook)**

### **9.6 AGE**

**9.6.1 High School the Age Limit of 19.** *A student who reaches the age of 19 on or after September 1st, and who has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility, may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.*

**9.6.2 Junior High School Age Limit of 16.** *A junior high school student who reaches the age of 16 on or after September 1st may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.*

**9.6.2.1 When Junior High Age Limit Applies.** *The 16 year junior high school age limit applies to a participating student only when:*

- (a) *Teams representing junior high schools compete against each other; or*
- (b) *Teams representing the junior high school departments of combination junior-senior high schools compete against each other.*

**9.6.3 Middle School Age Limit of 15.** *A middle school student who reaches the age of 15 on or after September 1st may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.*

**9.6.3.1 When Middle School Age Limit Applies.** *The 15 year middle school*  
**(FHSAA Handbook)**

## **TCA Requirements for Participation of Home Education Students**

To be eligible to participate for TCA as a home education student, all home education athletes must apply and submit all forms required by the FHSAA including the EL2, EL3, EL7 and EL9 must be properly completed and on file in the athletic office two weeks prior to the first day of the FHSAA mandated, start date for the sport. In addition, the following criteria must be met:

## Code of Conduct

To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, Florida Statutes) . . . . meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; FHSAA Bylaw, 9.2.2.1.1(c)

**Standard of acceptance:** FHSAA Bylaws require home education athletes meet the same standards of acceptance required of enrolled students. To meet this requirement, home education athletes entering the Trinity program for the first time, will submit with their transcripts, a copy of standardized testing with scores equivalent to the minimum scores needed to enroll. If the home education athlete is unable to supply test scores, they will be permitted to take the TCA entrance testing.

**Dress and hair standards:** The guiding principle for dress standards for both male and female athletes is to be one of modesty. The administration in conjunction with the athletic directors will communicate the standards as they apply to athletic teams.

The hair code for young men is; Hair length should not extend below the collar or cover the ears and/or eyes. Hair must not be bushy, shaggy. Extreme or faddish haircuts, even within these limits, are not permitted. Hair should be neatly combed.

**Behavioral standards:** Conduct which brings discredit to the student, his/her family, the reputation and stature of the school and its community, or the Lord Jesus Christ will result in disciplinary action including dismissal from the team.

All athletes are expected to: (including but not limited to)

- Show respect to coaches, school personnel and their peers.
- Show respect to school, personal and private property.
- Avoid behaviors of bullying and harassment.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship.
- Avoid profanity and racial slurs.

**Zero drug tolerance:** The Upper Division along with Trinity Christian Academy has a “Zero Drug Tolerance program in place for the protection of our students and preservation of school atmosphere. Drug use or possession on or off campus is a serious offense and requires immediate removal from the program.

**Immoral acts:** Immoral acts, on or off campus, are in clear opposition to Trinity Christian Academy’s Statement of Faith and its’ Philosophy of Christian Education. Immoral acts include but are not limited to; sexual activity (both heterosexual and homosexual), “sexting” (sending or forwarding sexually explicit/pornographic images by cell phone or other electronic/digital formats), and sexual harassment. Immoral acts are serious offenses and require immediate removal from the program.

Participation on a TCA team is a privilege and not a right. These privileges can be revoked based on what is deemed to be excessively uncooperative attitude by a parent/guardian or the student.

## **Eligibility**

Although home school students may start and finish classes at their own pace, for the purpose of obtaining eligibility classes should be scheduled to be complete by the end of TCA's semesters. Eligibility is checked each semester (see FHSAA Compliance). GPA calculations are based on semester complete grades. Home education students who are taking classes through Florida Virtual School must submit a printout demonstrating semester completed grades. **Any incomplete grades must be figured as "F's"**.

To achieve comparable GPA calculations, home school students are to maintain a minimum of five class attempts each semester. **Note: Five high school credits a year is for eligibility purposes only and will not meet the twenty-four credits required in Florida for a high school diploma.**

## **Financial Responsibilities**

There is a home education participation fee per sport. These fees help to cover administration of home education forms, transportation, uniforms and basic equipment cost. **In order to be declared eligible, the fees must be paid in full to the business office one week prior to the first game, match, or meet.**

Some sports use supplemental supplies such as uniform footwear and practice apparel requiring an additional cost. It is the coach's responsibility to communicate the existence of these additional costs to the families.

## **Team Ratios**

Teams are allowed a one to ten ratio for participation of home education students. For every ten TCA students on a team, the team is allowed one home education student. The ratio is applied per team not per sport. Teams without cuts are not subject to the ratio.

*Participation privileges can be revoked based on what is deemed to be excessively uncooperative attitude by a parent/guardian or the student.*