

St. Joseph School Athletic Handbook

PHILOSOPHY

St. Joseph Catholic School provides a comprehensive program to develop the whole person—the religious, moral, social, and academic dimensions, as well as, physical dimensions. Participation in athletics is an important part of student development. Through participation in St. Joseph School sports programs, students are given further opportunities to develop life-long skills and positive values. These values include leadership, healthful living habits, self-discipline, integrity, teamwork and respect for rules and regulations. Athletes should be aware that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and, as such involves benefits and accompanying responsibilities. Students will be provided with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of various team sports, play in competitions between schools, represent the school, and develop Christian values. Responsibilities that follow along with these privileges are: the importance of being excellent examples of Christian leadership, dedication to academics as well as attention to learning the skills and rules of the game, importance of being a team player, and the commitment to practice so that the team will succeed.

All St. Joseph students are entitled to participate in the extracurricular interscholastic athletic programs of the school. These programs are designed to contribute to each child's physical and emotional well being while allowing for differences and uniqueness of each child. These programs will enhance yet remain secondary to the student's school academics.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Participation in the St. Joseph Interscholastic Athletic Program is exclusively for students attending St. Joseph Catholic School.

Universal participation—whereby each student is offered the opportunity to be a member of a team—will be the standard for St. Joseph School athletic programs. These programs are designed to provide a wholesome means of recreation and use of non-study time. Teamwork, integrity, and self-discipline will be an integral part of St. Joseph School athletic program at all levels.

If any grade level team does not have a sufficient number of players to field a team, it may include students from one to two grade levels lower. At times, tryouts may be required to fill vacant positions. Current Catholic League rules state that if a player

moves up a grade level, he/she must remain at that level for the remainder of the season. Athletes are allowed to play on only one team per league per season.

As of the 2006-2007 school year, an athletic fee will be collected for each sport the athlete participates in. Please note that fees vary with each individual sport.

ORGANIZATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Head Coach>Athletic Director>Athletic Board>Principal>Pastor

If a particular problem or concern arises, parents are requested to contact the individual who is directly involved. All are encouraged to follow the chain of command indicated above in order to foster the mutual respect, which will create a program beneficial to our children. **Handling any problems in this manner will also serve as a model for effective problem solving to the students.**

GUIDELINES FOR ST. JOSEPH ATHLETIC TEAMS

ATHLETIC CODE/ELIGIBILITY:

Athlete's code

1. Participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right.
2. Athletes must maintain a "C" average in each class and keep up with all school work in all of their classes.
3. Athletes must display good behavior.
4. Participation in the program is intended to foster school spirit, loyalty, teamwork, responsibility, and sportsmanship.
5. Athlete must remember that he/she is a representative of the school and that his/her behavior must reflect the values of Christian behavior. Athletes must show respect for their coaches, teammates, parents, teachers, principal, officials, opponents, and anyone else connected with the athletic program or games.
6. No "on or off the court" incident will justify an athlete arguing with an official in any sport. Any complaint that an athlete has with an official must be communicated to the coach in a respectful and appropriate manner. Only the coach will handle further communication/action regarding the incident.

7. Athletes will not swear or use profanity at practice or during games. The use of such profanity will result in immediate suspension from the practice or game as well as possible suspension from the team.
8. Attendance at practice is mandatory for participation in interscholastic games, except in the case of an emergency or an excused absence. Failure to attend practice on a regular basis, regardless of the individual's skill level, may result in suspension of a game, or if necessary, from the team

**** Failure to comply with any of the above code items may result in suspension, reduction of playing time, or removal from the team. The Coach, Athletic Director, and the Principal shall have the authority to apply such a penalty.**

Athlete's Participation

1. At the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade levels, the primary goal of the St. Joseph School Athletic Program is to provide every athlete with quality playing time during each game and to teach game fundamentals.
2. At the varsity level, there is a greater emphasis on competition in the interscholastic program. Playing time may be based on ability/skill in order to promote wins. **Therefore, there is no guarantee of equal playing time at the varsity level.**

Playing time is not a right, it is a privilege.

For non-varsity teams, playing time is generally equal over a season. However, there may be unequal segments over a game or two. Certain factors may adversely affect playing time in games. However, for non-varsity sports, skill is **NOT** a factor. These factors may include:

- *Attendance at practice
- *Work ethic
- *Attitude
- *Willingness to learn

Athlete's Attendance

1. A student who attends school for ½ of the day (arriving by 12 Noon)

is eligible to participate in that day's game or practice. A student who leaves school during the school day due to illness is ineligible to participate in that day's game or practice.

