

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



**STUDENT ATHLETE HANDBOOK
and
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT
2019 - 2020**



STEPPING STONES FOR THE FUTURE

PAWPRINTS OF EXCELLENCE

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT

“Vandebilt Catholic High School Athletics is strongly committed to supporting the mission statement of the school.

While striving for victory is a natural part of athletic competition, we believe that winning is a by-product of doing the little things right first. Our ultimate goal is to develop a strong foundation of life skills rooted in faith that will lead our student-athletes to a lifetime of success. As the value of our Athletic Department is not measured on the number of championships, but where our student-athletes will be twenty years from now.”

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC’S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Vandebilt Catholic High School is to offer a holistic education rooted in religious values, structured through friendly discipline, nurtured by personal attention, and committed to academic excellence.

THE EDUCATIONAL CHARISM OF THE BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART

Because students are valued and treasured gifts from God, we accept responsibility for their formation as a sacred trust. We form the whole person by developing the God-given intellectual and physical abilities of our students and by advancing their spiritual, moral, and social consciousness. The total school environment contributes to their formation through emphasis on the modeling of Christian values, high expectations, personal responsibility, and mutual respect. As educators, we model these values through our own personal formation and professional development.

PAWPRINTS FOR COACHES

1. Every coach is expected to have complete knowledge and understanding of the LHSAA Handbook of Rules and Regulations as well as the policies and procedures of Vanderbilt Catholic.
2. No coach will, in any way, attempt to recruit or influence the residence of any pupil.
3. Coaches in charge of sports will see that their sport will be conducted on the highest plane possible at all times. This applies to varsity, junior varsity, and junior high teams.
4. Each coach will make every possible effort to assure that all athletes exhibit behavior beyond reproach in the classrooms, on/off campus, and on road trips. The coach should work to promote leadership.
5. Every coach should encourage athletes to participate in all sports and respect and work with all other coaches on staff.

EDUCATIONAL MISSION AND MINISTRY:

6. Coaches are role models of Christian behavior and of such positive values as service, fairness, and good sportsmanship.
****ALL COACHES WILL LEAD BY EXAMPLE!**
7. Coaches encourage activities and programs that enrich the academic curriculum, develop social skills, and develop leadership and character.
8. Coaches teach good sportsmanship and fair play as essential elements of all competition.
****ALL COACHES WILL LEAD BY EXAMPLE!**
9. Coaches work actively to develop student leadership and initiative.
10. Coaches budget their time and energy to ensure that classroom and extracurricular responsibilities of both faculty and students are fulfilled.
11. Coaches help students realistically assess abilities and interests and help them develop a positive self-image, no matter what their ability is in sports.
12. Coaches readily accept opportunities that extracurricular activities provide to serve students.
13. Coaches vigilantly supervise and actively direct students to ensure that all are treated with respect and that demeaning activities such as "hazing" are avoided.
14. Coaches will ensure that students are made aware that they represent themselves, the coach, family, community, and Vanderbilt Catholic at all times. ****Coaches must remember this as well.**

PAWPRINTS FOR ATHLETES

1. I understand that athletics are a privilege.
2. I understand that academics always come before athletics.
3. I understand that athletics take commitment, sacrifice, and loyalty.
4. I understand that my coaches will push me to the limit to make me a better athlete and person.
5. I understand that ALL of my actions represent me, my coach, my family, and Vanderbilt Catholic.
6. I understand that there is a proper way to communicate with fellow athletes, coaches, and teachers.
7. I understand that my coaches expect me to compete on the field, but act like a gentleman/lady off the field.
8. I understand that I will use proper language at all times.
9. I understand that there is a time and place for everything.
10. I understand that I have made a contract with God, self, family, school, and the LHSAA to abstain from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco use.
11. I understand that it is MY responsibility to ensure that all comments, pictures, and videos on my social networking sites will be ABOVE REPROACH!
12. I understand that consequences invoked by the discipline office take precedence over athletic responsibilities.
13. I understand that any consequence handed down to me by the discipline or athletic office is meant for my benefit. I fully realize that Vanderbilt Catholic has my best interest at heart within the guidelines and mission statement of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.
14. I understand that being part of the Vanderbilt Athletic Program means that I need to be a positive leader on the field, in the classroom, and out in the community.

