



ST. JOHN INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Middle School
Athletics Handbook
2018-2019

Principal: Mrs. Cherie Schlatre
Athletic Director: Coach Jason Kinchen

The St. John Interparochial School Athletic Department provides athletics as an opportunity for student participation in an organized, competitive environment. While the ultimate goal of athletic competition is to know victory, the achievement of other beneficial goals cannot be overlooked. Students are provided with an opportunity to:

1. Develop an awareness of their abilities
2. Learn and improve athletic skills
3. Acquire the true meaning of and practice sportsmanship
4. Be part of a team effort
5. Enhance their self-esteem and feelings of belonging
6. Form foundations for a healthy adult life style

Administration, faculty, staff, coaches, parents, and the fans are necessary components in nurturing a positive Catholic athletic experience. Athletics should be a component of, and interact with, the spiritual, social, and academic components of the overall school program. Such programs should emphasize the positive accomplishments of the individual through recognition, praise and positive constructive criticism. Schools with interscholastic programs should participate in leagues or programs consistent with this philosophy and that of the individual school.

Winning traditions are founded upon the concepts of pride, respect, dedication, character, and loyalty. Coaches, athletes, and parents alike must strive to ensure that the athletic teams at St. John School represent themselves in a Christian manner that is conducive to both competitive spirit and good sportsmanship. Therefore, it is imperative that student athletes and parents become familiar with the contents of this handbook and comply with the rules and regulations it contains.

The policies set forth in this handbook are not exhaustive. The administration reserves the right to amend these policies at any time for any reason; in addition, the administration has the discretion to take action and/or issue disciplinary consequences in any circumstance not specifically detailed herein but deemed inappropriate in any way or in violation of the established values of St. John. If any provision of this handbook is deemed ambiguous by any person, the interpretation of that provision shall be that of the principal and/or administration.

4.12.2.5 Diocesan Policy – Equal Opportunity – Athletic Participation - Only students enrolled and in good standing are eligible to participate on teams sponsored by schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

St. John Interparochial School is a member of the Catholic School Athletic Association (CSAA). All sports teams in grades 5-8 operate under the rules and regulations of the Catholic School Athletic Association. The rules of the league are available for parental review upon request.

Eligible students in the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades may participate in the following team sports. In some cases, 4th grade students are invited to participate.

Basketball – CSAA

Volleyball – CSAA

Softball - CSAA

Football –CSAA

Baseball – Westside Baseball League

Soccer – Capital City United

If there is not an adequate number of interested, eligible students to form a 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade team for a particular sport, the possibility of joining two grades to form a team, inviting younger students to participate, or partnering with another school are all possibilities that may be implemented. If these are not viable options, the sport may not be offered for the year. The administration and athletic director will determine a solution, depending on the circumstances of the situation.

A. Student Eligibility for All Sports

Academic Requirements - St. John School students must have at least a 1.5 GPA and pass at least five of his/her seven subjects each quarter to be eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities.

All students are eligible to participate in fall sports. Eligibility is monitored at progress reports and report cards. A student who has not earned a 1.5 GPA at progress reports will be allowed to play, but will be placed on probation for the remainder of the quarter. If he/she is still ineligible on the end of quarter report card, participation is forfeited until the next report card. If eligibility is achieved, he/she will no longer be on probation. Academic eligibility will be determined by the principal and/or administration. Athletic eligibility will be determined by the principal and/or administration and the athletic director and/or coach.

Physical Examinations - Each student must have a current physical signed by a physician and dated no earlier than one year before the first date of participation in a sport. This statement must be on file in the school office prior to the first sporting event. Physicals shall be the responsibility of the parent. Forms to be completed for the physical examination can be found on the school website – go to Publications, Forms, and LHSAA Medical History Form.

Insurance - All students are included in the school accident and health insurance plan. However, each student athlete is required to provide proof of health insurance. A release form for emergency treatment must be kept on file for all athletes.

Age Requirements - All league age requirements shall be followed.

