



**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
VILLAGE TECH
SCHOOLS
2024-2025**

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LETTER FROM THE ATHLETIC COORDINATOR

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Student-Athletes,

I would like to welcome you to the Village Tech Schools Viper Squid Athletic Program! We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development.

Village Tech Schools believes in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly structured, well-organized sports program meets students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our pledge to maintain a program that is sound in purpose, and will further each student's educational maturity. Likewise, we believe that guardians have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations to the student-athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program.

It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is best achieved through mutual communication between the Athletic Department, the student-athletes and the guardians of each of our student-athletes. One way that we have committed to accomplishing this objective is through this athletic handbook for students, guardians and coaches.

The most important reason that our department exists is to ensure that students have an opportunity to partake in and enjoy sports during their time at Village Tech Schools. As an athletic department, we can assure you that students and the teams in which they are a part of are the guiding force in everything we do and every decision that we make. Our focus and primary objective—in making this handbook and in all that we do—will always be to do what is in the best interest of the student and their team. This combination shall ensure a promising and successful future for Viper Squid Athletics.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read the athletic handbook. It will not only allow you to become familiar with our policies and procedures, it will also allow for a smooth transition for you as a new or continued member of the Viper Squid athletic program.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the Athletic Department.

Champions Find A Way

Ben Nicholas

Athletic Director

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Philosophy:

The athletic department at Village Tech Schools is an important part of our school's educational program. We want to ensure that each student-athlete reaches their maximum potential. It is our mission to develop the whole student, not just the athlete, in mind, body and spirit. Specifically, the Athletic Department seeks to provide students with the opportunity to participate in its program of interscholastic athletics and is committed to the following:

- To offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics (based on numbers and the best interest of our student-athletes)
- To teach the value of competition
- To foster the development of athletic skills
- To encourage the development of a strong work ethic, self-discipline and self-sacrifice
- To teach the value of commitment, teamwork and cooperation
- To encourage the development of judgment, character, and leadership
- To teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play
- To encourage the development of loyalty and pride in one's self, their team, and the school community

The Athletic Department expects the following of each athlete in the school athletic program:

- To be a positive representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by school and community expectations
- To maintain health and fitness levels by following the training rules prescribed by the coach
- To reflect the knowledge that commitment to victory is nothing without commitment to hard work in practice
- To understand that athletics is just one part in the big picture with the cornerstone being that a Village Tech Schools student strives to achieve excellence in all areas
- To learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities
- To express feelings intelligently and appropriately
- To accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, cooperation, positive interaction, and mutual respect
- To help student-athletes learn how to balance a demanding academic schedule with an arduous athletic training schedule

DEFINITION OF EXCELLENCE

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

— *Vince Lombardi*

Winning on the scoreboard is not always in our control. Winning must be defined in a way that we maintain a level of control. If success is not achieved, positive steps can be taken to assure positive results. There should never be a feeling of helplessness or despair, only a continual examination of attitudes and practices that brings about improvement. Our criterion for success is the achievement of excellence. Unlike victory over an opponent, we have control of our standards of excellence. Excellence is the ongoing process of becoming better than we once were, particularly in the below list areas.

EXCELLENCE

- Superior Work Ethic
- Personal Humility
- Team Oriented
- Determination
- Mental Toughness
- Actions Deserving of Victory
- Loving One Another
- Belief, Faith and Trust
- Sacrifice

All of these areas must be present to achieve excellence. The success of our teams will be a reflection on the degree to which the individuals on our teams develop these areas as fundamental components of who we are as a team and as individuals.

“The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential...these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” — *Confucius*

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ROLES

Athletic Director:

The Athletic Director is responsible for administering the Athletic Program at a district level for Village Tech Schools. Those duties include, but are not limited to: training and assisting coaches, building and coordinating the athletic budget, scheduling games, working with official leagues, and overseeing all aspects of the district athletic department. The Athletic Director will advise the administration, staff, teams, coaches, and parents of any changes and communicate the needs of the department to the administration, and the University Interscholastic League.

