

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC POLICY

and

CODE OF CONDUCT

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICY

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Joseph School Athletics is to extend the tradition of superior Catholic education to the athletic field through the development in student-athletes of leadership, self-esteem, teamwork, and cooperation in a balanced climate of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

Purpose

Grade school athletics programs are student activities, properly conducted, that contribute to the growth and development of young people. Since they are student activities, they are to be under the jurisdiction of the Principal of the school and the Athletic Director. All parts of the program, including the athletic events with other schools, are to be submitted to the Principal by the Athletic Director. Athletic programs can contribute to the physical, moral and social fitness of young people while helping to develop fair play and good sportsmanship. Participation of all students on a particular grade level in an appropriate interscholastic or intramural program is encouraged.

Athletic Director

The Athletic Director is hired by the Principal and should, whenever possible, be a part of the teaching staff.

Athletic Committee

The Athletic Committee shall be comprised of members willing to serve and help raise funds for the athletic program. Members are recommended by the committee, Athletic Director and Principal to the Pastor. The Pastor then appoints the members to the committee. It is recommended that the committee be seven to ten members.

Athletic Program

Competitive athletic programs will be limited to the 5th through 8th grades. The athletic programs will be interscholastic and will be approved by the Athletic Committee, Athletic Director, Principal, and Pastor. Prior to the beginning of the athletic seasons, the Athletic Director will present each sport to the parents and students. This will be done in advance of the season so as to make arrangements for events to meet the needs of each sport.

At the beginning of the school year, all parents will be made aware of the operation of the programs through the mandatory Code of Conduct meeting. All forms, concussion training, **cardiac arrest information**, athletic equipment and purchases, as well as the athletic policy will be presented at this time. **Athletes and parents will also be informed of the**

program's participation in 4HG. All athletic participants and one parent must attend this meeting.

If it is absolutely impossible to attend the meeting, the athlete and one parent must meet with the Athletic Director to review the information.

All athletic participants must have a signed waiver form, **School and 4HG** Code of Conduct forms, and state mandated concussion/**cardiac arrest** form(s) on file with the Athletic Director before they are allowed to participate in any athletic activity.

4HG (For His Glory) Participation*

4HG is a movement to create a healthy sports culture in our Catholic schools. We believe that athletics, when done right, serve as an invaluable tool for developing well-rounded children.

Students are encouraged to play all sports. 4HG equips coaches to ensure kids have fun and get better while keeping a Christian focus. Effort and teamwork are valued above talent and results. 4HG reinforces that the family is central and sports should fit around the family.

Through 4HG, our student-athletes will commit to following the 4HG Student Code of Conduct. They will learn principles and virtues that will guide them toward the true purpose of athletics, using their God given talents to participate with gratitude, grit, bravery, teamwork, and humility, while always playing For His Glory.

Coaches

The appointment of coaches is to be made on the recommendation of the Athletic Committee and the Athletic Director to the Principal and/or Pastor for approval. Coaches shall be held to the same standards as any teacher hired by the Parish. Coaches are to ensure that positive attitudes and good self concepts are instilled into the young athletes. Swearing, abusive language, excessive loss of temper, and drinking by the coaches will not be tolerated.

Coaches are teachers. There are no different standards of moral conduct designed for the athletic field as opposed to the classroom or social life. As pursuant to WI State Law, coaches are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect and must therefore participate in the annual Safe and Sacred Places training for children. In addition, coaches must go through the St. Joseph School volunteer/staff background check **and BASE training as well as sign and adhere to the 4HG Code of Conduct for coaches.**

In the case of an accident, the coach must report the accident to the Principal before the next school day or within ten hours, or whichever comes first. The coach must also complete an accident report.

In the event of un-sportsmanlike conduct (i.e. use of alcohol, swearing, fighting, etc.), the coach must report the infraction to the Principal before the next school day or within 10 hours, or whichever comes first.

Emergency Medical Forms (Waivers)

Parents shall be required to sign emergency medical treatment authorization forms for all students participating in interscholastic athletics. Such forms authorize the School, its Athletic Director, coaches and chaperones to sign for emergency medical care when the parent is not available. These forms are to be available to the coaches and are to be carried with them at all times.

Student Participation

All students competing in interscholastic events must be enrolled in St. Joseph School (or given permission from the Diocese of Superior – i.e. homeschool students) and must be scholastically eligible to compete as determined by the principal and athletic director. As education of the student is of the utmost importance, good academic standing will be stressed and followed.

This policy is as follows: The student athlete must have a C- grade or better in all classes to stay eligible to compete. These grades will be taken from the student's mid-quarter and quarterly reports. Any student with less than a C- in any graded class or an F in any Pass-Fail class will sit out a minimum of one game and/or until they are in good academic standing.

- One grade below C- = one missed game/event
- More than 1 grade below C- = minimum of one missed game/event for each low grade and/or until the student is in good academic standing (The athletic director will check grades on a weekly basis until a student is in good standing.)