B. Participation

Participation on an athletic team may require after-school and/or weekend practices, travel to away games, and expenses related to uniforms and/or equipment for which parents will be responsible.

Practice and Game Schedules - Practice times will be announced by the coach via announcements at school, phone, e-mail, and the St. John School Athletic Calendar located on the school website. The game schedule will be made available to all players as soon as it is received from the league office.

Attendance Regulations - On any day a student is absent for any reason, he/she may NOT attend or participate in any extracurricular activity, school function, or athletic practice. Only students who are present at school for more than half of the day (four complete periods excluding lunch) will be allowed to participate in the extracurricular activity, school function, or athletic practice. If the absence occurs on a Friday, this policy extends to activities scheduled for the weekend. Permission from the administration must be received BEFORE the scheduled activity for this policy to be waived.

Uniforms - Players are responsible for the care and return of all school equipment and uniforms. Any uniform or equipment issued by the school and not returned at the end of the season shall be paid for by the participant's parent or guardian.

Football: School will provide helmets, shoulder-pads, game jerseys and practice gear. Parents must supply their child with game pants and cleats.

Basketball: School will provide game uniforms and practice gear. Parents must supply their child with practice shorts and basketball shoes.

Volleyball: School will provide balls. Parents must supply their child with game uniforms, practice gear and tennis shoes.

Baseball: School will provide balls, bats and catchers gear. Parents must supply their child with game uniforms, practice gear, gloves and cleats.

Softball: School will supply balls, bats, and helmets. Parents must supply their child with practice gear, gloves, cleats, and game uniforms.

Soccer: School will supply league fees. Parents must supply their child with game uniforms, cleats and balls.

C. Sportsmanship Code

St. John School expects all coaches, players, parents, and spectators involved in athletic programs (including practice and games) to exhibit behavior based on Christian values at all times. St. John School shall designate a "site supervisor" for all home games. The site supervisor shall maintain conduct at all home games. Any violation of sportsmanship shall be reported to the principal of the school in writing. Anyone involved in a violation may also address the principal in writing. The

principal shall consult all parties and league officials involved before rendering a decision to settle grievances.

Like all students, St. John athletes are expected to behave appropriately on and off campus, and during sporting events. Athletes may be removed from a team at any time for conduct deemed inappropriate by the coaches, principal, and/or administration, in addition to any other disciplinary action.

Family and friends of St. John students and other guests who attend extracurricular activities and athletic events are urged to be courteous and respectful. Anyone whose behavior may reflect poorly on St. John, or who influences a St. John student to behave inappropriately or circumvent the policies set forth by St. John, may be asked to leave and barred from future events at the discretion of the site supervisor, coach, principal, and/or administration.

D. Administration

The principal of St. John School is the ultimate authority in matters of athletics. The athletic director, coaches, and site supervisors shall be consultative to the principal. The principal must approve all fees and purchases made for athletic teams.

E. Time of Play

In keeping with the philosophy of the school to promote a child's self-esteem and athletic ability, a concerted effort will be made to play all players. There are mandatory play rules for grades 5-7. However, 8th grade teams will be coached and directed more in line of our high school sports. While we do not condone "win at all costs" in any sort of manner, we do feel it is necessary at the 8th grade level for strategy and competition to be designed in a more linear direction of being successful.

F. Commitment

A student's first commitment to play must be to the St. John School team over any other opportunities to play.

G. Field and Court

No one except the cheerleaders are allowed on the sidelines with sponsors due to safety and liability issues.

H. Parents

Parents are a vital part of the St. John School sports program. When a student commits to a sport, his/her parents share that commitment. Parents should see that the student upholds his/her commitment to the St. John School team over any other playing opportunities. This is also important when encouraging your children to attend all practices and meetings throughout the season. Coaches have the discretion to hold players out of games due to missed practices. It is imperative that athletes are at practice.

Parents are expected to:

1. Support the Christian nature of the program.
2. See that their child arrives on time and is dressed for practice, games, and is picked up on time after all practices and games.
3. Assist their child in maintaining academic requirements.

