

Athletic Handbook

2017-2018

Athletic Committee

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OBJECTIVES OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Mission Statement

St Joseph Catholic School provides an athletic program where all students have the opportunity to learn, play and have fun while promoting positive self-esteem, sportsmanship and Christian behavior.

Nondiscriminatory Policy

St Joseph Catholic School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

The athletic program has the following major objectives:

- To provide opportunities for athletic competition
- To be inclusive of all student athletes no matter the skill level
- To teach students that athletic participation is a privilege with inherent responsibilities
- To provide activities that promotes school unity by learning loyalty, teamwork, self-discipline, maximum effort and mutual respect for one another.
- To help student athletes maintain and keep healthy habits
- To have fun

Emphasis is placed on sportsmanship and attitude of the student athletes rather than the number of games won or lost. In order to maintain the integrity and high standards of our athletic programs, all parents, student athletes, coaches, and fans are expected to follow a set of expectations and guidelines. Please read these. By signing the Family Handbook of the School, you acknowledge that you and your student athletes understand this section and will conduct yourselves accordingly. This agreement is in effect for 1 year from the date of your signatures.

PARTICIPATION PHILOSOPHY

Responsibility for the success of the athletic program rests with our parents, coaches and volunteers. Adults must remember that the program exists for the growth of young people and must model Christian values and virtues.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

All students in grades K-8 are eligible to participate provided they are enrolled in St Joseph School or are a home-schooled student enrolled in St Joseph's Parish. Each student must maintain a satisfactory academic standing. (Please refer to the Appendix for the complete definition.)

ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES OFFERED

Our teams compete in supervised structured games and tournaments with area teams and with School District # 110 Community Education

Girls Activities

Fall

Volleyball (Grade 4-8)

Lego League (Grade 4-8)

Winter

Basketball (Grade 4-8)

Dance (Grades K-6)

Spring

Soccer (Grade K-6)

Softball (Grade 3-6)

Boys Activities

Fall

Lego League (Grade 4-8)

Winter

Basketball (Grade 4-8)

Spring

Soccer (Grade K-6)

Baseball (Grade 3-6)

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION

K – 4th Grade Teams are developmental and will focus on teaching basic skills, the rules of the game and having fun. Student athletes are given equitable playing time as described below. Scrimmages, games and up to two tournaments per year will be scheduled as possible.

5th – 6th Grade Instruction continues with increased emphasis on the rules, team play and sportsmanship. Student athletes are given equitable playing time as described below. Scrimmages, games and up to three tournaments per year will be scheduled as possible.

7th – 8th Grade These teams continue instruction in all skill phases with stressing the role of competition and team strategy. Student athletes are given equitable playing time as described below. Scrimmages, games and up to four tournaments per year will be scheduled as possible.

Please note that it is not possible to guarantee practice or game times. Time conflicts should be sorted out as quickly as possible. If a conflict becomes unworkable and the student athlete must withdraw participation, a full refund will be given before the first game is played.

EQUITABLE PLAYING TIME

The following applies to all grades and all sports:

- During regular season games, playing time will be distributed as near to equally as possible.
- During tournament games, all student athletes will play every game but playing time will not be required to be equal.

Please note that playing time may be influenced by a student athlete's participation in practice (though perfect attendance is not required), their attitude, and their current academic or behavior standing in school.

All participants are expected to be at all practices. If a student athlete cannot make practice for some reason, this should be communicated to the coach.

***Assisting an Additional Team**

In addition to playing on his or her regular team, a student athlete may be asked to "play up" to assist an older team that needs additional players to field a team. The decision as to who is asked to play up is determined by the coach of the older team and will be dependent on skill level, team need, and competition level. The coach should be familiar with the skill levels of all the younger players before making a decision. The coach may also consult the athletic director and coach of the younger team before making a decision.

When playing up, the SJS playing time policy does not apply and there is no guarantee of any playing time. The coach asking the younger player to assist the older team should communicate with athlete's parents the extent to which the player is likely to play if they accept the invitation. Playing time is determined by the coach. Younger players are offered this opportunity on an "as needed" basis."

PROCEDURES FOR PARTICIPATION

- The Athletic Director announces upcoming athletic activity through the school newsletter
- The appropriate registration permission forms are distributed to interested parties with the determined registration deadlines
- Fees for participation in 2017/2018 will be:
\$ 50.00 per child / per sport for K- 4th grade student athletes
(Soccer K thru 3- \$40.00, 4th- \$55.00)

Dance-\$40.00

\$ 85.00 per child / per sport for 5th – 8th grade student athletes

(Soccer 5th and 6th - \$55.00)

Dance -\$40.00

- Athletic/Activity Scholarships are available based on need. Inquire with Parish Administrator and Principal.
- There will be a \$ 10.00 late fee for registrations received past the deadline.
- Families will be required to read the *Athletic Handbook*, acknowledge their receipt and understanding, and sign the Athletic Contract.
- By signing the registration form, parents agree to uphold the guidelines listed in this *Handbook* and also agree to volunteer for the needs of these activities.