The Athletic Director is expected to provide appropriate instruction and support to all part-time and full-time coaches. The Athletic Director must also be a positive representative of Village Tech Schools and the Athletic Department.

Athletic Coordinator:

The Athletic Coordinator is responsible for administering the Athletic Program at Village Tech Schools at their specific campus. Those duties include, but are not limited to: training and assisting coaches, coordinating the athletic budget, scheduling games and coordinating practice schedules with the head coach of each sport, approving and scheduling transportation and officials, conflict resolution, and overseeing all aspects of the athletic department. The coordinator will advise the administration, staff, teams, coaches, and parents of any changes and communicate the needs of the department to the administration, and the University Interscholastic League. The Athletic Coordinator must be a positive representative of Village Tech Schools and the Athletic Department.

Coaches:

The coach is responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which his/her student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. The coach is also responsible for confirming game and bus schedules, turning in a roster prior to the season, distributing and collecting uniforms and equipment, completing game, injury and/or incident reports, and communicating with parents. The coach must also ensure that student-athletes are exhibiting, meeting and excelling at the standards before them at all times.

The coach is expected to be a positive representative of Village Tech Schools and the Athletic Department. This includes ensuring that the coach conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. They is expected to make decisions based on the collective interest of the team, while also developing each student-athlete to his/her fullest potential. The coach must be clear in expectations and available to student-athletes for positive mentorship on and off the field/court. They are expected to maintain high personal standards, motivate the players, and promote sportsmanship at all times.

Any coach who is ejected from a game will be required to pay the ejection fee, should there be one. Other disciplinary actions will be taken as necessary based off information from the incident. This may include, but is not limited to, suspension from the next athletic event.

Student-Athlete:

The student-athlete is expected to be a positive addition to the Village Tech Schools Athletic Department. If a student-athlete must discuss an issue with the coach, they must communicate in a respectful manner to try and find a solution. If a situation cannot be reached, the Athletic Coordinator may assist.

Student-Athletes will be representing Village Tech Schools in and out of the competition, and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively upon our program and school. Student-Athletes are expected to be respectful and exhibit excellent behavior in class, in practice, in games and in the community. If a student-athlete fails to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school, they will be subject to penalties, which may include game suspensions, ineligibility, or dismissal from the team.

Any player who is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next Athletic Contest and be required to pay the ejection fee, if there is one. Other disciplinary actions will be taken as necessary based off information from the incident.

Parents, Guardians, Spectators and Fans:

Spectators play a vital role in the Viper Squid Athletics Program. They model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all spectators to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard.

We are so appreciative of the assistance guardians and spectators provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to an athletic event, volunteering to serve athletics, and sacrificing family time to accommodate athletic schedules. We also appreciate the support provided to our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for spectators to be mindful of and respect what the coaches are trying to do by avoiding interference or public criticism, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members.

In regards to games, spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a spectator display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator or student-athlete.

Any Spectator or Guardian who acts in a disruptive manner will cause a game to be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed. If a Spectator/Parent is ejected from a contest, regardless if it is home or away, a Criminal Trespass Notice will be issued.

ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES

Fall Semester Sports	Spring Semester Sports
Cross Country	Basketball
Volleyball	Soccer
Dance	Track & Field
Basketball	Baseball
Cheerleading	Softball
Flag Football	Dance
E-Sports	Cheerleading
	Golf
	E-Sports

***Teams can separate into Junior Varsity and Varsity Team depending on the number of participants in each sport. However, Varsity teams will be filled and competed in first, meaning there will be no JV teams without a Varsity team**

VOLUNTEERS

As members of the Village Tech Schools athletic community, all volunteers play an important roll in our athlete's success. We realize that our volunteers' time is valuable, and behind every athlete and team is someone spending that valuable time. We ask that those who want to volunteer, volunteer their time to support their athletes, and the athletes of Village Tech Schools. This can be done through many ways, including driving to games and practices, cheering from the stands or bringing extra water. In many cases, an athlete depends on their guardians to participate in athletics. In order for them to be successful, it takes the support from home.