4. Assist the athletic program by volunteering their time.

Students may not be dropped off for any sports practice without the coach being present. If practices are held after school, students may remain at school for practice if the coach is present to supervise the athletes, or if they attend After School Sports Study Hall. Students may not remain at school for practice unsupervised.

Parents are asked to discuss with their children what they should do if practices are cancelled. For example, if they ride the bus home on days when they don't have practice, they should ride the bus home on days that practice is cancelled at the last minute due to inclement weather or any other emergency.

Parent Requirement - All parents are required to work the gate and/or concessions. After the game schedule is received, parents will be assigned to work where they are needed. If a parent is unable to work the assigned game, the PARENT is responsible for getting someone to take their place.

I. Coaches

Coaches are chosen from volunteers, parents, and school staff when available. In order to coach you must meet the following qualifications:

Commitment to Christian values

Complete the Diocesan online Safe and Sacred Training

Have been fingerprinted and background checked

Have practical experience in the sport/activity

Willingness to work as a team member in the chain of command

Commitment to follow all CSAA rules and guidelines

Commitment to the philosophy of the school

Follow the directions of the principal and/or middle school athletic director

Parents, volunteer coaches, and other non-faculty individuals with official responsibilities related to an activity/sport at St. John will be provided with policies, guidelines, and requirements for involvement in extracurricular activities. This includes background checks, training and/or certification in child safety-related topics required by the Catholic Diocese.

J. Discipline

All students who participate in extra-curricular activities on or off campus are expected to adhere to all discipline rules and regulations set forth in the Parent-Student Handbook. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

Foul language

Abuse of officials – for any reason

Failing to follow directions of adults in charge

Destruction of property/equipment

Public display of anger

Any infraction of the above will not be tolerated and shall be reported to the athletic director and principal. The principal and athletic director shall review and enforce discipline.

K. Athletic Bingo Requirement for Parents

The contribution that Fathers Club bingo makes to the St. John School Athletic Program helps maintain both the number and quality of athletic offerings that the school is able to provide to its students. Fathers Club Bingo, since its inception, has been staffed and run by the Fathers Club with school parents volunteering to help work the bingo sessions.

St. John School assesses a \$500 athletic fee per athletic family. However, the athletic fee will be waived if a parent or a designated person works five bingos during the course of the school year. This fee applies to parents who have a child who participates in a sport in grades 6-12. Cheerleading, dance team, and drum corps are not included. The first five bingos worked are considered athletic bingos. However, each family will receive five school service hours upon completion of the five athletic bingos. Therefore, a family would owe only twenty school service hours when they have competed the five bingos. While additional bingos worked could be applied to the school service hour requirement, they cannot be carried forward to the next school year, nor can extra hours be sold. Parents must contact the Fathers Club to set up the dates that they will work. The Fathers' Club will keep track of the parents, or the designated person who work the bingos. The parent or designated person must sign-in upon arrival and put forth a significant effort. If a family fails to work the required five bingos by May 1st, then the \$500 fee will be assessed. Collection of the fee will be handled by the school. A student will be considered a participant in a sport after the first competition. A student is considered a participant in a sport under this policy and if thereafter becomes academically or athletically ineligible, the requirements of this policy will still apply.

L. Rules and Consequences for Player Absences

Due to players having multiple talents which may cause them to miss St. John athletic events, each coach is asked to develop a plan for the consequences received by athletes with unexcused missed practices/games. This does not include family or medical emergency, or school directed functions. Any questions or issues on this matter can be addressed with the AD in helping with this matter.

Our goal is to make sure the athlete who plays on a St. John team is committed to playing St. John athletics first. These rules will allow for multi-talented students to pursue other abilities, while not taking time away from the student who is fully committed. The student athlete and parent must understand if they choose to participate on other teams and miss St. John practices and games they must be prepared to adhere to the plan developed by the coach. Distribution of these consequences will be monitored by the middle school athletic director and are at his discretion.