PAWPRINTS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

1. Athletics are a privilege.
2. Academics always come before athletics.
3. Athletics take commitment, sacrifice, and loyalty.
4. The athletic director has an open-door policy, provided that the chain of command is abided.
 - athlete, head coach, athletic director, principal, president
 - In addition, parents/guardians wanting to ask questions after a competition **MUST wait 24 hours** before expressing concerns to their child's respective coach.
5. The athletic administration values input from parents. The "spirit" in which concerns are expressed will highly be taken into consideration. Therefore, ensure that information is gathered prior to engaging into a conversation, and be prepared to hear statements/answers that may contradict your opinion and beliefs.
6. Allegations of abuse, either emotional or physical, are taken seriously since the emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of my son/daughter is placed ahead of athletic accomplishments. I further understand that it is my responsibility to investigate the allegation to my fullest extent prior to bringing it to the attention of an administrator at Vanderbilt Catholic.
7. Coaches will push my child to the limit to make him/her a better athlete and person.
8. My actions and comments towards players and coaches during competitions should be consistent with the standards and values of Vanderbilt Catholic High School. I will behave with good sportsmanship supporting all athletes, coaches, and umpires while in the stands, no matter what my personal feelings are. I understand that I may be asked to leave the campus and be banned from future sporting events if I act or comment in any way that goes against the standards of Vanderbilt Catholic.
9. Alcohol is NOT allowed at LHSAA events, off-campus events involving a Vanderbilt Catholic team, or on the campus of Vanderbilt Catholic High School. Parents will not be allowed back and forth during athletic contests. Adults not adhering to this policy will not be allowed entry. In the event that this scenario becomes habitual, adults may be banned from future sporting events at Vanderbilt Catholic.
10. Tailgating and after-event gatherings are strongly encouraged as they aid in team, parent, and community bonding. Whether this team gathering is on or off campus, alcohol should be avoided if athletes are present.
11. Referees will make bad calls, but my response should be appropriate and coincide with Christian values.

VANDEBILT CATHOLIC ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

This document serves to inform athletes and parents about the guidelines, policies, and regulations of Vanderbilt Catholic High School and the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA). One of the primary roles of our Athletic Department is to oversee the conduct of our student athletes. We urge parents to take an active part in the guidance and supervision of their son or daughter while supporting the school in our endeavor to develop positive and successful citizens of the future.

VANDEBILT ATHLETIC PACKET / LHSAA ELIGIBILITY FORMS:

In order to participate in athletics, each student athlete is required by the LHSAA and Vanderbilt to have a completed athletic packet in a folder in the athletic office. This packet can be picked up at the athletic or front office or may be downloaded from the school's Web site. **The physical must be completed BEFORE a student can try out for a sport. All student-athletes should turn in his/her physical and packet to the Head Coach of their first sport he/she participates in for the current school year.**

****Everything in this packet must be completely filled out in order for the student to be athletically eligible.**

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

According to the LHSAA, in order for a student to be eligible for the fall semester, he/she must have earned six units **and** have maintained a "C" average (1.5) as a final GPA at the end of the previous year. To be academically eligible for the spring semester, the student athlete must pass six classes in the previous fall semester. If the athlete fails to maintain these requirements, he/she will be deemed ineligible and must sit out the next semester from all athletic participation. For an eighth grader to be academically eligible, he/she must have earned a "C" average in the previous quarter.

ATTENDANCE:

The administration and coaching staff realize how important attendance is for school in achieving student athlete's success in the classroom. Our policy is if a student misses more than one hour of class, he/she will not participate in any athletic activity for that day. Special circumstances may arise (ex: funeral) and will be at the discretion of the disciplinarian and the athletic director.

FAILURE ("F") RULE:

Any student athlete who receives an "F" on his/her report card will not be able to miss that particular class in the event that he/she has an away game during the regular season schedule. However, during playoffs the athlete may be granted permission to leave early with the team provided that he/she has at least a "C" average at the time of the playoff game. Only the principal can warrant this permission.

