

Section 9: Athletic Manual

9.1 Athletic Vision Statement and Honor Code:

The athletic vision at Trinity Christian School is for student athletes to grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually through practice and competition. The athletic program encompasses and is an extension of the Trinity Christian School Vision Statement. Athletes and Coaches are expected to conduct their lives in accordance with instructions given in God's Word. Athletes and Coaches who demonstrate lives that are not glorifying to the Lord and/or who engage in illegal activities will not be permitted to participate in our programs. It is our desire that our athletic programs will provide a context for student-athletes to mature in Christ-like character, learn the values of hard work and effort, and build physical skills that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

9.2 Unity of Vision

All student-athletes, including homeschoolers and their parents, will acknowledge agreement with and support of the school policies by reading the School Handbook, signing a statement of support, and by adhering to all school policies and procedures. Students who are not full time Trinity students and their parents will interview with school administration upon applying to play sports at Trinity for the first time.

9.3 Trinity Athletic Honor Code

All Athletes participating in Trinity Christian School Athletics are required to sign an Honor Code at the beginning of their Sport season. The Honor Code is to be upheld and followed by athletes when representing Trinity Christian School in sports, academics, and off-campus activities.

The Honor Code is as follows:

“As a Trinity Christian School Athlete, I will strive to honor God with my life, my studies, and my sport. I will glorify God with sportsmanship, nobility, courage, and perseverance. I will respect my peers, fellow competitors, and those in authority at school and on the field of play. I will work hard at my studies, producing nothing but my best work as I strive to do so likewise in my athletics. My aim is Christ’s aim and not my own.”

9.4 Athlete Expectations

1. Athletes must always adhere to the Athletic Honor Code.
2. Athletes are required to demonstrate Christian behavior and conduct at practices, games, and in all aspects of their lives outside of the sport.
3. Athletes will be held responsible for inappropriate/illegal behavior that happens apart from the school/sports environment.
4. Athletes must always encourage and demonstrate Christ-like behavior.
5. Athletes must always demonstrate the utmost respect for their coaches and peers.
6. Athletes must never degrade or discourage referees, opposing players, or coaches.
7. Athletes must always arrive on time to practices and games.
8. Athletes are not permitted to leave campus after school before practice unless heading directly to an alternate practice locale.
9. Athletes must always travel to away games using school-provided transportation.
10. Athletes are required to attend all mandatory practices for the entirety of each practice.
11. Athletes who have suffered any sort of head injury are not permitted to return to gameplay or practices until they see a doctor and receive a return-to-play doctor's note. (This note must be turned in to the Athletic Director and the coach.)

9.5 Parent Expectations

1. Parents are expected to exhibit and encourage Christ-like behavior.
2. Parents are expected never to degrade or disrespect coaches in front of players, other coaches, or parents.
3. Parents are expected never to degrade or discourage players on a Trinity team or on the competing team.
4. A parent should never approach or speak negatively to an official. Expectations mandate that only a coach will communicate with the officials.
5. Parents will communicate with Coaches about any injuries sustained by athletes that take them out of practices/games. Parents will have discretion on whether the student should see a doctor, based on the severity of the injury. Head injuries MUST be assessed and cleared by a medical doctor in all cases, regardless of the severity.

9.6 Trinity Spectator Expectations

1. Trinity spectators are expected to exhibit and encourage Christ-like behavior.
2. Trinity spectators are expected never to speak, shout, or jeer negatively towards an official.
3. Trinity spectators are expected never to degrade or discourage players on a Trinity team or the competing team.
4. Trinity spectators are expected never to degrade or disrespect the coaches of either team.

