

**ATHLETE/PARENT
HANDBOOK
2011 - 2012**

**YOUR GUIDE
TO
ATHLETICS
AT
Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School**

WELCOME

Welcome to Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic School athletics. This Handbook is not intended to answer every question or situation concerning athletics here at SSPP, but is simply a quick reference guide. Some areas are more detailed than others. If you have a specific concern, please contact the Athletic Director.

SSPP MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of SS. Peter & Paul School is to create a Christ-centered, safe, and nourishing environment that helps students develop their full academic, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual potential.

The SSPP Athletic Department strives to support this statement by developing an athletic program designed to enhance each student's athletic abilities.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Anyone who plays on a school-sanctioned sports team must be enrolled at Ss. Peter and Paul School.
2. The student must be in good standing in regard to grades and discipline.
3. Any student who transfers from Ss. Peter and Paul School becomes ineligible immediately.
4. This policy will go in effect immediately. It does not affect any student currently playing on a team.
5. The transfer rule goes into effect immediately.

SSPP SPORTS

SSPP Catholic School offers the following sports:

Soccer: Boys and Girls, grades K-6

Volleyball: Boys and Girls, grades 5-8

Basketball: Boys and Girls, grades 4-8

Track: Boys and Girls, grades 5-8

AFFILIATION

SSPP is a member of the Southern Springfield Conference and participates in the Belleville Diocesan conference. All coaches must have attained proper certification in Protecting God's Children.

GRADE CHECKS and ELIGIBILITY

SSPP conducts weekly grade checks. To remain eligible, an athlete may be failing only one core subject (as defined by the handbook). The grade check is done every Thursday. If an athlete is failing 2 or more courses, they are declared ineligible from Sunday to the next Sunday. The athlete must continue to practice, but cannot participate in any interscholastic contest.

The grade checks are made known to the head coach to ensure their knowledge of the situation. Athletes who are ineligible will be informed by the principal, who will inform the athletic director. The athletic director will inform the individual coaches.

PHYSICALS

SSPP requires a current yearly physical to be on file in the school office. All physicals must be on file before beginning practice.

INSURANCE FORMS

SSPP requires all Athletes to show proof of insurance. This form must be completed each year and must be on file prior to the athlete participating in sports activities. Family insurance that covers all athletic injuries is acceptable. School insurance may be purchased for athletic purposes.

INJURIES

Injuries are a normal part of sports. Proper diagnosis and communication of injuries are important to the athletic department. Coaches are responsible to report to the athletic director any injuries that occur at practices or games. Parents or athletes must report any injuries that occur outside school functions to the coaching staff. Athletes who are under the care of a physician must obtain a release before resuming practice. Coaches have the discretion to hold a player out of a game or practice.

TRANSPORTATION

SSPP does not provide transportation to athletic contests. Coaches should not be expected to transport athletes, other than their own children. SSPP assumes no responsibility for incidents incurred while traveling to or from events.

FUNDRAISING

Athletes/parents may be required to participate in an athletic department fundraiser or work at games intended to defray the cost of the athletic program. It is the responsibility of every parent to share the work of the athletic department. The athletic director and coaches are responsible for the initial schedule of workers. Any changes must be arranged through them. It is your responsibility to arrange for a substitute in case of an absence.

PLAYER/PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching have become daunting tasks. This section is an attempt to develop an understanding of what should be expected from each of the three parties. Clear, direct communication is the best way to avoid problems.

The following is what you can expect from every coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has of the athletes
- Location/times of games and practices
- Team requirements (fees/equipment/off-season work)
- Injury procedures
- Discipline procedures
- Fairness and communication

The following is what the coach can expect from parents:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of schedule conflicts in advance
- Sportsmanship at all contests

Athletics at SSPP will bring many rewards and life-learning experiences, but there will be times when things do not go the way you or your son/daughter would like. At these times, discussion with the coach is essential.

These are appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The mental/physical treatment of your son/daughter
- Ways to help your son/daughter improve
- Concerns about your son's/daughter's behavior
- Academic concerns

It can be difficult to accept your son's daughter's playing time or team role on a team. Please remember that our coaches are volunteers and make judgments based on what is best for the whole team. Certain issues should not be discussed and must be left to the discretion of the coach.

Issues not appropriate for discussion include:

- Playing time of all team members
- Team strategy
- Rosters, play calling, or starting line-ups
- Other athletes

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and parent. **THIS IS ENCOURAGED.** It is important that both sides have a clear understanding of the other's position.

When a conference is necessary, the following procedures need to be followed:

- **YOU MAY NOT CONFRONT A COACH BEFORE OR AFTER A CONTEST OR PRACTICE.**
- Call to set up an appointment to see the coach, either directly or through the main office.
- If the coach cannot be reached, contact the AD through Fast Direct.
- The discussion must be held on a mature level – no profanity, yelling, threats, etc.