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE:

All students who are considering athletic competition at a Division I or II college institution must meet the NCAA Clearinghouse requirements. Student athletes may access the NCAA Web site (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) to get further information. Student athletes and parents are encouraged to notify their coach and their guidance counselor of their post-graduation plans.

ATHLETIC INJURIES/ILLNESSES:

Vanderbilt has a fulltime athletic trainer, compliments of TGMC. His name is Brett Chiasson, and he can easily be seen wearing a bright yellow shirt on the sidelines. Since most coaches are not medically trained for certain injuries, we are very excited to have Brett with us. He is on campus every day, and coaches are to report all injuries directly to him.

If an accident occurs during a Vanderbilt-sponsored event, an accident report will be filled out by the supervising coach and parents will be notified. Our school insurance acts as a secondary insurance provider. All injuries must be reported by the athlete to the supervising coach at the time it occurs. If an accident is not reported, then there is not much we can do to help.

When a student athlete suffers a concussion, certain paperwork is required before he/she is allowed back on the practice/playing field. This will all be handled through our athletic trainer, and coaches will not allow an athlete back until he/she receives the release from Brett. All of this will be done for the well-being and safety of our student athletes.

LETTERING POLICY:

A "letter" is earned at the varsity level only! Requirements per sport can be found in this section.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LETTERING IN EACH SPORT:

- Baseball:** Play in at least half of the innings during the season, including auxiliary players (runners, DH, etc.)
- Basketball:** Play in at least 18 games during the season
- Bowling:** Place in the top 12 of the district season or participate in the tournament

Cheerleading:	Complete the entire year of varsity level in good standing
Cross Country:	Place in the top 10 of district, parish, or state meets or participate as one of the top seven runners in at least half of the meets
Football:	Play in 16 quarters of varsity competition during the season
Golf:	Play in at least half of the regional tournament
Gymnastics:	Compete in the state meet and attend a sufficient number of practices to warrant the coach's recommendation
Soccer:	Play in at least 15 games of varsity competition during the season
Softball:	Play in at least half of the innings during the season, including auxiliary players (courtesy runners, DP, etc.)
Swimming:	Score at least 20 points during the season, place third or better in the metro meet, or place fifth or better in the state meet
Tennis:	Participate in the regional tournament or play in at least half of the varsity matches during the regular season
Track:	Score 25 or more points during the season, or qualify for the regional or state meets
Volleyball:	Play in at least half of the matches during the season

****Note:** In every sport the head coach has the discretion to letter any athlete who did not meet the specific requirements for lettering but has made a significant contribution to the sport during the year, including injuries and/or illnesses. The athlete must continue to show support for the team throughout the season.

JACKET POLICY:

Each athlete is eligible to receive only one *Athletic award ("V")* during his/her high school career. The earliest an Athletic award and jacket will be presented is the beginning of an athlete's Sophomore year. (Eligible athletes may measure for letter jackets beginning in the spring of their Freshman year, if eligible). Jackets are awarded to athletes, managers, trainers, statisticians, etc. who have participated a minimum of two consecutive years at the Junior Varsity/Varsity levels and have lettered in at least one of those two years on Varsity level.

Any athlete who quits a sport in which he/she became eligible for a jacket will lose that eligibility at that point, however will be able to keep his/her Athletic award ("V") and/or any patches earned. Any Senior athlete who did not letter in any of the previous years for a sport can order a jacket at the end of their Junior year (May), as long as they have participated for a minimum of two years prior and continue to participate their entire Senior year. Otherwise, the jacket will belong to the school, and he/she will keep the "V" and all patches earned. Athletes who quit a sport in which a jacket has been earned, he/she may lose the jacket but may keep the "V" and all patches earned.

TERRIER CLUB:

All parents are strongly encouraged to join our Terrier Club. The Terrier Club is comprised of parents, grandparents, and supporters of Vandebilt Catholic Athletics. Recently, the size of the Terrier Club Board has increased to include parent representatives from each sport to ensure that we are all working for athletics as a whole. While the Terrier Club's main responsibility is to raise money for our athletic programs, we also want parents to realize that the fellowship among members and the support of all of our sports programs are most important. There is no greater feeling than working together for a common goal and achieving it. Please consider becoming a member of our family.