Parents are required to participate in a pre-season meeting with the volunteer coach and Athletic Director. The meeting will cover the rules and expectations for student athletes, parents and spectators, practice/game schedules, volunteer schedules and questions and answers.

Please note that the Athletic Program cannot be run without your participation. Parents are expected to donate their time for various jobs such as ticket taking, concessions, operating the scoring table, security and set up/clean up. Your help is sincerely appreciated!

SPORTSMANSHIP

Participation in St Joseph Athletics is a privilege that requires everyone involved to conduct themselves in a positive, appropriate and Christian manner. Student athlete behavior that reflects negatively on the school, parish or community will not be tolerated and may result in their suspension from the team.

Unsportsmanlike behavior resulting in expulsion from a game or a Technical Foul may result in removal from the activity and further review by the Principal and Athletic Director. Additional disciplinary action may be possible.

Parents, volunteers and spectators are also expected to set a good example for our students. People who violate this policy are subject to removal from the activity at the sole discretion of the Principal and the Athletic Director.

Student Athlete, Coach, and Parent Expectations & Guidelines

Student Athletes will:

- Represent themselves and St Joseph's School with honor, proper conduct and good sportsmanship
- Not berate the officials or trash talk to their opponent.
- Not use profanity.
- Demand a sports environment that is free from illegal drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and

will refrain from their use at all times.

- Be responsible members of the classroom and school community.
- Respectful of peers, coaches and officials on their team.
- Be respectful of opposing players, coaches, fans and officials.
- Abide by all rules of St Joseph School and the leagues/tournaments we compete in.

Coaches Will:

- Represent themselves and St Joseph's School with honor, proper conduct and good sportsmanship.
- Respect the interpretation of the officials.
- Not use profanity.
- Set a good example for student athletes and the school community.
- Assist each student athlete to reach their full potential.
- Do their best to help each student athlete understand their role with the team.
- Attempt to help the student athlete achieve the best experience possible.
- Demand a sports environment that is free from illegal drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all sporting events.

Parents Will:

- Represent themselves and St Joseph's School with honor, proper conduct and good sportsmanship.
- Be supportive of their student athletes and the team in general.
- Respect the judgment and strategy of the coaches.
- Respect the interpretation of the officials.
- Not use profanity.
- Demand a sports environment that is free from illegal drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all sporting events.
- Place the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of my personal desire to win.
- Remember that the game is for the kids – not the adults.
- Do my best to make sure that youth sports are a FUN and POSITIVE experience.
- Communicate my concerns through the proper channels in dignified manner. (See Conflict Grievance Procedure)

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

All students must be in school by Noon to participate in that evening's activity. This rule applies to practices, scrimmages, games, tournaments and all other activities. Students who participate in a school sponsored event such as a field trip, retreat or testing will not be considered absent. Extenuating circumstances such as a family emergency or funeral will need a note from the student's parent to allow their student's participation for that day.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

Each student athlete is responsible for the school equipment and uniform issued to them and will be accountable for its replacement cost at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

INSURANCE

St Joseph School does not provide insurance or assume liability for injury received in the normal course of activity.

USE OF FACILITIES

It is expected that participant families leave our facility in a clean condition. Parents, coaches and members of the team are responsible for the set-up/clean up of the area. Clean-up will involve sweeping of the bleachers, the gym floor, the changing rooms and all common areas. Trash is to be collected and disposed.

CONFLICT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Athletics/Activities can sometimes result in conflicts. Following is the procedure for addressing these appropriately.

Most disputes are better resolved with an appropriate cooling off period. Consequently, no dispute between a parent, coach, student athlete or official will be addressed during or immediately following a game.

The steps to resolve the dispute or grievance must be followed in this specific sequence:

1. The student athlete requests a meeting with their coach. This meeting is strictly between the student and their coach.
2. If the conflict is not resolved, the student athlete and parents should request a conference with the coach.
3. If still not resolved, the student athlete, parent and coach should meet with the Athletic Director.
4. Finally, if there is no resolution – all parties meet with the Principal.

STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEER COACHES

1. All adult coaches (head and assistants) must complete VIRTUS training and will be subject to mandatory background checks.
2. Coaches will display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
3. Coaches are expected to follow established rules of the individual contest and league at all times.
4. Coaches are expected to place their players' emotional and physical well-being as a priority. Offensive words or actions directed at their own teams, parents, officials,

spectators or officials will not be tolerated.

5. A coach who is expelled from a contest by an official will automatically be suspended for one additional game. The Athletic Director and Principal will further review the matter for possible additional penalties.
6. Coaches will strive to promote sportsmanship and improvement with their teams at all times.
7. Coaches will annually complete “Heads Up” Concussion training and submit certificate to the Athletic Director. <http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/coach.html>

Important – Please Read Carefully

I have read and understand the St. Joseph Catholic School Athletic Expectations and Guidelines. I understand that ANY violation of the Expectations and Guidelines may result in disciplinary action being taken against me which could include immediate removal from the team or event and/or being required to meet with the St. Joe’s Athletic Board, and/or the Principal of the school.