9.7 Coaching Expectations

1. Coaches are required to follow all instructions/mandates given by the Athletic Director and School Administration.
2. Coaches are required to conduct themselves according to the instructions of their signed contract.
3. Assistant Coaches are required to follow the instructions of the Head Coach in all cases.
4. Coaches are required to demonstrate, exemplify, and always encourage Christ-like behavior.
5. Coaches will strive to constantly portray a Christ-like view of athletics in order to set a constant example for their players.
6. Coaches must always encourage players and coaches of either team.
7. Coaches will never use derogatory language or make inappropriate remarks.
8. Coaches will never antagonize, but respectfully and maturely interact with all referees regardless of any call that is made.
9. Head Coaches are required to obtain and maintain a valid CPR/First Aid/AED certification before beginning practices for their sport season.
10. Coaches are not permitted to provide ANY medical care to an athlete that supersedes any qualification that they currently hold. Any care that requires a certification must be performed by a professional who holds a certification in the area of care provided. Examples of care that cannot be performed without a valid certification/qualification include but are not limited to: Taping of ankles or any other extremity, concussion stress tests, and medical evaluations of athletes.
11. Coaches who have an athlete that has suffered a head injury which takes the athlete out for the remainder of the game or practice are not permitted to return that athlete to gameplay or practices until a doctor's visit occurs and the athlete brings the coach a return-to-play doctor's note.
12. Coaches will communicate with parents about any injuries sustained by athletes that take them out of practices/games. Parents will have discretion on whether the student should see a doctor, based on the severity of the injury. Head injuries MUST be assessed and cleared by a medical doctor in all cases, regardless of the severity.

9.8 Coach and Volunteer Selection Process

Individuals interested in coaching or volunteer positions with the school should follow the steps below (all forms may be obtained from the school office):

1. Fill out a coaching application.
2. Fill out background check form.
3. Return all forms to the Athletic Director.
4. Schedule an interview (Interviews are conducted by the Athletic Director, school administration, and a member of the school committee).
5. Upon hiring, sign a Trinity Coaching Contract.

9.9 League Information and Sports Offered

Trinity Christian School is a Single A (1A) member of the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA).

Trinity Christian School offers the following sports for students in grades 6–12 on a year-to-year basis provided that there are adequate numbers of student athletes participating and available facilities.

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Cross Country	Cross Country
Soccer	Soccer
Basketball	Basketball
Tennis	Tennis
Baseball	Volleyball
Football	--

9.10 Sport specific season dates:

Cross Country: *June – October*

Football: *June – November*

Girls JV and Varsity Volleyball: *July – October*

Boys JV and Varsity Basketball: *October – February*

Girls JV Basketball: *October – February*

Boys JV and Varsity Soccer: *January – April*

Girls JV and Varsity Soccer: *January – April*

Boys JV Baseball: *January – May*

Junior Soccer: *March – May*

Tennis: *February – April*

9.11 Sport Specific Fees/Dues

Each sport has a registration fee that is specified on the registration form for that sport.

Registration fees MUST be submitted before that athlete is allowed to attend ANY practices and/or games.

In addition, there are fees required of students who are not full-time students at Trinity Christian School. These fees are as follows:

- AES students will be charged a \$25.00 application fee for each sport they participate in.
- An AES \$60.00 facility fee (per child, per sport) will also be charged.

9.12 Participation Paperwork

All paperwork for each athlete MUST be completed/turned in before that athlete is allowed to attend ANY practices and/or games.

Registration paperwork for each sport will be completed on dragonflymax.com before each sport begins practices. The following forms must be submitted in paper form to the athletics office:

1. AISA Physical Evaluation Form (Completed by a medical doctor)
2. AISA Medical Release Form
3. AISA Medical History Form
4. AISA Participation Permit
5. Alabama Concussion Form
6. Extracurricular Program Application (AES ONLY)
7. Class Transcripts (AES ONLY)
8. Copy of birth certificate (Full-time TCS students already have this on file with the school office)

9.13 Sport Philosophy

In every level of sport offered at Trinity, we desire for our athletes to glorify God with each of the gifts that He has given them. Our goal is to win every game we play through hard work and effort, giving glory to the Lord in every circumstance. Win or lose, we do so with humility, character, and class. We believe that student-athletes should work hard to earn their spot to play, just as they work hard in the classroom to earn a passing grade. This concept strengthens respect for effort and promotes an atmosphere that is built around working hard for the glory of God and His kingdom. Coaches will have complete discretion of which athletes they choose to play at games during the sports season based on each athlete's effort, attitude, and individual ability. If the number of students who sign-up for a particular sport exceeds the roster limit, tryouts will be held to determine who will earn their spot on that team roster. If tryouts are conducted, the head coach of that sport has final discretion as to which students make the roster. Students/parents may inquire with the coach about tryout results but must respect the coach's ruling. AES Students are equally eligible for tryouts and may earn roster spots based on individual skill/ability. AES roster spots must honor the 25% roster limit rule.

