

ORATORY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

THE PHARR ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL SYSTEM



Vision Statement

Every Oratory student believes the Gospel message and lives it by making a difference in the world, as each student journeys to his/her ultimate end, heaven.

1407 W Moore Rd.

Pharr, TX 78577

Phone: 956-781-3056

Fax.: 956-957-1516

www.oratoryschools.org

TAPPS Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools



ORATORY ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

ORATORY ATHENÆUM FOR UNIVERSITY PREPARATION

Table of Contents

Section

I. Mission Statement

II. Goals

III. Objectives

IV. Sportsmanship

V. Expectations Players/Participants

VI. Expectations Coaches

VII. Expectations Parents

VIII. Physical

IX. Academics Eligibility

X. Drugs and Alcohol Policy

XI. Conduct

XII. Tutorials

XIII. Practice Attendance

XIV. Illness and Injuries

XV. Equipment and Uniform

XVI. Travel

XVII. Cancellation Policy/Inclement Weather

XVIII. Athletes missing school for non-school related activities

XIX. Early Dismissal for Tournaments and Post-Secondary Season

XX. NCAA (National Collegiate Athletes Association)

XXI. TAPPS (Texas Association Parochial and Private Schools)

XXII. Athletes Not Yet in High School

Welcome

It is important that students who elect to participate in athletics at the Oratory schools read this handbook along with their parents. Any sports program managed by the Oratory athletic department is held to a high standard of excellence. Policies and guidelines we use are clearly outlined for you to reference.

Athletics are an integral part of the educational program at Oratory. The planning and implementation of our athletic activities involve consideration of the physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of each student athlete. The athletic department and coaches work with boys and girls to develop loyalty, responsibility, cooperation, leadership, and sportsmanship skills. The Oratory athletic program is designed to allow each student the opportunity to learn the values of teamwork, respect, and self-discipline through competitive and noncompetitive sport. Our student athletes are truly students first, and athletes second.

I. Mission

The mission of the Oratory Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri is to promote the formation of Christian character, Catholic lay leadership, Christian fellowship and community service by integrating the Gospel message with a liberal arts educational program in the spirit of joy of St. Philip Neri.

II. Goals

The goals of the athletic department are to:

- Provide service to student-athletes by providing resources for coaches to enable them to mentor, facilitate, and emphasize the total development of the student athlete.
- Provide a service to the community.

III. Objectives

The Oratory athletic department strives to:

- Provide an avenue for academic growth as measured through knowledge gained, skills learned, and culminating with successful graduation.
- Develop athletic growth as measured by successful competition at the highest level.
- Foster personal growth as measured by character development and contributions benefiting the community.

IV. Sportsmanship

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of all those involved in sport contests, including players, coaches, fans, parents, administrators, and officials to emulate this value. Good sportsmen demonstrate this by taking a loss without complaint, handle victory without gloating, and treat his/her teammates/opponents with fairness, courtesy, and respect.

V. Expectations: Players/Participants

We expect players to:

- Serve as positive examples for spectators by exercising self-control and good sportsmanship and by accepting both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
- Keep all cheers positive and to avoid actions that detract from their personal development

We expect all student athletes to sign and abide by the Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy (See Appendix). We expect each student athlete to uphold the following commitment standards:

- Academic Excellence
- Athletic Excellence
- Personal Development
- Service
- Team above self

VI. Expectations: Coaches

We expect coaches to understand they are a representative of the Oratory in our community. All actions and choices must reflect the mission and spirit of the Oratory. Coaches will:

- Put student athletes first.
- Be role models for loyalty, honesty, and integrity.
- Constantly strive for professional growth.
- Be organized, efficient, and timely.
- Be a leader of his/her program
- Be a positive force at the Oratory and in the community.
- Be knowledgeable of the rules and regulations set forth by the sport and governing bodies.
- Represent the model of good sportsmanship.
- Not use profanity.

VII. Expectations: Parents

Parents of Oratory athletes take on a tremendous responsibility helping their sons/daughters achieve success academically, socially, and athletically while participating in high school competition. In recent years, the societal idea that winning on the playing field/court defines success has underscored the significance we (parents, coaches, and administrators) have in educating the whole person. Keeping athletic competition in perspective is key to the successful growth of each of our athletes. Therefore each parent will agree to the following:

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for the students, not the adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my son/daughter or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools).
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for the students and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- I will teach my son and daughter to play by the rules and I agree to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will demand that my son and daughter treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect.

- I will praise my son and daughter for competing fairly and trying hard and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my son or daughter, his or her teammates, other parents, coaches, or officials for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning,
- I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my son or daughter to win.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games.
- I will demand a sports environment for my son/daughter that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
- I will refrain from coaching my son/daughter or other players during games and practices.
- I will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the games.