CLUB SPORTS:

We recognize the value of club sports for the development of sport specific skills. Vandebilt's sports program is our first priority, and the athlete should not participate in a club sport that will require him to miss required practices and games in a school sport. All rules for each sport concerning club sports will be discussed by the individual head coach. In some sports, it is illegal by the LHSAA to practice club sports during the same school sport season. Athletes must check with head coach.

Vandebilt's athletic policy does NOT mandate that athletes have to play club/travel ball. A coach should not tell his/her athletes that they must play club/travel ball in order to play at Vandebilt. Although we recognize the positives that come from athletes working and practicing outside of school ball, this should not be mandated by any coach as a requirement for any sport.

SPORT-TO-SPORT POLICIES:

Our department encourages participation in a variety of sports. Coaches need to work together and support one another's programs. An athlete must complete one LHSAA sport season before beginning another LHSAA sport season. Seasons are defined as fall, winter, and spring. For example: a student participating in football must complete the fall

season, including any postseason play, before he may participate in a winter season game or practice such as basketball. Athletes who play JV may be dismissed after their season is complete to begin practicing for their next sport, even if they have been asked to travel for games to gain experience with the approval of his/her current coach.

In some situations an athlete may be able to participate in two sports that occupy the same season (Example: Baseball & Track) This must be worked out between the coaches and the athletic director. It is recommended that the athlete name one sport as his/her priority sport prior to the start of the season. If a conflict arises, the decision of where to play has already been made.

CHAIN OF COMMAND:

Our athletic office will have an open-door policy; however, there will be a chain of command that all parents must follow. If a parent has any questions about eligibility, our programs, etc., he/she may contact the athletic office. If there is a conflict with a coach, the parent must go through the following chain of command in order:

Speak to your child

Meet with coach (if requested by coach, or necessary, child should be present unless discretion is needed)

Athletic director

Principal

President

ATHLETIC AWARDS:

The Senior Athletic Convocation is held at the end of the year in which the following awards are presented:

1) **Father Finnegan Most School Spirited Male/Female Award** - This award is given to a senior boy and girl

who exhibit pride, dedication, loyalty, and support for all athletics at Vandebilt Catholic.

2) **Most Outstanding Athlete (Male/Female) Award** - This is awarded annually to the most outstanding

boy and girl athlete whose performance best demonstrates the pursuit of excellence with both integrity and perseverance. Winners exhibit great athletic ability as well as representing his/her team with great sportsmanship, leadership and class both on and off the playing field. The impact the athlete has on his/her team and teammates is a major factor of consideration. **The participation in more than one sport is strongly encouraged.**

3) **Bishop Schexnayder (Male) and Brother Carl Evans (Female) Award** - These awards are the two most prestigious awards given out at the Athletic Convocation. The minimum criteria to be considered for these awards are:

- The athlete must be a Senior who participates in more than one sport.
- The athlete must attain high academic standards.
- The athlete must show support of the Vandebilt community in other school activities besides athletics.
- The athlete must demonstrate the same qualities found in the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

4) **Champion Award (Male and Female)** - A "Champion" is not always the one that scores the most touchdowns, hits the most homeruns, or plays the most minutes. A "Champion" is a team player who

always gives 100%, always putting their team before themselves.

VANDEBILT ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Firm and fair policies are necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the Athletic Department. The community, school administrators, and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program of athletics. The overall welfare of our students is our major concern. The strenuous nature of athletics and the rigors of competition demand that a high standard of behavior on the part of student athletes be maintained at all times. The Athletic Code of Conduct provides parents with support in dealing with potential problems and provides incentive for the athlete to deal appropriately with negative peer pressure.

The Vanderbilt Athletic Code of Conduct establishes standards by which student athletes are expected to conduct themselves as representatives of Vanderbilt Catholic. Parents are expected to discuss these regulations and consequences with their son/daughter so that informed and appropriate decisions about behavior are made. Parents' positive support of our athletes, coaches, policies, and events is imperative to our success.