CONFERENCE AFFILIATIONS

The Village Tech Schools Athletics Program competes in two different leagues during the 2024-2025 season.

TCSAAL

VT will compete in the the Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League (TCSAAL) for select sports. According to their website, TCSAAL works to aid the individual growth of Texas' charter school students, through academic and athletic competition, to promote teamwork, a healthy lifestyle, and the constant pursuit for academic excellence. Village Tech Schools competes in the North Texas Regional.

UIL

For most sports, VT will compete in the University Interscholastic League (UIL). According to their website, The University Interscholastic League was created by The University of Texas at Austin to provide leadership and guidance to public school debate and athletic teachers. Since 1910 the UIL has grown into the largest inter-school organization of its kind in the world. The UIL continues to operate as part of the University of Texas, under the auspices of the Vice President for Diversity & Community Engagement.

The UIL exists to provide educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests. The initials UIL have come to represent quality educational competition administered by school people on an equitable basis. Village Tech Schools is a member of and will compete in District 9-AAA.

We are proud of these affiliations and will respect their direction. All administrators, coaches, parents, student-athletes and spectators are expected to be familiar with and abide by the rules set forth of the conferences.

For further information about TCSAAL, please visit the TCSAAL website at <http://texascharter.sportz.com>. For further information about UIL, please visit the UIL website at <https://www.uil texas.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Athletic Department:

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Village Tech Schools:

Main Office (469) 454-4441

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David Williams - Superintendent

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HEAD COACHES - 2024-2025

Emails can be found at villagetechschoools.org

Sport	High School Head Coach	Middle School Head Coach
Volleyball (Varsity)	Lorena Aguirre	Brittany Witt
Volleyball (Junior Varsity)	Lorena Aguirre	Hameedatu Kabba
Cross Country	Ben Nicholas	Ben Nicholas
Basketball (Boys Varsity)	Dareny Sims	Carla Youngblood
Basketball (Boys Junior Varsity)	LaMont Martin, Wesley Lowe	-
Basketball (Girls Varsity)	Hameedatu Kabba	Pria Glaspie
Dance	Roslyn Wilson	Roslyn Wilson
Track & Field	Chvonne Taylor	Chvonne Taylor
Baseball	Jaycek Jackson	Deon Collier Sr.
Softball	Joe Cain	-
Soccer (Boys)	Adrian Arista	Alissa Nicholas
Soccer (Girls)	Alissa Nicholas	Abigail Diaz
Football (Flag)	Deon Collier Sr.	Deon Collier Sr.
Cheerleading	Chvonne Taylor	Chvonne Taylor

Village Tech Schools employs additional coaches for every sport, when available. Some sports have multiple coaches that are assigned to different areas. For any questions, please reach out to your sports head coach.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

Middle School:

Village Tech Schools is committed to providing all middle school students interested in competitive athletics the opportunity to safely participate in athletics. Failure to attend tryouts or abusing their privilege of participation, can lead to disqualification of being on the team. We recognize that middle school athletics provides the introduction to competitive sports at Village Tech. Because it is important to have players learn the fundamentals correctly from the beginning, the emphasis of the middle school program will be developing skills and habits. The level of success achieved in high school athletics is directly related to the skills developed through the middle school program.

High School:

Student-athletes will be cut in High School sports if they abuse the privilege of participation. All teams may have player limits set forth by the Athletic Director, Coordinator and Head Coach. Failure to attend tryouts can lead to disqualification from the selection process if tryouts are held.

Team Selection/Playing Time:

It is our goal in team selection to find opportunities for both participation and for success. Placing each student-athlete at the level where he/she can contribute physically and gain positive feelings from his/her efforts is important to the coaching staff. Disappointments are inevitable when teams are selected, and it is very important that student-athletes feel the support of teammates, parents, and coaches.

We believe in our coaches. Their job is to manage and direct a specific sport. Their responsibilities include evaluating and selecting students for teams, as well as determining the degree to which each student-athlete will participate and they do this with considerable thought and sensitivity. During the selection process, coaches will evaluate skill level, athleticism, physical conditioning, positional play, trainability, punctuality, and various other attributes.

