

**2026-27 ATHLETIC
DEPARTMENT
GUIDEBOOK**



**TOCOI CREEK
HIGH SCHOOL**

TCHS Athletics

Mission Statement

Tocoi Creek High School athletics is committed to building champions in life and sport. Through high expectations, relentless effort, and a culture of excellence we empower our student-athletes to grow as leaders, persevere through challenges, and become selfless teammates. We believe in shaping character, fueling passion, and inspiring pride in our school and community.

Athletic Department Contact Information

- ❖ Athletic Director: Billy Blackmon
 - Email: Billy.Blackmon@stjohns.k12.fl.us
- ❖ Athletic Secretary: Starr Driesse
 - Email: Starr.Driesse@stjohns.k12.fl.us
- ❖ Athletic Trainer: Audrey Poteet
 - Email: Audrey.Poteet@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Student-Athlete Clearance

- ❖ AthleticClearance.com
 - Student-Athletes must be “cleared” prior to trying out for a sport. Please visit our website for detailed instructions. This process is paperless and completed fully online.
 - Sport physical must not expire at any time during regular or extended season; this will render student-athlete ineligible.
 - Clearance to participate also includes maintaining a 2.0 or higher unweighted GPA. Eligibility is determined on a semester basis (not 9 week) and is final on the first day of each semester.

Pay to Participate

- ❖ A fee of \$150 will be assessed to each athlete for each sport that they participate in.
- ❖ This fee will be due when the athlete makes the team and must be paid prior to the student-athlete participating in their first contest.
- ❖ This fee helps cover the cost of officials, coaches, transportation, equipment, uniforms, field of play maintenance, ect.
- ❖ Student-athletes that pay to participate in both a fall and a winter sport will have participation fees waived for a spring sport.

Transportation

- ❖ Transportation is provided by the Athletic Department on most school days.
- ❖ Parent transportation may be required for some contests.

Attendance

An athlete suspended out of school is automatically suspended from participation until their suspension has been served. This includes out of season.

- The athletic director may administer further punishment if the student code of conduct has been broken.
- ❖ Any student assigned detention must report the detention to their coach and attend said detention.
DETENTION TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER TEAM PRACTICE OR GAMES.
- ❖ A student-athlete who is marked unexcused absent for more than half of their schedule in a given day may not participate in practice or competition on that day.
- ❖ No modified or home ed student-athletes will be allowed on campus prior to the dismissal bell.
- ❖ Excused tardies will not be issued for morning practices.

Specific Rules

- ❖ Any athlete who quits a team will not be permitted to play on another team until the end of the season of the team he/she quit.

- ❖ An athlete may participate simultaneously on more than one team provided permission is granted by all coaches concerned.

Injuries

- ❖ Injuries should be reported to our Athletic Trainer as soon as the injury is discovered.
- ❖ If you visit a medical provider, a note must be brought back to Coach or Athletic Trainer with instructions regarding any possible limitations for clearing the athlete to participate.
- ❖ Toco Creek High School does not endorse any particular physician.

Insurance

- ❖ St. Johns County School District has a secondary insurance policy for student-athletes who sustain an injury while participating in a sport sponsored/supervised TCHS activity.
- ❖ You have 90 days to file from the injury date.
- ❖ If you have any questions, please reach out to our Athletic Trainer.

NCAA Eligibility

- ❖ You must register with the NCAA if you plan to play in college by 11th grade.
- ❖ You must have a minimum of a 2.3 GPA.
- ❖ Registration link can be found on the TCHS website under “Quick Links”.

Communication

- ❖ Protocol
 - Student-Athlete communicates with coaching staff
 - Parent communicates with coaching staff
 - Parents communicates with Athletic Director
- ❖ 24-hour rule
 - Under no circumstances should a parent address a coach until 24 hours after the completion of a contest/game.
- ❖ Do not address officials or coaches during or after a contest/game.
- ❖ Parents who fail to follow these rules will be subject to a one (calendar) year ban.

TCHS Social Media

❖ TCHS Athletics

- Facebook: Toco Creek Athletics
- Instagram: @tocoicreek_athletics

❖ OneToro Booster Club

- Facebook: One Toro Athletics
- Instagram: @onetoroathletics

Booster Club

One Toro Athletics Booster Club is committed to raising awareness, affinity, and funds to supplement the TCHS athletics programs to ensure an excellent student-athlete experience is maintained. The booster club works to support all athletic teams from tangible items and donations to providing volunteers and staffing for events.