The Vanderbilt Athletic Code of Conduct applies to behavior that takes place **ON or OFF** school grounds. These violations may take place at **ANY TIME** during the student's enrollment at Vanderbilt Catholic. It will be in effect **24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for 365 days a year**. Consequences of athletic code violations will carry over from school year to school year and will be in effect for the duration of the athlete's high school participation.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

The school's sportsmanship code incorporates Catholic values into the entire athletic program. All student athletes, coaches, and parents are expected to abide by this code of conduct by doing everything possible to promote good sportsmanship at all athletic events. Foul or profane language will not be tolerated. At no time should a player or parent argue with an official or opposing coach. Nor should athletes or coaches show disapproval of a decision by arguing, throwing equipment, or any other non-Christian-like conduct. Any player not in game is to remain on his/her bench area during any controversy or altercations. Such offenses are taken very seriously, and appropriate action will be taken by the Athletic Department, administration, and/or the LHSAA.

Unsportsmanlike conduct not specifically covered in the Vanderbilt Athletic Code of Conduct, but which is contrary to the spirit of this Code of Conduct, is subject to an appropriate penalty at the discretion of the athletic director and/or the principal, taking into consideration the seriousness of the offense, injury to person or property, the remorse of the athlete, and any other relevant factors.

Although winning is certainly an admirable goal, it is hollow if it comes at the expense of Christian morals, values, ethics, and just plain common sense. The following spectator behavior is expected at all Vanderbilt Catholic athletic events:

- Stand and remove head gear during prayer and National Anthem.
- Cheer for their team rather than against their opponents.
- Maintain self-control at all times while conducting themselves as a responsible adult, representing Vanderbilt Catholic.
- Show respect for opponents' players, coaches, parents, etc., in every way possible.
- Always be **positive** in support of their teams.
- Recognize and acknowledge good performances made by both teams.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions; they are human like the rest of us.
- Be humble and not boastful in victory and gracious and not bitter in defeat.
- Leave the site of an activity -including the parking lot—as soon as possible after it is completed.
- NEVER demean any athlete on our team or opponents in the stands; this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
-

***Spectators may be asked to leave contests or may be banned from future contests if these expectations are disregarded!**

QUITTING A TEAM:

If an athlete chooses to quit a sport before the completion of the season, but after the first contest, he/she will not be eligible to begin practice in any other sport until the previous sport has completed its season (including playoffs). There shall be no exceptions to this rule. Any athlete that quits a team must be reported to the athletic office ASAP!

REMOVAL FROM A TEAM: The Head coach cannot dismiss a player from his/her team without first meeting with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation. **Any athlete who has been removed from a sport cannot begin practice for another/next sport until the prior sport is completed (including playoffs)**

SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS:

Athletes who are suspended from school under the Vandebilt **Student Code of Conduct** are prohibited from participation in practices and interscholastic events during the length of the suspension. Depending on the nature of the suspension, the athletic director, principal, and assistant principal can use discretion to impose added athletic consequences if the **Athletic Code of Conduct** was violated as well.

HAZING:

Hazing is defined as “engaging in or planning any form of verbal or physical hazing, or initiation, of other students. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, forcing prolonged physical activity; forcing excessive consumption of any substance; forcing prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink; or any other behavior that recklessly endangers the health or safety of an individual or is intended to cause personal degradation or disgrace for purposes of initiation into any student group. It is the responsibility of parents and students to prevent any occurrence of hazing and to report any knowledge of hazing to school authorities. According to the Code of Conduct, the principal may suspend or recommend expulsion for a student who engages in hazing. Hazing will not be tolerated!

TRAVEL CODE AND CONDUCT ON OVERNIGHT OR EXTENDED TRIPS:

The coach is responsible for his/her organization’s members. The coach may add special regulations to the school regulations but may not excuse an athlete from any school regulations. The coaches are responsible for the fulltime supervision of all team members from the time the group leaves the school grounds until the last student has left the school premises after the team’s return.