All athletes who adhere to the St. Joseph School Code of Conduct will be given the opportunity to participate in each grade level appropriate event. If the grade level is not necessarily appropriate for the athlete, the coach has the choice as to whether to integrate the athlete into the competition.

No student may participate in more than one St. Joseph School sport at any one time during the school year. In sports requiring it, properly fitted protective clothing and equipment must be utilized. In addition, all pieces of the athletic uniform should be worn appropriately. Contests and practices shall not be at any times which will require the absence from class or early dismissal (exceptions may be made at the discretion of the principal). No contests or practices shall be scheduled on Wednesdays to allow for participation in religious education opportunities. **No contests or practices shall be scheduled or held on days that school is not in session unless given special permission by the Principal and Athletic Director.**

All athletes are required to remain in attendance at each event for the duration of that event. The athlete may only leave the premises with his/her parent/guardian with permission from the coach.

Groups of athletes should not be leaving together under the supervision of 1 or 2 parents. Athletes are considered to be the hosts at any home event.

Parent Participation

Parents are the ultimate teachers of their children. The St. Joseph Athletic Program desires to partner with parents to model a Christian attitude which will help instill good morals and choices in the athlete.

Parents are expected to set a positive example of sportsmanship by modeling good communication. Good communication is recognized by positive attitudes and language as well as open, respectful communication with others. Parents are expected to refrain from any use of alcohol, swearing, abusive language, excessive loss of temper, and yelling at players, other parents, coaches and referees.

Parents are to help ensure that positive attitudes are encouraged in the athlete. A positive attitude can be fostered by encouraging the athlete to have respect for others involved and to enjoy the ability to play the game. Parents can also help by refraining from comparing athletes, making excuses, and criticizing or complaining about other players, coaches, and referees. **In addition, parents will be asked to sign and adhere to the 4HG Code of Conduct for parents.**

An athlete needs to have a good self concept. Parents can help instill this concept by encouraging hard work and celebrating each accomplishment with the athlete. By helping the athlete be an unselfish player, parents help them feel good about their role on the team.

In the event of un-sportsmanlike conduct by parents (i.e. use of alcohol, swearing, abusive language, fighting, accosting referees, coaches, parents, or players, etc.), the coach must report the infraction to the Principal before the next school day or within 10 hours, or whichever comes first.

Individual Sports

Golf: The golf team shall not practice more than 3 times a week. The intramural golf tournament will follow current WIAA standards.

Volleyball: The volleyball team shall not practice more than four times a week including games **and tournaments** once the season begins. Volleyball games **and tournaments** will follow current WIAA standards. **The number of tournaments in a season should not exceed 3 for each team.**

Basketball: The basketball team shall not practice more than four times per week including games. Basketball games will follow current WIAA and Northwest League standards as appropriate or as amended by the St. Joseph School Athletic Policy. The number of tournaments in a season should not exceed 4 for each ~~grade-level~~ team.

Archery: The archery team shall not practice more than 4 times a week including tournaments. The number of tournaments in a season should not exceed 4. The intramural tennis tournament will follow current WIAA standards.

Track: The track team shall not practice more than four times a week including meets once the season begins. **The number of meets in a season should not exceed 4.** Track meets will follow current WIAA standards.

Tennis: The tennis team shall not practice more than 3 times a week. The intramural tennis tournament will follow current WIAA standards.

Practice dress code: No spandex shorts. Shirts must be worn at all times. No tank tops. No cut off tees. No t-shirts that have alcohol, inappropriate language, or drug advertisements.

~~No contests or practices shall be scheduled on Wednesdays to allow for participation in religious education opportunities.~~

Note: Be it advised that any team attending a weekend tournament will be required to attend Mass at the host school's church or a mass at another church if the host is not Catholic and follow the Dress and Discipline Codes of St. Joseph School.

Transportation

Since the athletic programs involve the transportation of students, communication with the parents is required. The communication must state clearly the schedule and destination of events and be given at the beginning of the season. The parents are responsible to see that their student has transportation to and from athletic events.

Parents should arrange for separate transportation for their athlete on their own. They are then responsible for the outcome.

If a coach needs to arrange transportation for part or all of the team, all drivers must be BASE trained/approved and have a copy of their driver's license and current insurance on file in the school office. An athlete must ride to and from the event with the same driver.

- An athlete will only be released to the custody of his/her own parents by presenting the coach with written permission to return home with the parent.

Fund Raising

Fund raising programs and other programs in support of athletics, by the parents or the Athletic Committee, are commendable and encouraged. The athletic program is a self-supporting group. All programs or fundraisers must be approved by the Principal of St. Joseph School and the Development Director of St. Joseph Parish. Any and all programs must be consistent with the other fund raising programs within St. Joseph School.

Parental Concerns

In the event a parent or responsible adult has a concern, complaint, or question about the athletic program, they shall first take the concern to the coach. If it cannot be resolved at that level, they will then take the concern to the Principal and Athletic Director. If the problem is still not resolved, the Principal and Athletic Director may consult the Athletic Committee regarding the issue(s).

*4HG website