Any discussion regarding my son/daughter or his/her team will take place with the coaches at a mutually agreed upon time and place.

VIII. Physical

Each prospective student athlete must have a physical examination conducted by a physician before he or she is eligible to try out, practice, or participate in a sport. The physical is valid for one year from the date of the physical examination. Therefore, a sports physical must be completed annually to maintain eligibility. This includes a drug test for students in 9th through 12th grade. The physician must be a U.S. certified medical doctor.

IX. Academic Eligibility

Criteria	Consequence
Failing one class (Grade F)	Probation: The student must stay for at least one day of tutoring each week with the teacher of the subject that he/she is failing until the grade is acceptable. The student will still participate in practices and games.
Failing two or more classes (Grade F)	Suspension: The student must also stay for at least one day of tutoring each week with the teacher(s) of the subject(s) that he/she is failing until the grade is acceptable. The student will not participate in games for a minimum of 2 games or for a three week period, whichever is shorter. The student must still attend practice.
After suspension period Failing two or more classes (Grade F)	Dismissal: The student will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of the season.

Academic eligibility will be determined every three weeks (on the third, sixth, and ninth week of each quarter). **Any consequences due to academics take effect as of the Monday following the eligibility check.** Students who are banned from participation in games and/or practices due to academic ineligibility will not be refunded any dues paid. **Parents will be notified of any consequences listed above.**

Students must meet the requirements for eligibility when the season for their sport begins, even if they were not in a previous athletic team.

X. Drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, etc.
Parent/Student Handbook Chapter IV

The athletic department of the Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School System will follow all of the school's policies regarding the possession of controlled substances or alcoholic beverages. Please refer to the parent/student handbook for more details.

Drug and Alcohol Screening and Testing (Grade 9-12): The Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School System considers that any student who uses controlled substances or alcoholic beverages in violation of any of these regulations has committed a most serious illegal infraction and may cause a direct and immediate threat to the welfare and general safety of the student, student body and general public.

Penalty: suspension; possible dismissal

Random/ Periodic Screening and Testing (Grade 9-12): If selected for a random test, the student must immediately submit a urine sample for a urine drug test. Refusal to submit a sample or properly complete documentation for a random test will be a *refusal to test* which will require discipline up to and including dismissal.

Penalty: suspension; possible dismissal

Reasonable Suspicion Screening and Testing (Grade 9-12): If the Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School system has a reasonable suspicion that, a student may be affected by drugs a test may be conducted immediately. Refusal to cooperate in the collection/ testing process or refusal to take the test will require discipline up to and including dismissal.

Penalty: suspension; possible dismissal

Grades 9-12: For the welfare and general safety of the student, student body and general public, upon enrollment, parents or legal guardians must agree that, the Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School System authorities will conduct a Random/ Periodic testing. To ensure the highest quality of the testing program, all positive urine drug screens will be confirmed by a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) and/ or College of American Pathologists-Forensic Urine Drug Testing (CAP-FUDT) certified laboratory selected by the Pharr Oratory of St. Philip Neri School System to perform Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) testing.

XI. Conduct

In the athletic department, the Pharr Oratory continues to strive not just in academics, but also in the discipline and well being of the student. Our athletes are taught and coached to respect all teachers, students and community members on and off the field. Students who do not follow the behavioral rules and policies of the school both in the classroom and on the court/field are subject to disciplinary action.

Demerits will be assessed from the start of practices for the season and will be counted as cumulative for the remainder of the season for that sport. **Any consequences due to conduct will take effect immediately upon reception of the demerits.** Students who are banned from participation in games and/or practices due to conduct will not be refunded any dues paid. **Parents will be notified of any consequences listed in the table below.**

Students must have demonstrated good conduct by the start of the season for their chosen sport(s), even if they did not previously participate in an athletic team. Students with 15 or more demerits prior to entering a team may be denied entry into a team at the discretion of the coach and administration.

Criteria	Consequence
3 - 6 demerits	Warning: The student will be issued a warning. A parent conference or a student conference may be arranged.
9 - 12 demerits	Suspension: The student will not participate in games for a minimum of 2 games or for a three week period, whichever is shorter. The student must still attend practice.
15 or more demerits	Dismissal: The student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. A student that has been dismissed from a team for conduct may be barred from entry into other teams for the school year at the discretion of the administration.

XII. Tutoring/Homework/Testing

Here at the Oratory, we strive for academic excellence for all students. **Athletes are responsible for keeping up with their academic responsibilities.** During the time that a student athlete is on the road or is released early from school for travel, it will be the responsibility of the student to inform the teacher and obtain all work for the time missed. The student will also be responsible for making up any tests.

XIII. Practice Attendance

In order for a program to work well, the student/athlete needs to attend all practices that are scheduled for that sport.

