

**ST DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

**AUSTIN, TEXAS**



**ATHLETIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
FOR PARENTS AND ATHLETES**



**2015-2016**

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## **St. Dominic Savio Mission and Philosophy**

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School is a co-educational college preparatory school founded by the Diocese of Austin to prepare young men and women to become faith filled, visionary and inspirational leaders in service to the Church and the world.

### **Philosophy**

St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School expresses the Church's educational mission through faith formation, social development and awareness, and a strong academic program. We seek:

- to develop within the school a strong Theology program based on Catholic teachings, Scripture, liturgical experiences, and service so that each student will grow and develop in the Catholic Christian way of life
- to facilitate the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of each student
- to challenge students to become Christian leaders, living as young men and women of conscience, compassion, and action

### **Vision**

Forming Servant Leaders in the Image of Christ.

### **Our Core Values**

We hold firm to our core values, which define our identity and serve as the fundamental beliefs that guide the daily life of the school: Faith, Scholarship and Witness.

## **St. Dominic Savio Athletic Philosophy**

Our athletic philosophy at St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School is structured intentionally with specific goals in mind for athletes at each level. We firmly believe a team can and should compete at the highest level, giving maximum effort in a way that honors Christ and the team on which they compete.

Participation in athletics is an important part of the educational process. Athletics provides the opportunity for student athletes to obtain valuable lessons in citizenship, sportsmanship, and the understanding of responsibility. In addition, our athletes ascertain collaborative skills, allowing them to succeed as a team, and bestow commitment to their team and school. Our athletes will also gain prospect into distinguishing team above self, embrace the concept of constructive criticism, assert the highest respect for others, exhibit self-control, assume responsibility for their actions, and enable them to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

Our athletic philosophy is designed to support and affirm the philosophy and mission statement of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School.

## **OBJECTIVES OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

1. To promote standards, character and conduct which contribute to a creditable citizen.
2. To develop leadership, good sportsmanship, new friendships, and a friendly rivalry with other schools.
3. To provide a well-planned and well-balanced program of interscholastic athletics for as many secondary school students as possible, consistent with available facilities, personnel and financial support; and operate and manage those athletic programs in harmony with the policies of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.
4. To create a desire to succeed and excel.
5. To instill pride in one's ability to contribute to a team or group goal.
6. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.
7. To be socially competent and operate within a set of rules, thus gaining a respect for the rights of others.
8. To promote cooperative thinking and unification of interest and effort among the athletic programs of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School.
9. To be concerned with the total development of the student and promote competitive activity as a portion of the total educational program.

## **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ATHLETE**

Education for you as a student-athlete MUST be your first responsibility. The achievement of the best education you are capable of achieving is our goal for you. St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School feels athletics plays a significant part in your total educational development. With this decision, you as an athlete must assume certain responsibilities to achieve the educational and athletic values, that is to say:

1. Striving to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control (verbally and physically), honesty, cooperation, dependability, and respect for others and their abilities.
2. Maintaining academic and eligibility standards established by St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School and the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.
3. Showing respect for authority and property while learning the value of hard work and sacrifice.
4. Learning the attainment of physical fitness through good health habits.
5. To have the desire to excel to your potential.
6. To be willing to accept leadership roles instilled in the athletic programs.
7. To follow guidelines and regulations established by Savio and the TAPPS.
8. Student hazing/bullying is inconsistent with the educational goals of Savio and poses a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of our students. Hazing/bullying of students, on or off campus property, is prohibited and may result in suspension from school and from activity/athletic participation.

As an athlete keep in mind that most people will remember you for what your actions were in competition. You are in the public eye and your personal conduct must be above reproach. You have a personal obligation to create a favorable image, and to gain the respect of teammates, the student body, and your community. Good sportsmanship is a must, this concept is far more valuable than winning an event. Every athlete will be coached to win, this is the primary objective of competition, and there will be spirited play, but it must be fair play. At all times, athletes are expected to uphold the integrity of the Catholic identity.

Player Participation in Savio Athletics:

Participation requires athletes to fully commit to their Savio athletic team during the sport's season. Athletes are required to pledge their time and effort to the team and the season in question and the excuse that they cannot attend games or practices because it conflicts with their club team's schedule or other Savio extracurricular activities (attendance during practice means a full practice session from start to finish) is not acceptable.

Athletes are required to participate in tryouts or practices on the scheduled date/s assigned, at the beginning of each sport season. Only athletes transitioning from one sport to another are allowed a two week grace period. It is the discretion of the head coach, with prior consent from the Athletic Director, to determine other arrangements.

Fighting:

As outlined in the St. Dominic Savio Student Handbook; any student involved in a fight on school grounds or at any school event, on or off campus, will be a candidate for suspension, probation or expulsion from the team and/or school.

Controlled Substance:

All athletes will be held accountable for: being in possession of, being under the influence, or the distribution of a controlled substance as outlined in the St. Dominic Savio Student Handbook.

Academics:

As stated before, athletes are **STUDENTS FIRST**. Athletes must remain in good academic standing as outlined by Savio and TAPPS guidelines in order to participate in sports. If it is necessary for an athlete to attend tutorials, they must let their coach know that they will miss practice ahead of time. They are expected to provide a note from the teacher to their coach prior to or upon their return. Coaches will not punish athletes for missing practice due to tutorials when provided a note from the teacher. Athletes should expect a coach to verify his/her absence with said teacher.

Early Release:

In the event that athletes must be released early from class for a competition, they will be given advanced notice as to the time they should immediately let their teacher know. They are responsible for any work missed after their release. It is the athlete's responsibility to the time and politely remind the teacher and excuse themselves from class.