We want our student-athletes to learn the value of being on a team and the contribution each must make. Team members have a responsibility to themselves, their teammates, and their coaches to learn and perform their role on the team. Teamwork requires the development of many interpersonal skills such as listening, following directions, accepting constructive criticism, being respectful, and supporting teammates and coaches. Student-athletes have an obligation to participate in practice sessions and games with full commitment and enthusiasm.

Village Tech Schools believes that at all levels—sixth grade through varsity—playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. Regardless of the subjective nature

of the process and the potential for disagreement, the coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches WILL NOT discuss playing time with parents. Also, members of a varsity team are not guaranteed playing time. Student-athletes should fully understand that by joining a team they are accepting the pleasures and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation in athletics is a privilege, NOT a right. Students can earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students that are currently enrolled in grade 7th – 12th grade and attend Village Tech Schools are eligible to participate in athletics. All students in grade 7th – 8th grade are eligible to participate in middle school sports. All students in 9th – 12th grade are eligible to participate in High School Sports. 6th Grade students may participate in middle school sports under the TCSAAL League. For more information on eligibility requirements, please visit the TCSAAL and UIL websites.

Academic Eligibility:

Student-Athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in all classes. When a student-athlete receives a grade below “70” in one class, that student will be placed on academic probation for a period of three weeks. Student-athletes who are placed on academic probation may practice with the team but may not play in games. They will be expected to seek tutoring from the appropriate teacher. At the end of the probationary period if the student-athlete receives a grade of “70” or higher, then they are eligible to participate. If a student-athlete maintains failing grades, he/she may be declared ineligible for competition by the Athletic Director and he/she may not practice or travel with the team during the period of ineligibility. If the student-athlete does not improve the failing grade after the three week probationary period, then he/she may be removed from the team.

3 Week Progress Check Dates	6 Week Check Date
August 30, 2024	September 20, 2024
October 11, 2024	November 1, 2024
November 22, 2024	December 13, 2024
January 17, 2025	February 7, 2025
February 28, 2025	March 21, 2025
April 11, 2025	May 2, 2025
May 22, 2025	-

Conduct Eligibility:

Student-athletes are expected to maintain more than satisfactory conduct in all classes. Any student-athlete who does not maintain such conduct in a class will be subject to a behavioral probation that will follow the same three week guidelines as the academic probation.

Club/Select Teams:

Viper Squid Athletics will take precedence over club or league competitions and practice sessions. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate his/her participation on club or league teams prior to the start of the season so that any potential conflicts may be worked out. Student-athletes will not be excused from Village Tech athletic practices or games in order to attend game or practice sessions for club or league teams without approval and communication from the sport specific coach. Failure to communicate before the season may result in reduced playing time or the removal of a student-athlete from the team.

PRACTICE AND ATTENDANCE

Practice Times:

Coaches, along with the Athletic Coordinator will determine the team practice schedule. Weekends will be determined and communicated by the coach. There may be circumstances where the practice times require adjustment. In those cases, parents and student-athletes will be notified in advance of the change in day and/or times. Practices will be held rain or shine unless the coach and/or Athletic Coordinator cancel the practice or game.

Non-religious, early dismissal school days will follow the same regular practice schedule unless otherwise noted by a coach. For example, if track practice is held at 4:00pm each regular school day, then track will continue to practice at 4:00pm on an early dismissal school day. The coach will notify the parents and student-athletes in advance if there is a change to the practice schedule on these days. Some sports will have special practice schedules due to the nature of the sport and/or practice facility availability. These schedules will be communicated by the coach to student-athletes and parents prior to, and during the season.