Roster Limits per Sport*:

- Cross Country: No Limit
- Girls JV Volleyball: 12 (AES limited to 3)
- Girls Varsity Volleyball: 12 (AES limited to 3)
- Boys JV Basketball: 16 (AES limited to 4)
- Boys Varsity Basketball: 13 (AES limited to 3)
- Girls JV Basketball: 16 (AES limited to 4)
- Tennis: No Limit
- Boys JV Baseball: 15 (AES limited to 3)
- Boys JV Soccer: 20 (AES limited to 5)
- Boys Varsity Soccer: 20 (AES limited to 5)
- Girls JV Soccer: 20 (AES limited to 5)
- Girls Varsity Soccer: 20 (AES limited to 5)
- Junior Soccer: No Limit

*The Athletic Director may alter these roster limits, if necessary.

Junior Programs: (Grades K – 5)

The objectives for the Junior level sports include:

- a. Growing a love for the Lord and a passion for their sport.
- b. Fostering a mentality of hard work and effort.
- c. Teaching basic skills.
- d. Laying the groundwork for physical fitness, toughness, and endurance.
- e. Teaching knowledge of sport positions, strategy, and gameplay.

This level of play creates a learning environment for students to learn the basics of sport and grow in their individual abilities. Players in this level will be developed for junior varsity level play. Athletes will be scrutinized in their character, attitudes, and growth in ability. Game play at the Junior level is given to teach and build skills and abilities.

Junior Varsity Programs: (Grades 6 – 9)

The objectives for the Junior Varsity level sports include:

- a. Growing a love for the Lord and a passion for their sport.
- b. Fostering a mentality of hard work and effort.
- c. Earning a spot to play.
- d. Reinforcing basic skills and teaching technical skills.
- e. Building/Strengthening physical fitness, toughness, and endurance.
- f. Developing/Growing knowledge of sport positions, strategy, and gameplay.

This level of play creates a competitive environment for students to grow in their knowledge and abilities of each sport. Players in this level will be developed for varsity level play. Athletes will be more scrutinized in their character, attitudes, and abilities. Game play at the Junior Varsity level is not guaranteed but determined by the coach based upon individual skill development.

Varsity Programs: (Grades 10 – 12)

The objectives for the Varsity level sports include:

- a. Growing a love for the Lord and a passion for their sport.
- b. Fostering a mentality of hard work and effort.
- c. Earning a spot to play.
- d. Mastering basic skills and reinforcing technical skills.
- e. Maintaining physical fitness, toughness, and endurance for the highest level of play.
- f. Mastering knowledge of sport positions, strategy, and gameplay.

The varsity level creates a competitive environment for students to compete as the most prepared and qualified athlete in that sport. At this level, athletes will be scrutinized more thoroughly in their character, attitudes, skills, and abilities. At the discretion of the coach, younger students may be played up to the Varsity team. Game play at the Varsity level is not guaranteed but determined by the coach based upon individual skill development.

9.14 Approach to Competition, Parent Support, and Communication

Approach to Competition:

A student-athlete's playing time will be determined by athletic ability, coachability, attitude, practice and game attendance, and academic eligibility. Each student athlete is competing for playing time and a starting position. The coach will determine playing time based on several factors, including the strengths and weaknesses the student athlete exhibits. As it is the responsibility of students in the classroom to communicate with teachers about their grades, students are expected to ask their coaches when questions about playing time arise. Parents should not discuss questions about playing time with their students' coaches.

Parent Support:

If a student is participating on a Trinity team, the school relies on his/her parents to help carry some of the workload for all home games. Parents should look to volunteer at home events, particularly those in which their student is not playing. At the parent informational meeting, parents will be asked to support in various areas depending on the sport. Everyone must pitch in. If a parent cannot work in a position or role, it is their responsibility to let the coach know and, if possible, find a substitute worker.

Communications and Concerns:

Trinity's school handbook outlines the procedure derived from Matthew 18 for resolving occasional misunderstandings. A coach is not responsible for talking to a parent immediately following a game or practice. The first responsibility is for student-athletes to talk with their coach if they have a concern. As it is the responsibility of students in the classroom to communicate with teachers about concerns/questions, students are expected to ask their coaches when concerns/questions arise. If a solution is not reached after the student-athlete has spoken with the coach, parents may reach out to the coach to set up a meeting. Parents should not discuss concerns with the coach or athletic director in a public setting. If the concern still exists after meeting with a coach, it should then be taken directly to the Athletic Director. The following chain of command should be followed when concerns arise:

Head Coach → Athletic Director → Head of School

Parents are expected to follow this chain of command and are expected to resolve concerns with the coach directly.