### Missing Class:

On occasion, competitions will require athletes to miss class. Athletes will know with plenty of advanced notice what days they will miss. Athletes must fill out and submit the absence form in advance and submit to the main office. It is the athlete's responsibility to inform their teacher immediately and discuss assignments which may be due or given on the day in question. If an assignment is due on the date an athlete will be gone, it is expected that the athlete will have it turned in prior to leaving. If at all possible, athletes are expected to get assignments that will be given in advance, so that they can get it turned in immediately upon their return.

### Homework:

Athletics is **NEVER** an excuse to not complete assignments.

## **PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. practices, special equipment, out-of-season conditioning, etc.
5. Procedure followed should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

### Communication coaches expect from parents:

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Specific concerns with regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

As your children become involved in the programs at Savio, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times discussion with the coach is encouraged.

### Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child mentally and physically
2. Ways to help your child improve his/her skill level
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent, these are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue or concern.

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is:

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up for you. The telephone number is (512) 388-8846 ext.5320 or ext. 5516
3. **Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice.** These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and are prohibited.

The next step:

There is a chain of command that parents are asked to adhere to. If there is an issue with a coach, it must first be addressed with that coach. If the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution the following steps should be followed(in order):

1. Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.
2. If a meeting with the Athletic Director is unsatisfactory, a parent may call and set up an appointment with the Assistant Principal to discuss his/her questions and concerns.
3. If a meeting with the Assistant Principal is unsatisfactory, a parent may call and set up an appointment with the Principal to discuss his/her questions and concerns.

Since research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this document makes your experience with the St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School athletic program enjoyable and memorable.

Required Training/Meetings:

Savio has partnered with Notre Dame and is an official partner of PLACT. All new parents are expected to attend Play Like a Champion Today training. This training is provided yearly by the Athletic Director. Parents will be responsible for paying for the PLACT booklet(\$10). Parents are also expected to attend a general Savio Athletic Meeting held prior to the start of school. Dates of the meetings will be provided to parents before the close of the school year. Parents are expected to make every effort

possible to attend these meetings. At least one parent is required at both. Failure to attend may result in your child not being able to participate.

**Additional Info:**

All families are asked to support the Savio Athletic Booster Club. The boosters are essential in the financial support of Savio athletics. It is through parent memberships and volunteering that Savio can run successful programs. The Booster Club helps fund the athletic budget which includes, but is not limited to: coaching stipends, facility rental fees, officials, equipment, etc. There is plenty of opportunity for parents to be involved with the Booster Club and Savio athletics.

## **Behavior Expectations of All Spectators**

- Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition; not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
- Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes, and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
- A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place. Please note that rules do change over time.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
- Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by censoring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.

## **Overall Unacceptable Behavior**

- Yelling or waiving arms during an opponent's free throw attempt, serve, ect.
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures
- Booing or heckling an official's decision
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call
- Yells that antagonize opponents
- Blaming loss of a game on officials, coaches, or participants
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game
- Criticizing the coach in any way
- Approaching a coach/player during the competition

## **Consequences for NOT following rules**

- First offense: spectator will receive a verbal warning by the administrator in charge.
- Second offense: spectator will be asked to leave and escorted from the contest.
- Third offense: spectator will be banned from attending all athletic events held at St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School and ALL away games.

\*Please note that an official can request a spectator to be removed at any time.

## **SPORTS OFFERED AT ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Fall Sports**

Cross Country  
Varsity & JV Football  
Varsity, JV & Freshmen Volleyball  
Varsity Cheerleading

### **Winter Sports**

Varsity, JV & Freshmen Boys Basketball  
Varsity & JV Girls Basketball  
Varsity & JV Boys Soccer  
Varsity Girls Soccer  
Varsity Swimming  
Varsity Cheerleading

### **Spring Sports**

Track & Field  
Varsity & JV Baseball  
Varsity Softball  
Varsity Golf  
Varsity Tennis

## **LETTER AWARD STANDARDS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS OFFERED AT ST. DOMINIC SAVIO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

### **GENERAL CRITERIA**

1. A student athlete must complete the season, unless an injury in the sport keeps the student athlete from season's completion.
2. A student athlete must complete the season in good standing with the St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School regulations and guidelines as well as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.
3. The head coach will have final authority to determine whether a student athlete has met the requirements for a varsity letter.
4. Student athletes must compete at the Varsity level for a minimum of half the season, and/or in a minimum of 60% of Varsity competitions in order to be considered eligible and receive a Letter Award.

### **PE Credits:**

An athlete that fully participates in a single sport shall receive 1 semester's Physical Education credit. An athlete that fully participates in a full year of sports (2 sports or cheerleading) shall receive a full year of Physical Education credit. If a student does not complete the season for any reason other than because of a serious injury, they will not get credit. Sport managers do not receive PE credits. They can however, earn up to 7 volunteer hours towards their required service hours.

## **CONSENT FORM**

### **St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School Academic/Citizenship Guidelines for the Extra Curricular Activities**

I acknowledge receipt of, and have studied and understand the St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School Manual for participation in the activities/programs of St. Dominic Savio Catholic High School. I agree to abide by these rules and those of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools

**FILL OUT NEATLY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

**NAME OF STUDENT (print legibly)**

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(Printed Name)

**STUDENT SIGNATURE**

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(Signature)

**YEAR OF GRADUATION** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE IN SCHOOL FOR 2015-2016 (circle one)** **9 10 11 12**

**SIGNATURE OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)**

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(Signature)

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(Signature)

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

This sheet must be signed by the parties indicated and returned to the Athletic Director before the student will be allowed to participate.