2. If an athlete is unable to participate in P.E. class during the day due to illness or injury, he/she cannot participate in a practice/game that day. St. Joseph School expects that student athletes will be excellent models of participation and cooperation during P.E. classes.
3. Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach. An unexcused absence could result in reduced playing time or the athlete being removed from the team.
4. Excused absences will be accepted under the following circumstances:
 - *Doctor/Dentist appointment (if unavoidable)
 - *Illness
 - *Tutoring
 - *Schedule conflict as a result of family responsibilities, which have been discussed with the coach prior to the absence.
 - *Death in the family

Academic/Behavior Eligibility Procedure

1. Athletes must maintain a C average and keep up with all of their schoolwork and assignments. If he/she does not comply with the above requirements, he/she will be suspended from games and practices for one week. The teacher will re-evaluate academic performance after one week and if their grade has improved to a C level and /or their school work and assignments are completed and up to standards, the suspension will be lifted. If not, suspension continues until the athlete's grades and/or schoolwork meet the above requirements.
2. Behavior checks on Progress Reports/Report Cards will follow the same cycle as listed above in #1.
3. If an athlete receives a detention, he/she will be suspended from games for one week.
4. If an athlete is suspended from school, he/she will be suspended from the team for the remainder of the season.
5. The Principal may suspend an athlete from participation in games and/or practices for unacceptable behavior or conduct at anytime. Such

suspension shall be within the exclusive discretion of the Principal.

ATHLETE/COACH/PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

ATHLETE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Comply with all school rules and policies.
2. Follow the Athletic Policy outlined in the Athletic Handbook.
3. Attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach.
4. Compete for their team with teamwork, sportsmanship, and Christian attitude; these high expectations are required of all St. Joseph athletes.
5. Follow the rules and procedures set by the coaches.
6. Show respect toward coaches, officials, scorekeepers, teammates, and opponents.
7. Maintain good grades (C average) and keep up with all schoolwork.
8. Athletes must turn in all forms completed—contract, permission slip, release, medical, and transportation authorization—to the Athletic Director before he/she can participate in any practices and/or games. The Athletic Director will issue a team roster to the coach and teachers to indicate a student's participation. Council II-3A Athletic Association requires all athletes to have a copy of a current physical on file with the Athletic Director.
9. The athlete is responsible for the use of their issued uniform and returning the the uniform cleaned no later than one week after the season has ended. Uniforms are to be returned directly to the Athletic Director. A fee (the price of the uniform) will be charged to any athlete who does not return their uniform or does not return their uniform in its issued condition.

COACH'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Report to the Athletic Director. Follow all athletic eligibility directions/recommendations.
2. Follow the Athletic Policy of St. Joseph School as outlined in the Athletic Handbook.
3. Complete a *mandatory* criminal background check and attend the Virtus "Saving our Children" workshop and the Positive Coaching Alliance workshop.
4. Provide a team practice and game schedule to the athletes.
6. Create a positive, learning environment for the athletes consistent with the policies of St. Joseph School and the Office of Catholic Schools.
5. Support St. Joseph School policies in working with athletes, parents, Athletic Directors, and other coaches.
6. Help athletes to improve their skills.
8. Keep the Athletic Director informed in regard to all athlete and team matters.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Remember that they are their child's primary role model.
2. Follow the chain of command for addressing concerns and problems. See section titled "Organization of Athletic Program".
3. Treat coaches, officials, St. Joseph team members, and opposing team members with courtesy and respect at all times. Swearing and/or any type of profanity at any sporting event is **prohibited**.
4. Remember that parents, athletes, and coaches represent the school and conduct should represent the principles of Christian behavior. Any parent or spectator not abiding by the behavioral guidelines outlined in this Athletic Handbook will be asked to leave the sporting event/building by the Athletic Director, the coach, or designated supervisor.

5. Assist the athlete in selecting the proper equipment for the particular sport and make sure it is well fitting.
6. Assist the athlete in attending practices and take the necessary steps to insure their child attends all practices.
7. Be on time to pick up their child from practice.
8. Be responsible for providing transportation for their child to and from games.
9. Discuss with the coach any situation which may conflict with practices or games prior to the athlete's absence.

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