9.15 Student Responsibilities

- All student athletes participating in sports at Trinity must be full-time students.
- Student Athletes at Trinity are expected to conduct their studies with excellence and hard work.
- Students at Trinity Christian School are solely responsible for work missed due to absence for an athletic event. When a student athlete is required to leave campus and miss class for a sporting event, he/she is required to turn in any missed assignments the next school day.
- Communication between student athletes and teachers in regard to assignments that will be missed and due the following day is the responsibility of the student athlete. A failure to turn in any missed assignment will result in a zero.

9.16 Homeschool/AES Eligibility Requirements:

- New Homeschool/AES athletes and parents interested in joining a sport at Trinity will interview with school administration before being allowed to compete.
- Homeschool/AES athletes must provide evidence of being full-time students to be eligible to participate.
- AES Students must be approved by the AISA, pending an eligibility determination in accordance with AISA policies.**
- Trinity allows homeschooled/AES students to participate in athletic programs. Each sport requires that no more than 25% of a team roster limit can be composed of homeschoolers. If a roster limit has not been reached for a particular sport, the 25% rule can be waved pending a ruling of the situation from the Athletic Director. Determining which/whether homeschoolers will be made part of the Trinity team relies on the 25% rule and the Coach's discernment of skill development and ability during sport tryouts.
- Homeschooled/AES Students that compete with Trinity acknowledge that Trinity is their "Home Base" school. Once an AES athlete has established a "Home Base" school, they are required to participate with that "Home Base" school for all sports offered by the school. The student becomes tied to that "Home Base" school, similar to an enrolled student.

- Homeschooled/AES students that participate in Trinity athletics will follow the same eligibility requirements as full-time Trinity students listed in the School Handbook.
- Homeschool/AES athletes are required to provide updated grade transcripts throughout the school year. **
Currently, the AISA does not have a policy in place for adding new AES students to sports programs. They have allowed current AES athletes at Trinity to “grandfather in” and are working to create a policy to add new AES students to sports programs. Until a policy is created, new AES students cannot be added (updated 5/12/2023).

9.17 Limits of participation:

Trinity's policy is that a student has eight consecutive semesters or four consecutive years of eligibility from the date of entry into the 9th grade to be eligible for interscholastic competition. Eligibility in the 7th grade will be for one year only for varsity. Eligibility in the 8th grade will be for one year only for varsity. In other words, a 7th or 8th grader who participates on the varsity level cannot repeat the 7th or 8th grade and play on the varsity level again in the same grade. A student who turns 19 before May 1st prior to the school year of participation will not be eligible to play varsity sports during the coming school year.

9.18 Eligibility:

- Trinity deems students in grades 6 – 12 to be eligible for JV and Varsity athletics.
- Student-athletes are required to maintain passing grades in each of their classes to participate in sports. The process for evaluating student-athletes' grades is as follows:
 - Each student-athlete's grade will be evaluated over the course of 3 or 4 in-season checkpoints to determine possible courses of action for failing grades:
 - a. Academic Probation (Grade of 69 or below): Warning period. Student continues participation as normal under academic probation unless grade worsens; in which case they would automatically be placed on Athletic Suspension.
 - b. Athletic Suspension (Continuing grade of 69 or below): Student is not permitted to practice or play with the team until grades return to and remain at a passing level (70 or above).

1. Registration:

- If a student is passing all of their classes before the sport registration period, they will continue participating as normal.
- If a student is failing a class/classes before or during the sport registration period, they will be placed on academic probation.

2. Checkpoint 1:

- If a student is failing a class/classes at Checkpoint 1, two situations are possible:
 - a. Student is failing a class/classes and will be placed on Academic Probation
 - b. Student has been failing a class/classes since the registration period. Student will be placed on Athletic Suspension.