Attendance:

Attendance at all games and practice sessions is mandatory for all team members. If a student-athlete will not be attending a practice, meeting, or athlete contest, the coach must be notified at least one day **prior** to the event being missed. Any student-athlete who has more than three absences (excused or unexcused) may result in limited playing time or removal from the team. Practice is held rain or shine unless otherwise noted by the coach. If a student-athlete is absent from school or arrives after 9:00 AM, he/she may not be able to practice or

play in a game that day. In the case that a player must miss practice (excused or unexcused), he/she will be expected to make up any work that was missed. Any student-athlete who leaves an athletic event without the permission of the Head Coach will be subject to suspension from the team.

Religious Commitments:

Village Tech Schools understands that from time to time a student-athlete may need to miss practice or game in order to fulfill religious obligations. While the coach is normally aware of these situations, not every student-athlete shares the same religious commitments. Student-athletes should discuss their religious commitments with the coach prior to season so that he/she is aware of the religious commitments in advance. Any student-athlete missing practice or game due to a religious commitment is still subject to the same standards as the other student-athletes.

Holidays:

In order for teams to remain cohesive, effective and competitive, student-athletes may be expected to play and/or practice during non-religious holidays (i.e., Winter Break, Spring Break, Summer Break, Labor Day, etc.) time periods. These dates and times will be announced by the coach as early as possible in an effort to allow families to plan accordingly. If there is any question and the dates have not been announced, please contact the coach and/or athletic coordinator. He/she will not be required to play and/or practice on a day of religious observation.

Illness & Injury:

All injuries should be reported to the coach and/or athletic coordinator at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

1. Tell the coach and/or athletic coordinator that you are injured before leaving the court/floor
2. No matter how small the injury, get treatment
3. Physical restrictions that result in missing practice will be followed through a doctors order.
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend team practices each day they attend school
5. A second notice from the doctor should be given to the coach to end physical restrictions
6. Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and/or very hot should notify the coach and/or athletic coordinator immediately.

Classwork:

On occasion when student-athletes must miss class to participate in scheduled athletic events, they are responsible for turning in class work that is due that day and they are responsible for making up any missed work in a timely fashion. If a student-athlete arrives home late from an athletic contest or misses class the day before a test due to an athletic contest, it is at the teacher's discretion to allow the student-athlete to test at an alternative time. If the student-athlete must leave class early on a testing day due to an athletic contest, it is the responsibility

of the student-athlete to reschedule the test for a date that is agreed upon by the student-athlete and teacher.

Practice Gear:

Student-athletes may be expected to purchase and wear sports-specific or school-specific practice gear for all practices. The coach will communicate this to the players prior to the beginning of the season. All game safety equipment must be worn during practices and games. This is a shared responsibility of the coach and student-athlete. Failure to bring ones equipment or uniform may result in the student-athlete not participating in the practice or game. The coach of each team will give further instructions regarding required practice gear. It is our highest recommendation that all parents and student-athletes strongly consider wearing mouth guards during contact sports contests and practices.

Students will not be allowed to wear attire representing another middle or high school to practice. Students may be asked to change or return home if they are in inappropriate clothes.

Uniforms/Warm-Ups:

Village Tech Schools athletic uniforms or warm-ups are to be worn only during interscholastic competition, practice, and on approved home game days with approval by coaches and the Athletic Coordinator. Launder uniforms in warm water, not hot, and never use bleach. Ironing may cause damage, as will very hot dryers.

Student-athletes are responsible for all items issued to him/her. Any lost, damaged or stolen items must be paid for by the student-athlete before another is issued. In the event that the school year ends and a student-athlete has not returned all items issued to him/her, the student-athlete's report card will be held until the items are returned to the school or paid for.

All uniforms and warm-ups are due the day after the final game of the season or on the date set by the coach.

Dropping/Dismissal from a Sport:

There will be times when some student-athletes make the decision to leave a sport before, during or after the season, although we highly discourage it. Whatever the reason, a student-athlete must follow the steps listed below:

1. The student-athlete must talk to the coach to see if a solution can be reached. A conference with the parents, student-athlete, coach, and athletic coordinator or any combination thereof, may be required and is highly recommended before a student-athlete leaves the sport.

2. If a student-athlete leaves the sport, he/she must check out of the sport just as he/she would check out of any academic class. In addition, all equipment must be turned in clean and undamaged. The student-athlete must pay for any equipment not turned in.

