

The Athletic Program of St. Paul's First Lutheran School

Expectations of Involvement in Interscholastic Athletics at St. Paul's

At St. Paul's First Lutheran School, all extracurricular and interscholastic activities are considered an important part of the students' overall education and learning process. It is very much a blessing and privilege to be able to participate in the St. Paul's Athletic Program throughout the year.

"And whatever you do, whether in work or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

St. Paul's Athletic Program Mission

St. Paul's expects all students to be outstanding ambassadors for their Savior, School, and Self by demonstrating exceptional Christian character at all times.

Goals of the Athletic Program

Participating on an athletic team will challenge our student athletes with many opportunities:

- Students have the opportunity to combine their knowledge from their Christian education with the talents God has blessed them to give **Glory to God** in body and spirit.
- Students have the opportunity to **grow** intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially.
- Students have the opportunity to **go with the Gospel** by representing their Savior, School, and Self with God-pleasing effort and conduct in all athletic activities.

Interscholastic Sports Program

Interscholastic Sports Teams

Through the Valley Christian Athletic League guidance, and pending availability, St. Paul's Lutheran School strives to offer the following interscholastic sports:

Junior High(JH): grade 7-8/Elementary(ELEM): grade 4-6

Fall	Flag Football JH-Boys ELEM-Boys	Softball ELEM-Girls	Basketball JH-Girls
Winter	Basketball ELEM-Boys ELEM-Girls JH-Boys	Softball JH-Girls	Soccer ELEM-Co-ed
Spring	Volleyball JH-Girls ELEM-Co-ed	Baseball JH-Boys	Track and Field Co-ed-grade 3-8

Note: Sports and seasons are subject to change due to league team availability and enrollment.

Interscholastic teams are usually formed in the following way with each level emphasizing growth, participation, and competition:

Elementary Teams

At this level some students are being introduced to team sports while others will build on past experience. These teams are composed of 4th through 6th grade students. Players will have opportunities in practices and games to learn fundamental skills and apply them to game situations. Players from 3rd grade may also be included depending on

enrollment and/or skill level as determined by the coach. All players who fulfill their commitment to team goals will receive playing time to develop their skills in game situations.

Junior High Teams

At this level, competition receives higher emphasis with the focus on achieving victory and representing our school to the best of our teams' ability. These teams are composed of 7th and 8th grade athletes. Players from 5th and 6th grade may also be included depending on enrollment and/or skill level as determined by the coach. Playing time will be determined by players' skill, attitude, interest, and commitment to team goals.

Coaching Responsibilities

- Coaches will realize that they are Christian role-models for players, families, and parents.
- Coaches will encourage their players to fully develop and use their God-given abilities.
- Coaches will strive to use constructive criticism in working with individuals and team.
- Coaches will help educate parents on the rules of the sport so they can be informed fans.
- Coaches will prepare diligently and teach and model the fundamental skills, rules, and strategy of the sport.
- Coaches will understand that for many athletes, their interscholastic athletic opportunities may be limited after St. Paul's and will coach to give them the best experience they are able to.
- Coaches will model a respectful attitude toward officials.
- Coaches will make sure that the facilities of St. Paul's and other schools are treated with care and respect.
- Coaches will monitor the academic progress of their players.
- Coaches, recognizing the unique abilities of their players, will strive to put players in game situations where they are prepared to succeed and help the team reach its goal.

Player Responsibilities

- Players will realize their role as ambassadors for their Savior, school, and self.
- Players will compete as part of a team, not for self-glorification.
- Players will strive to understand their roles on the team and put team goals before their own.
- Players will respect and accept the decisions of the officials without question.
- Players will compete with Christian sportsmanship.
- Players will give glory to God, demonstrating humility in victory and grace in defeat.
- Players will respect and care for the facilities and equipment of St. Paul's and other schools.
- Players will attend all practices and games, excusing their absences with the coach as far in advance as possible.
- Players will respect and follow the directions of the coach.
- Players will understand that participation on interscholastic sports teams cannot compromise academic performance and other responsibilities.
- Players will show responsibility by having necessary uniforms and equipment at all practices and games.

Parent Responsibilities

- Parents will realize their role as ambassadors for their Savior and school and as role models for their children.
- Parents will support the school, its coaches, and its programs.
- Parents will avoid the temptation to "coach" their children from the sideline during games. Cheering and encouragement should be team-focused and general in nature. Specific instructional comments directed at individual players should be avoided. Players' attention needs to be solely focused on the game and the coach's instruction.
- Parents will not speak negatively about coaches, other athletes, or officials.
- Parents are encouraged to support St. Paul's teams with positive, enthusiastic cheering. Cheering against other teams and officials is inappropriate.
- Parents will strive to understand the role their child has on the team and support the goals of the team.

Spectator Expectations

Students and fans will treat all facilities, individuals, coaches, and referees at St. Paul's or while visiting another school with complete respect. During any game, yelling at referees or officials will not be tolerated. During basketball season, for example, players and fans will refrain from making noise during free-throws.

Communication of Information

All activity information will be passed along through classroom and school newsletters, along with internet pathways. Athletes are expected to be responsible for much of the communication between coach and parents.

Questions and Concerns

At times, parents may have questions or concerns about interscholastic sports at St. Paul's First Lutheran School. It is important to follow an orderly procedure to address these questions or concerns.

Parents may contact a coach with questions or concerns about the following:

- Child behavior
- Treatment of a child
- Ways for a child to improve
- Playing time
- Coaching strategy
- Other student-athletes
- Officiating

24-HOUR POLICY

Parents and student-athletes should wait 24 hours following a game to speak with a coach regarding concerns. This allows all parties involved to take time away from a game situation to collect their thoughts and address concerns calmly.