3. Checkpoints 2 and 3:

- If a student is failing a class/classes at Checkpoint 2, two situations are possible:
 - a. Student is failing a class/classes and will be placed on Academic Probation
 - b. Student has been failing a class/classes since Checkpoint 1. Student will be placed on Athletic Suspension.
- Same procedures apply to Checkpoint 3
- A fourth checkpoint may be added for sports with longer seasons.

4. A fourth/fifth/sixth checkpoint may be added for sports with longer seasons.

An academic probation period can lead to a suspension period at any point if a student's grades are worsening/not improving. If a student begins failing a class and it is deemed that they need to enter the suspension period due to lack of improvement or other circumstances, school administration will have discretion in the matter. Final rulings on suspensions will be at the discretion of the school administration.

Tentative Fall Sports Checkpoints:

1. Checkpoint One: 8/29 (14 school days from 1st day of school)
2. Checkpoint Two: 9/19 (14 school days from Checkpoint One)
3. Checkpoint Three: 10/13 (14 school days from Checkpoint Two)

Tentative Winter Sports Checkpoints:

1. Checkpoint One: 10/23
2. Checkpoint Two: 11/10 (14 school days from Checkpoint One)
3. Checkpoint Three: 12/7 (14 school days from Checkpoint Two)
4. Checkpoint Four: 1/18 (14 school days from Checkpoint Three)
5. Checkpoint Five: 2/7 (14 school days from Checkpoint Three)

Tentative Spring Sports Checkpoints:

1. Checkpoint One: 1/8
2. Checkpoint Two: 1/29 (14 school days from Checkpoint One)
3. Checkpoint Three: 2/16 (14 school days from Checkpoint Two)
4. Checkpoint Four: 3/15 (14 school days from Checkpoint 3)
5. Checkpoint Five: 4/8 (14 school days from Checkpoint 4)
6. Checkpoint Six: 4/26 (14 school days from Checkpoint 5)

Tentative Fall Sports Checkpoints:

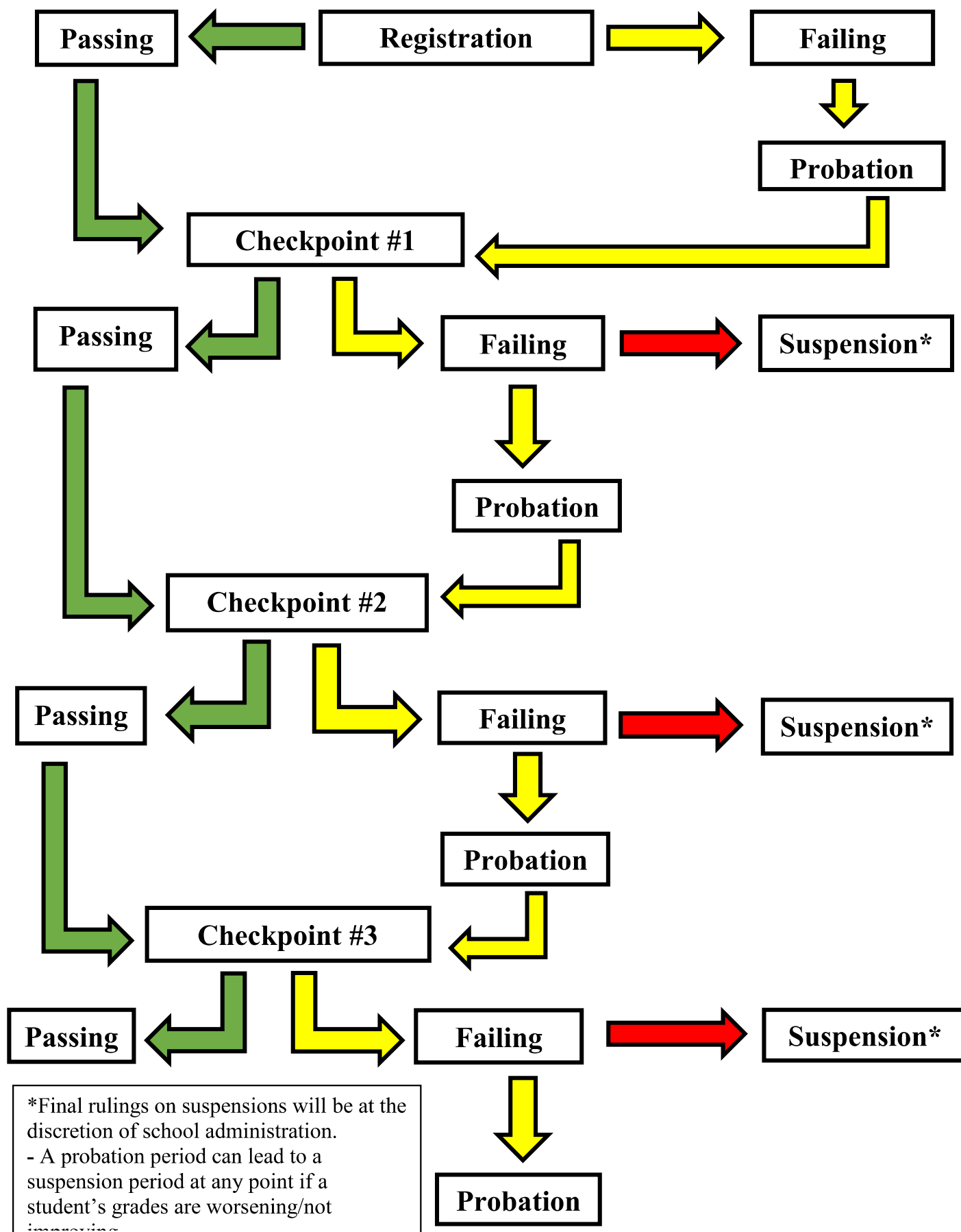
- Checkpoint One: 8/30 (15 school days from 1st day of school)
- Checkpoint Two: 9/20 (15 school days from Checkpoint One)
- Checkpoint Three: 10/13 (14 school days from Checkpoint Two)