3. A student athlete will not be permitted to participate in the next season's sport if they leave the team of a previous season. For example, if the student-athlete quits Basketball to join Track & Field, then they will not be permitted to participate in Track & Field.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Guidelines for Athletics/Fine Arts Cooperation:

A student that is participating in additional extracurricular activities, such as a VT Theatre production, must receive the permission of the Theatre Director (Elizabeth Podany) and the coach of the sport they are interested in playing prior to being allowed to try out for the sport. If both the coach and the Director are supportive, the student is required to attend a tryout for the sports team. If the student is selected to play on the team, the student-athlete must make every effort to attend team practices and games on the days that he/she does not have play practice or productions. The student-athlete may be required to make up for missed practice time through conditioning workouts.

Fall Pre-Season Summer Requirements:

TCSAAL and UIL govern the start and end date for all sports practices. During the Summer, all training is and will be strength and conditioning until the governing bodies state practices can start. Fall athletic teams begin their official seasons the first Monday in August prior to the start of school. All candidates for those teams are expected to be in attendance. Any conflict must be cleared with the coach before the end of the previous school year. If the student-athlete is not in attendance the first Monday in August and has not received clearance from the coach, it is at the discretion of the coach to allow him/her to try out for the team.

Travel:

Village Tech Schools will attempt provide to transportation to major away contests such as state competitions. All players are expected to travel with their team to the competition site. If a student-athlete will not be returning to the VT campus with the team, verbal or written permission must be granted by parents and given to the coach ***before*** leaving campus.

STUDENT ATHLETES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE GROUP WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT UNLESS WRITTEN PARENTAL PERMISSION IS RECEIVED.

Varsity teams periodically have overnight trips during the regular season or post-season tournaments. The Athletic Coordinator and Head Coaches make hotel and transportation arrangements. The nature of team travel will require implementing room curfews, limiting or denying student-athlete separation from the group, and defining appropriate dress and behavior while our student-athletes are representing our school.

School rules are in effect when team travel occurs. Whether in or out of town, on or off the field/court, VT student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of decorum.

Practice and Game Cancellation:

In the event that the coach must cancel a practice, it is the responsibility of the coach and/or Athletic Coordinator to notify the team and parents. Inclement weather does not determine whether practice will be held—the coach makes the determination. When available, indoor facilities may be used to hold practice in these circumstances. If a change is made in the practice schedule, parents and student-athletes will be notified as soon as possible. Student safety is our top priority when making these decisions, and we aim to continue practice when possible.

In most cases, it is the responsibility of the host school to make decisions regarding game cancellations. When hosting an event, Village Tech Schools will make every effort to make cancellation decisions by 2:00pm on the day of the event.

When a game is cancelled, the coach may choose to hold a practice in its place. If the coach chooses to hold a practice in place of the cancelled game, he/she will communicate this information to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

Gym/Locker Rooms:

Select Village Tech Student Athletes will have the opportunity to use the locker rooms in the gym, depending on their sport. Coaches that use the locker rooms will assign locks to the locker rooms. The student-athletes are responsible for keeping up with their locker combination, and encouraged to put all valuables and personal items in the school lockers for safekeeping.

The Athletic Department, coaches, or Athletic Coordinator are not responsible for lost or stolen items (uniforms, equipment, school issued materials, or personal items) that are in the locker room or surrounding athletic facilities.

Facility Usage Policy:

Any usage of the facilities must be approved by the Athletic Director. Student-athletes must be accompanied by an approved faculty supervisor when using the facilities. Non-Village Tech groups or individuals may be subject to a facility usage fee as well as an administrative fee for facility usage. Such usage must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

Substance Abuse and Hazing:

Any student-athlete found to be in violation of the school's substance abuse policy will automatically be suspended from all team activities including practice, games, tournaments, dinners, etc., while the reported offense is under review by the coach, athletic coordinator, and school administrator. Village Tech Schools Athletic Department reserves the right to impose a disciplinary action or other condition which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation. This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of season, as well as expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

Village Tech Schools forbids any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as a forced, required, intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity, or which encourages violation of any federal, state, local, or school law for the purpose of initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization affiliated with Village Tech Schools. This applies regardless of the willingness of the participant. Hazing, with or without the consent of a student, is prohibited by Village Tech Schools and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

Parent/Coach Communication:

Parent Meeting:

The coaches for each sport will hold a parent meeting prior to the first game in each sport. Parents are encouraged to be in attendance. The meeting will allow parents to meet the coach for their student-athletes sport, ask questions, and receive all information pertinent to the season.