❖ Parents can support OneToroAthletics by:

- Becoming members
- Attending meetings
- Volunteering
- Supporting fundraisers

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

- ❖ Alcohol/Drugs: No student-athlete shall knowingly attend any party or other social gathering where underage drinking and drug use occurs. This rule is intended to apply to gatherings that consist primarily of students and student age individuals where underage drinking is occurring, usually without the knowledge or acquiescence of the parents, and shall not apply to events such as a wedding, family reunion, or the like.

- ❖ **It shall not be a defense to this rule that a gathering of students at which alcohol and drugs are consumed was sanctioned by any parent or held with parental consent. It is the attendance at such gatherings this is prohibited by this rule. Actual consumption of alcohol or use of drugs is not a prerequisite to establish a violation of this rule. Any student-athlete who is found to have voluntarily remained in the vicinity of a gathering prohibited by this section shall be guilty of a violation of this rule regardless if he or she consumes or uses any prohibited substance.**

- ❖ No student-athlete will be deemed to have violated this rule if he or she can show to the satisfaction of the school Principal, Athletic Director and Head Coach that, immediately upon becoming aware that underage drinking and/or drug use is present at a party or social gathering, he/she completely removed himself/herself from the place where the party or social gathering was held, including parking areas.
- ❖ Refer to the SJCSO Student Code of Conduct for disciplinary procedure.

Fines

- ❖ Any fines assessed by the FHSAA because of an action of a student-athlete/parent will be paid for by the student-athlete/parent. The student will not be allowed to participate in a contest/game until such fine is paid.

Activities that May Impact Amateur Status

- ❖ The following may cause a student-athlete to forfeit amateur status:
 - Competing for money or other monetary compensations;
 - Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the FHSAA;

- Capitalizing on athletic fame or performance by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature;
- Signing a professional playing contract in any sport or hiring a registered agent to manage his/her athletic career, other than for the purpose of advising on NIL related matters;
- Competing under an assumed name.
- Accepting a Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) agreement that does not adhere to FHSAA Bylaw 9.9

Permissible Awards, Gifts, or Other Compensation

- ❖ A student-athlete will not forfeit his/her amateur status for accepting:
 - Symbolic awards such as school letters, medals, trophies, plaques, pins, keys, or ribbons of small monetary value purchased from an established award company
 - Rings, sweaters, jackets, or award blankets provided that they are presented by the school which they represent and do not exceed the value of the purchase price from an established award company
 - Remuneration of “essential expenses” for any game in which he/she participates as a player; limited to meals, lodging, and transportation
 - A college scholarship offer

Name, Image, And Likeness (NIL)

- ❖ A student-athlete may profit from the use of their own Name, Image, and Likeness subject to their compliance with FHSAA Bylaw 9.9. Permissible activities include, but are not limited to, commercial endorsements, promotional activities, social media presence, product, or service advertisements. Several important points to note are below. Please refer to the FHSAA by-laws or contact the Athletic Director with questions.
 - Student-athletes are prohibited from making any reference to and will not otherwise use or authorize others to use the school's uniforms, logos, mascots, insignia, or identifying marks of a member school, the FHSAA, the NFHS, and/or any FHSAA, NFHS, or member school event, game, or championship when engaging in any NIL activity.
 - Student-athletes will be prohibited from monetizing their Name, Image, and Likeness with the use of their school's uniform, equipment, logo, name, proprietary patents, products and/or copyrights associated with an FHSAA member school, NFHS and/or school district, either in public, print, or social media platforms, unless granted authorization by prior written consent from the school, district

or governing body of the school, or Association, respectively.

- No school employee, athletic department staff member, or representative of a school's athletic interests as defined in Bylaw 1.4.17 (a-e), may form, direct, offer, provide, or otherwise engage in any activity outlined in FHSA Bylaw 9.9. Representatives of a school's athletic interest as defined in Bylaw 1.4.17(f) are subject to the prohibitions included in 9.9.4.2 and 9.9.4.4(i).
- NIL activities shall not be used to pressure, urge, or entice a student-athlete to attend a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. The NIL agreement shall not be used as a guise for athletic recruiting.