- 1) School policies apply at all school-sponsored activities.
- 2) All athletes are expected to act like ladies/gentlemen at all times. Any conduct that violates good manners is unacceptable.
- 3) Gambling of any type is strictly prohibited.
- 4) Visitors are not allowed in any room without the coach’s permission.
- 5) Visiting with people not directly associated with the team is prohibited.
- 6) Curfew and bed check are the responsibility of the coach.
- 7) Proper attire as designated by the coach is expected at all times.
- 8) All athletes and coaches are responsible for keeping all school vehicles clean.

VIOLATION OF TEAM RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Coaches may establish his/her own rules and regulations on top of the school’s policies, as long as they are deemed reasonable, subject to the approval of the athletic director. Coaches may determine penalties for violation of team rules and regulations subject to the review of the athletic director. Coaches should go over their team policies as well as have a copy to be handed out at the parent meeting to be held before the season.

****The principal and/or Athletic Administration has the discretion to alter the penalty when special circumstances are warranted.**

EQUIPMENT/UNIFORMS:

All athletes must treat all equipment and uniforms provided by the school for their use with care. All equipment and uniforms must be turned in to the coach within one week of the completion of that sport’s season. Athletes **will not be allowed** to begin practicing another sport until he/she has returned all outstanding equipment and uniforms. Athletes will be expected to pay the replacement costs of any equipment/uniforms that he/she damaged or lost. If an athlete of a spring sport fails to turn in the uniform, his/her grade may be held until this is taken care of.

POST-SEASON:

Any student-athlete who misses practice during post-season play that is deemed unexcused by the Athletic Administration, may be subject to dismissal from the team, and possibly lose all honors awarded.

EJECTIONS:

Any student-athlete who gets ejected from a competition must meet with Athletic Administration. Consequences will reflect the infraction. Penalties will be greater for fighting and/or vulgar language misrepresenting Vanderbilt Catholic.

Any Coach who gets ejected from a game will meet with Administration to discuss the situation. Possible consequences can/will be administered, depending on the situation.

** Discretion may be used by Athletic Administrators in certain situations. (Example: video footage)

ALCOHOL/ TOBACCO/ VAPING/DRUG USE:

The Athletic Department will follow the Vanderbilt Catholic Student Handbook regarding vaping, alcohol, tobacco, and/or drug use. However, any athlete violating one of these policies may be subject to additional consequences with approval of the Athletic Director and Principal.

SOCIAL NETWORKING:

All students will sign a social media contract with Vanderbilt Catholic High School. As an athlete of Vanderbilt, you may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the athletic office if it is found that this contract has been broken. The athletic director will work directly with the Vice Principal of Discipline in these matters. The maximum penalty could result in expulsion from a team.

ATHLETIC ACCEPTANCE FORM STUDENT / PARENTS/ ADMINISTRATION

I fully understand and accept all provisions and policies stated in the Student Athlete and Parent/Guardian Handbook. Furthermore, I understand and accept all consequences associated with violations of said handbook. I agree that the athletic code of conduct is in accordance with the morals and values of Vandebilt Catholic High School. By signing this Acceptance Form we are indicating that we have read the Athletic Handbook/Code of Conduct, either online or as a hard copy.
****The student will not be allowed to participate in athletics until this form is signed and turned into the Athletic Office!**

_____	_____	
STUDENT NAME (print)	STUDENT SIGNATURE	DATE

_____	_____	
PARENT NAME (print)	PARENT SIGNATURE	DATE

_____	_____	
PARENT NAME (print)	PARENT SIGNATURE	DATE

Margaret Johnson

8 - 1 - 2019

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR	DATE

Jeremy Gueldner

8 - 1 - 2019

PRINCIPAL	DATE



ATHLETICS

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While striving for victory is a natural part of athletic competition, we believe that winning is a by-product of doing the little things right first. Our ultimate goal is to develop a strong foundation of life skills rooted in faith that will lead our student-athletes to a lifetime of success. As the value of our Athletic Department is not measured on the number of championships, but where our student-athletes will be twenty years from now.”

-Vandebilt Catholic Athletic Mission

Statement