Communication Tools:

Coaches will communicate regularly with parents and student-athletes in person, via email, by the Remind app or by phone. Social media is not an appropriate way to contact your coach in the event of an emergency.

Concerns or Issues:

Step 1: One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. When there is a concern, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly. It can be very satisfying for all parties involved when student-athletes and coach are able to find mutually agreeable solutions for an issue that they are preempting to resolve.

Step 2: If the coach and student-athlete are unable to resolve the issue together, then parents may contact the coach. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the parent should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. An upset parent should wait at least **24 hours** before approaching a coach or parent after an athletic event. Under no circumstances should a parent approach a coach or another parent in a harsh manner, or immediately before, during, or immediately after a practice or a game. Taking this time to

reflect on the situation, as well as honest and respectful communication should allow for more effective dialogue ensuring a more successful experience for everyone.

It is not appropriate for a parent to request feedback from the coach about team strategy (including playing time), play calling, or other student-athletes. It is appropriate for a parent to contact the coach with concerns about their son/daughter's behavior, their skill development, and for physical treatment advice.

Step 3: If the discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, parents and coaches may contact the Athletic Coordinator to discuss the situation.

Step 4: if the Athletic Coordinator is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, the parent may contact the appropriate administrator (Athletic Director, Campus Director).

Athletic Website:

Athletic information will be posted on the athletic page of the Village Tech Schools website at <http://www.villagetechschoools.org>. The information found on the website will include: sports schedules, athletic forms, Coaches information, and other Athletic Department information pertinent to athletics at Village Tech Schools.

All directions and addresses to the game locations will be communicated by coaches to parents at least one day before or day of the athletic contest.

REQUIRED FORMS AND FEES FOR PARTICIPATION

Prior to the start of each season, all parents and student-athletes must complete the following forms:

- Handbook Contract Form
- Village Tech Schools Liability Form
- VT Acknowledgement of Rules Form
- VT Steroid Use Agreement
- Emergency Identification Card
- Physical Examination Form (must be completed by Physician)
- Concussion Return to Play Policy Acknowledgment
- Student Travel Permission Form
- Sudden Cardiac Awareness Form
- Uniform Contract (to be given out and signed on check-out days)
- TCSAAL/UIIL Transfer Form (ONLY if a student is transferring from another school and plans to participate in athletics)

All forms must be filled out on Rank One, a system we use to electronically collect and file these documents safely. Rank One and instructions on how to use the system can be found on our website, villagetechschoools.org, under the “Athletics” tab. The uniform contracts (which will be given out on uniform check-out days), physical and handbook contact are the only documents that will be accepted in paper form.

Failure to complete all forms required for participation will result in the student-athlete being declared ineligible to participate.

ATHLETIC FEES

Athletic fees are a required part for participation at Village Tech. This year, all sports are \$100 for the academic school year.

Although the school pays for most of the cost associated with the athletic program, some sports, by nature, require specialized equipment or “consumables” for which the cost is shared between the school and the parents of the student-athletes. Additional needed equipment or costs such as specialty shoes or clothing will be disclosed by the coach.

Scholarships and fundraising for athletic fees are available. If there is a concern regarding the fees or a need for scholarship or fundraising opportunities, please contact your coach first. That coach will then contact the Athletic Coordinator, and potentially Athletic Director.

Village Tech will not limit participation in athletic activities due to financial burdens. If you are unable to pay the athletic fee, please reach out to your coach first. We want all athletes to participate!