Tentative Winter Sports Checkpoints:

- Checkpoint One: 10/28
- Checkpoint Two: 11/28 (15 school days from Checkpoint One)
- Checkpoint Three: 1/10 (16 school days from Checkpoint Two)
- Checkpoint Four: 2/1 (15 school days from Checkpoint Three)

Tentative Spring Sports Checkpoints:

- Checkpoint One: 2/17
- Checkpoint Two: 3/17 (15 school days from Checkpoint One)
- Checkpoint Three: 4/12 (16 school days from Checkpoint Two)
- Checkpoint Four: 5/2 (14 school days from Checkpoint 3)



9.19 Facility Usage and Transportation:

Facility

In order for a sport to use a facility of Trinity Christian School the following steps are to be followed. Sponsors and coaches may not publicize the use of a facility until receiving notification of approval.

1. Acquire a Facility Usage Form from school.
(found on website and athletic manual)
2. Fill out form in its entirety.
3. Return form to school office at least two
weeks prior to the time facility will be needed.

Once the Facility Usage Form is approved, a copy of the form will be returned to the person making the request.

Transportation

There are school-owned buses available for use. The athletic director will reserve a vehicle for a team game, match, or meet.

The athletic director will also check out the school credit card for use when fueling the vehicle(s) upon returning from each trip.

In cases where two groups require the use of school vehicles on the same dates, the athletic director and leader of the other group will coordinate to determine the best use of the vehicles.

In general, parents will provide transportation for JV and Middle-school teams. All varsity athletes are transported to sporting events using school provided transportation. Arrangements must be made with the coach if a student will be using alternate transportation for the return trip.

Sponsors and coaches are responsible to make sure that proper safety procedures are being followed in each vehicle. (State of Alabama law states that all students must be buckled at all times when riding in vans and cars. All students must have a seat in each vehicle; no one riding on floor of the vehicle.)

The following procedure is to be followed when using a Trinity vehicle:

Pre-Trip

- A. Retrieve the key and school credit card from the athletic director.
- B. Check over the outside condition of vehicle.
- C. Check condition of interior for damage and excessive trash.
- D. Start the vehicle and check gauges for proper operation.
- E. Check lights for proper operation.
- F. If any issues are discovered, please complete the Repair Request Form found in the vehicle log.
- G. Fill out the travel log before departure.

Post Trip

- A. Refuel the vehicle before returning it to the school.
- B. Empty the vehicle of equipment and debris.
- C. Fill out the travel log.
- D. Return the key(s), credit card and receipts from credit card use to the athletic director.

*Travel log is found in the white binder located in the vehicle(s) and is to be left there.