

ATHLETIC
HANDBOOK



St. Paul
Lutheran School

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2011-2012

St. Paul Athletic Handbook

Athletic Philosophy

The athletic program at St. Paul Lutheran School is based on the philosophy of the school, primarily to make disciples who are responsible, believing, committed followers for Jesus. This philosophy necessitates a Godly character, which we believe St. Paul's athletic program helps develop in each athlete. The opportunity for developing Godly character readily presents itself in the arena of sports competition where the athlete is expected to be responsible, self-disciplined, a cooperative team member, and a good decision maker. Therefore, athletics at St. Paul Lutheran School is considered to be an integral part of a student's education.

We believe our commitment to excellence as Christians is commanded by scripture. We are to be wise stewards of the talents God has given us and to be men and women of excellence. Therefore, our athletic program strives to be the best it can be. In turn, we believe our athletes should strive to do their best when competing. Becoming the best among other competitors may not always be an achievable goal, but doing "your best" is our goal.

Goals

1. To glorify Jesus in all that is done on and off the playing arena.
2. To provide guidance as each student athlete searches to realize and use their God-given talents.
3. To prepare the student athlete for the next level of competition.
4. To provide an additional avenue for school spirit.
5. To develop an understanding of the rules and concepts of the game that will encourage a lifelong enjoyment of the sport (both competitive and recreational.)

Responsibility of the Parents

Parents/guardians strongly influence their children's attitude toward and participation in athletics. Therefore, I/we will:

1. Model and foster a Christ-like example.
2. Assist my child to establish proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, study, practice, and play.
3. Support my athlete, team, and coaches.
4. Respect the officials and their decision.
5. Prohibit the use of any illegal substance, i.e. tobacco or drugs, including alcohol.
6. Share the responsibility with my child for promptness games and practices.
7. Show promptness in picking up my child from games and practices.

Code of Ethics and Conduct

Players

- I will demonstrate a Christ-like example at all times both on and off the playing arena.
- I will make academic success a priority.
- I will be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, unified in teamwork pure in speech, and humble in spirit.
- I will be respectful of coaches, players, officials, and spectators at all times.
- I will know the team schedule and take responsibility to arrive at practices and games on time.
- I will take pride and care in the facilities I play in and equipment I use.
- I will win humbly and lose graciously.
- I will use my God given talents to the utmost at all times giving glory to God.

Spectators

- I will, as a spectator, support and respect the players, coaches, and officials in a Christ-like manner.
- I will be respectful towards the participating schools, their facilities, and equipment.
- I will applaud the effort and sacrifice each player, coach, and official is making.
- I will remain in designated areas at all times.
- I will accept a win or loss in a Christian manner.
- I will teach by example a Christian attitude towards all.
- I will assist my child to establish proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, studies, and play.
- I will make a commitment to attend sports events and assist at home games and tournaments.
- I will voice any concern first to the coach.

Scheduling

The coaches and athletic directors will work together in scheduling practices and game times. A printed practice and game schedule will be given to each participant. Changes in the schedule are inevitable. Every effort will be made to inform you of changes as early as possible.

Transportation

It is the responsibility of the team or squad members to make arrangements for and/or provide their own transportation to all athletic events. There are a few occasions when a bus is contracted. All players are expected to ride the bus when it is contracted. Parents and athletes will be notified of those dates.

Sports Offered

Fall: 5/6 girls' volleyball, 7/8 girls' volleyball, 5-8 soccer, 5-8 cross country
Winter: 5/6 girls' basketball, 7/8 girls' basketball, 5 boys' basketball, 6 boys' basketball, A2 boys' basketball, A1 boys' basketball, 7/8 cheerleading
Spring: 5-8 softball, 5-8 track

Sports offered may vary depending on availability of coaches and athlete numbers.

Participation Requirements

1. Participation must promote Christ-like fellowship and sportsmanship at all times.
2. No student will participate on an athletic team until their contract and a current school or sports physical has been signed and submitted to the athletic directors after the appointed date.
3. Interscholastic teams or squads may consist of only St. Paul students.
4. The requirements outlined in this handbook are in effect for those students in grades 5-8.
5. Any student that is not in attendance in class or at school related activities for any part of the school day may not participate in any school sponsored event during that day or evening.
6. Any student who does not participate in P.E. for any reason may not participate in sports activities on that day.
7. The student must maintain academic and behavior eligibility as outlined in the St. Paul Athletic Handbook.
8. Exceptions to any of these guidelines may be made at the discretion of the athletic directors and/or principal.

Academic Eligibility

1. A minimum of 2.0 grade point average must be maintained for those who wish to participate in St. Paul athletics.
2. This GPA is not cumulative over the year but rather reviewed at the end of each trimester.
3. Anyone wishing to participate in two or more sports at once must maintain a minimum of 3.0 GPA in order to participate in the sports.
4. An "F" in any subject will render a student ineligible for four weeks when status is reviewed by the teacher and the athletic directors.
5. A student who is determined to have an incomplete in any subject at the end of the trimester will be ineligible until the work is complete and has been recorded by the teacher.
6. If a student is issued an after school detention, he/she will forfeit his/her next scheduled athletic game, event, or practice upon receiving the written notice.
7. An out-of-school suspension will result in the said person being suspended from extracurricular activities for six weeks when status will be reviewed by the teacher(s), the athletic directors, and the principal.
Four requirements must be met at this time. The student should:

1. Maintain a 2.0 GPA or better
 2. Have no failing grades in any subject
 3. Have taken all tests and turned in all assignments
 4. Not have spent any time in behavioral detention during that six-week period.
8. Upon the second suspension the student will forfeit his/her eligibility for the rest of the school year.

Conclusion

The foremost goal of the St. Paul athletic program is to afford students the opportunity to use their God-given talents to praise the Lord. And since life in Jesus is not lived apart from physical, emotional, mental, and social stresses, there is indeed a necessity for various ministries including that provided through athletics. This challenging ministry, like all others, cannot be carried out perfectly. As in anything else, there will be moments of failure. But when failure is experienced, we have the assurance that God's grace in Jesus covers all our sins and mistakes. In that knowledge and the assurance that the Lord is ever ready to grant forgiveness and strength to serve, we can with confidence be involved in the ministry of athletics to attain for foremost goal of our program.

Parents, thank you for supporting the athletic program at St. Paul. A program is only as good as the people who are involved in its consistency. Your support makes our program a valuable experience for each child involved. Your efforts are truly appreciated! St. Paul rejoices with you in the athletic experience and success. To go be the glory!

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)