If the meeting does not provide a satisfactory resolution, the following procedures will be followed:

- Call for an appointment with the AD
(The AD will insist that a meeting first be held with the coach)
- At this meeting an appropriate next step will be discussed.

We encourage our athletes to play multiple sports if they have the desire and ability. No coach may discourage any athlete from participating in multiple sports. (That includes any select teams or camps during the school year or the summer.) A coach reserves the right to limit playing or practice time of any athlete who misses SSPP activities in order to participate in outside teams. Teams under the 7th and 8th grade level place an emphasis on learning. Playing time at practices and games should be as equal as possible. Tournaments are the exception to this rule, but provision for playing time for all team members is encouraged.

SPORTSMANSHIP

SSPP expects all participants who attend athletic events to show good sportsmanship, this includes:

- Never boo a play, coach, or official
- Appreciate a good play, regardless of team
- Realize that the school gets the blame or praise for their conduct
- No profane or insulting language
- No insulting signs or gestures
- No alcoholic beverages at any athletic event

Any SSPP student who is issued a behavior technical must be removed from the contest for the remainder of said contest. If the student re-enters the game, the player and the coach will be suspended for the next game. If the same player receives a second behavior technical, they will miss three games. A third technical will result in removal of the player from the team with no refund of fees.

BASIC RULES

The following are basic team rules that have been approved by the AD. They are to be enforced by the respective coaches and do not automatically fall under the code procedure. All violations must be reported to the AD.

- 1) Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, police arrest or disrespectful behavior while traveling with the team, as an individual, or during athletic events.
- 2) Athletes are expected to attend all practices, games, and team functions. It is the head coach's discretion to allow excused absences. Athletes are expected to be on time to practices and games. Athletes should come with all necessary equipment and uniforms. Violations of this rule may result in loss of playing time or game suspension. Our coaches are encouraged to be consistent in this regard.
- 3) All athletes must have a current physical, consent to treat form, and travel permission slip on file in the office. Any athlete who is missing any of the above mentioned items will not be allowed to play in any games. Physicals must be on file in the office before beginning official practice.
- 4) Athletes who are guilty of the theft of school equipment or uniforms or vandalizing will have their case reviewed by the AD and coach for specific penalties. A second infraction will result in the loss of one calendar year of athletic activity. A third infraction will result in a ban on further participation at SSPP.

- 5) Athletes must return all uniforms and equipment by the assigned date and in proper condition. Athletes will be charged for any damaged or missing gear.

ACADEMIC RULES

Athletic participation is a privilege granted by the school and is done so with the assurance by the athletes that academics come first. Poor academic performance will result in decreased athletic participation. The Principal conducts weekly grade checks of all in season athletes, starting at an appropriate time based on the school year. Poor grades, insufficient effort, or behavioral problems may result in academic probation of the athlete.

Athletes who are on academic probation will be subject to progress checks conducted by the principal. If the principal feels that sufficient progress is not being made, a consultation with the principal and the AD will be held. Decisions regarding the athlete's eligibility will then be determined.

Athletes who are doing below average work or exhibiting below average effort in a class may have their privilege of leaving early for athletic contests revoked.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- STEP 1: Incident reported to Principal
- Explain what has occurred, who is involved
 - Gather all pertinent facts
- STEP 2: Meet with Athlete, Principal, Athletic Director, and coaches involved
- Contact parents/guardians
 - Discuss accusations
 - Discuss penalties
 - Determine guilt/innocence, if possible
- STEP 3: If not true or unproven
- All actions stop
 - Party who made accusation is notified
 - Parents/Guardians notified

- STEP 4: If true
- State penalties
 - Explain future consequences
 - Discuss possible deeper problem
 - Contact parents/guardians
 - Follow with written notification
- STEP 5: Parent/Guardian Notification and Participation
- Meet with parents
 - Explain all actions, evidence, and consequences
 - Explain what can be done to help the athlete
- STEP 6: Notify law enforcement agencies, if required.
- STEP 7: Follow-up
- Follow any action started to ensure all possible support is given to the athlete and parents/guardians

Playing Time

Athletics, by nature, are competitive. By joining a SSPP athletic team, your child and you have made the choice to enter a competitive arena. This includes competition interscholastically and within the team itself.

At the seventh and eighth grade levels, playing time is based upon attitude, effort, and ability. The coaches will try to play everyone based upon the game and situation. Attendance and participation at practice is also a factor.

At all other levels, the emphasis is upon learning the skills of a particular sport. The coaches will do their best to provide equal playing time at games and/or practices. Playing time during a game may be contingent upon practice attendance and effort. It is not fair to reward players with game playing time when they have not attended practices or put forth any effort to learn the skills being taught.

If you feel that the coach is not adhering to these policies, you may follow the aforementioned reporting process.

All parents and/or athletes will receive this booklet. SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School assumes that both the parent and athlete will read this booklet. Joining any of our athletic teams means that both parent and athlete will abide by the rules and penalties of this booklet. If you need any further clarification, please contact the athletic director during normal school hours.