- Students who enroll in a specific team or squad need to attend practice regularly.
- A student who misses 2 practices **without a valid excuse** provided **before** the practice will be suspended for (1) game.
- Student who misses 4 practices **without a valid excuse** provided **before** the practice will be suspended for the season.
- Parents or doctor must sign all excuses for absences.
- If a student/athlete is ill or has an emergency, parents are encouraged to email or call the school at their earliest convenience. **Such emergencies will constitute an excused absence even if submitted after the practice.**
- It is the responsibility of the student/athlete to contact the school athletic department if he/she is leaving because of illness or emergency.

XIV. Illness/Injury

The Oratory Athenæum for University Preparation carries a secondary insurance policy for all athletes and student team personnel who participate in any sport/activity governed by the athletic department. An athlete, through his or her family, is eligible to file an insurance claim in the event he or she is injured during practices, games, team events, or while traveling to and from team events. The secondary insurance goes into effect after the student's primary insurance policy processes the claim. This is not a primary insurance for the student athletes/student team personnel. In order for the insurance to pay on a claim, the injured athlete or student team personnel must be treated within 30 days of the injury and must have the claim form turned in to the insurance company within 90 days of the injury. Secondary insurance claim forms are available through the athletic office. Please contact the athletic office for more information regarding secondary insurance for student athletes/student team personnel.

XV. Equipment & Uniform

- a) Uniform damage: Damage to uniforms through normal wear and tear (e.g. hole from sliding, hitting, etc.) will be the responsibility of the athletic department. However, if a uniform is lost or damaged in a manner that is not a result from playing, then the player will be responsible for the cost of replacing the uniform.
- b) Equipment: Damage to equipment (such as balls, goalposts, nets, etc.) due to normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of the athletic department. However, if equipment is damaged due to a player not using the equipment properly or in a manner dictated by the sport, then the player will be responsible for the cost of replacing the equipment.

XVI. Travel

- a) Responsible: Parents are responsible for their son/daughter's transportation to and from practices, home games, and team events unless otherwise notified. Student athletes who are legally allowed to drive may drive to and from practices, games, or team activities.

b) Coaches must secure parental permission for student athletes to attend any trip that requires travel outside of Rio Grande Valley. Student athletes are the responsibility of the team and coaching staff while out of town for an athletic competition, even if parents are in attendance. The athletic department and/or coaching staff will make travel arrangements for the team and team personnel only. NO parent(s) will be allowed to travel or stay with student athletes in the there assigned rooms. During travel to and from any destination, Disciplinary action will be taken for those students who are not in compliance with Oratory Behavior policy, which also includes:

- Bus ride rules
- Hotel policy and rules
- Dining

Personal and travel documents: Students from a foreign country who attend Oratory and are athletes are required to have all proper documents when traveling. Students who are traveling and do not have proper documentation at the time of departure will not be allowed to travel. Travel documents required are the following:

- Visa documents
- I-20
- Birth certificate

XVII. Cancellation Policy/Inclement Weather

The safety of the student athlete will always be the first priority when inclement weather arises. If the heat index reaches 105 degrees, then all activity must be halted immediately. Coaches of outdoor sports must take heat index readings regularly and chart those measurements when dealing with extreme heat situations. If lightning is spotted or thunder heard, all activity must stop and the fields be cleared for 30 minutes. All participants and spectators should move to an appropriate shelter. Practice/play may resume after 30 minutes of the last roll of thunder or flash of lightning. School cancellation does not necessarily mean the athletic events scheduled in the evening will be canceled as well. The coaches and/or athletic department will relay the appropriate information as soon as a decision is made.

XVIII. Athletes Missing School for Non-School Related Activities

Athletes, who request absence from school to participate in an athletic activity that is not school-sponsored must send a letter in advance to the Athletic and school Administration asking for the absence to be excused.

XIX. Early Dismissal for Tournaments and Post-Season Play

The Oratory school-sponsored athletic teams may be permitted to have an early dismissal due to the team's participation in a regular season or post-season tournament. The time for dismissal will be determined by the athletic department in conjunction with the administration.

XX. NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association)

We are fortunate to have many of our student athletes go on to play sports in college. Student athletes who hope to earn athletic scholarships and plan to attend an NCAA institution must be processed through the NCAA Clearinghouse; these students should register with the NCAA after completing the junior year. The college counseling department at Oratory has all the information needed to get through the process.

XXI. TAPPS

All high school students intending to participate in athletics must fill out all of the necessary eligibility forms through TAPPS, even if their sport does not compete in a TAPPS district or with TAPPS schools. See the athletic department for more information on these forms.

XXII. Athletes Not Yet in High School

The Oratory continues to strive to expand our athletics program not just to varsity or high school students, but to our younger students as well. We ask that all parents encourage their child to participate in athletics.

All Oratory Academy school athletes will follow the same criteria as mentioned in this handbook with the exception of drug testing.