Discussing such questions or concerns with a coach must be done in a respectful, self-controlled, objective manner with team goals in mind.

The following progression should be followed when addressing questions or concerns:

- Speak with the coach
- If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved with the coach, the coach and parent should bring it to the athletic director.
- If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved with the athletic director, the coach, parent, and athletic director should bring it to the principal.
- If the issue is not satisfactorily resolved with the principal, the coach, parent, athletic director, and principal should bring it to the attention of the St. Paul's School Board.

Transportation to Away Games

When the school van is not available or sufficient, parents are needed for transporting athletes to away games. Through notes from the coach and the schedule, parents are expected to be aware of the need and requests for volunteer drivers. Parents who volunteer to transport athletes must abide by the guidelines put forth in the St. Paul's School Handbook. ***(Parents/guardians driving for a field trip/athletic event must file a Proof of Insurance Form with the school office before leaving on the authorized event)***. A contribution toward the cost of fuel is suggested if another parent or coach is providing transportation.

Attendance

Players are expected to be on time for all games and practices. Parents are expected to excuse their child's absence from a game or practice as far in advance as possible. Ideally, the athlete will present the excuse for an athletic event in

person. A notice may be made by written note, email, or phone call. If a player is not present at school by noon on a game day, they are ineligible for that day's game. If a player misses practice(s) prior to a game, their playing time for upcoming games may be affected.

Eligibility

Participation on interscholastic sports teams is a privilege. Students must therefore maintain good academic standing in order to participate. The following guidelines will be used to determine students' eligibility to participate on interscholastic sports teams:

- Students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and at least a "C" citizenship grade.
- Students must display a Christian attitude and have a good discipline record to participate.
- If a student becomes ineligible, they have a two-week opportunity to regain eligibility.
- Teachers and coaches reserve the right to remove eligibility for students who meet the minimum requirements but consistently achieve below their ability level.
- In some cases, exceptions to the eligibility requirements may be made when a student has not been blessed with the ability to meet those requirements. In such circumstances, the principal, teacher, coach, and parent/guardian will meet to determine what is best for the child.

The eligibility suspension from an interscholastic sports team may be appealed to an ad hoc committee consisting of the principal, coach, and a member of the Board of Education. The committee will consult with the student's classroom teacher before making a final decision.

Incomplete School Work

As a way of praising God, it is our desire that students complete their work to the best of their ability. To document any incomplete homework and to communicate with parents that it may be necessary to encourage their children to complete homework on time, Incomplete Homework Notices will be utilized. This notice will list the incomplete work, the frequency of occurrence, and the consequence. This notice will require the signature of a parent. There will be copies for parents, teacher, and school office. Beginning with the sixth occurrence of incomplete homework each quarter, the student becomes suspended from competing in interscholastic sports. **(St. Paul's First Lutheran School Handbook, see: "Late Work Policy")**

Practice and Game Attire

Athletic shoes with non-marking soles designated exclusively for indoor use are required for volleyball and basketball. These are also utilized for all indoor physical education classes. Quality athletic shoes are a worthwhile investment as they help to prevent injury and maximize performance.

Players are required to wear their P.E. uniform to practices.

Having sharply-dressed teams reflects positively on our school and helps foster a sense of pride in our student-athletes. Players wear uniforms for all athletic contests. School-owned uniforms are issued for most sports. P.E. uniforms are worn in place of school-owned uniforms. Players are fully responsible for the upkeep and return of school-issued uniforms. Please wash all uniforms in **COLD WATER** and **DRIP-DRY**. Please NEVER use bleach.

Players are expected to take good care of uniforms. Parents are responsible for lost or damaged uniforms. The uniform *replacement fee is \$50.00.*

Uniforms must NOT be worn during school or after an athletic contest.

Coaches may decide to order additional sweatshirts, T-shirts, or other articles of clothing during the season. Full participation is not required, but is encouraged to promote team unity and spirit. Prices and size selections will be decided at that time.

Fees

Operating a quality interscholastic athletic program is expensive. The majority of the cost involves officials fee, league fees, field rental, uniforms, and equipment. Much effort is made to keep our fees the lowest in the conference.

One time fees will be applied to each sport throughout the year. Fees are usually collected on school registration day. If not, the office will notify the family of the student-athlete that a fee is outstanding. Uniforms are not given to the athlete until the sport fee has been paid.

Conclusion

It is our belief that if the terms of this handbook are upheld, the athletic program of St. Paul’s First Lutheran School will be successful in helping carry out the mission of our school.

Acknowledge/Receipt of Athletic Handbook

(Print family name above)

My signature below acknowledges that I **have received and read** a copy of the St. Paul’s First Lutheran School Athletic Handbook. I understand and accept that this handbook identifies guidelines and provides summary information about athletic related issues, procedures, and rules of conduct.

I understand and accept that it is my responsibility to read, understand, become familiar with, and comply with the standards that have been established, as well as to ensure my child makes every effort to comply with applicable expectations.

I further understand and accept that the Administration of St. Paul’s First Lutheran School, in conjunction with the St. Paul’s First Lutheran School Board, reserves the right to modify, supplement, rescind, or revise any provision or policy from time to time, with or without notice, as it deems necessary or appropriate.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Athlete

Date

Athletic Director

Date

St. Paul's First Lutheran School



Handbook of Interscholastic Athletics

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