

GUIDELINES

St. John the Baptist Athletic Committee

Updated and Approved 9/18/09

“SJB School Mission Statement”

As part of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Community, St. John the Baptist Catholic School will provide opportunities for students to:

- Grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith
- Strive for personal and academic excellence
- Serve God and others

“Athletics Mission Statement”

The Athletic Committee’s mission is to provide interscholastic athletics for St. John the Baptist students, and to promote learning, skill development and team building. The Athletic Committee will represent St. John the Baptist’s interests in the Parochial School League.

“St. John the Baptist Athletic Philosophy”

The philosophy of St. John the Baptist athletics follows the philosophy of St. John the Baptist School. We believe our presence, as a Christian faith community should support the development of each student/athlete’s self-esteem and potential. These student/athletes are at a unique and critical stage of development. Therefore, the emphasis of the St. John the Baptist Athletic Program should be on helping the student/athlete to achieve success at interscholastic sports, while keeping in mind their fragile self-concept. The St. John the Baptist Athletic Program should be a part of this developmental process providing opportunities to learn, grow and develop skills within Christian ideals.

GOALS:

1. Provide organized sports programs, so that interested student/athletes may participate.
2. Assure that the level of competition is gradual from the 5th grade through the 8th grade.
3. Assure that athletes and teams of similar abilities will be matched whenever possible.
4. Assure that coaches play all team members as frequently as possible.
5. Provide coaches, parents and student/athletes the philosophy of St. John the Baptist Athletic Program.
6. Help all who participate to learn through competition.
7. Coaches, parents, athletes and fans must recognize their responsibility to model appropriate behavior to promote good sportsmanship and Christian concerns for others.

PURPOSE:

Interscholastic athletics can be of value as a supportive element to the total educational process. This process concerns the total person, the person’s growth as an individual – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and socially. However, at St. John the Baptist, education comes first and sports second. If a student works to capacity in the classroom, he/she is more apt to carry that on as an athlete. Therefore, every athlete is expected to work hard academically to reach his/her potential. The student should be diligent in schoolwork, Christian behavior and God-pleasing attitudes.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY:

1. Students who participate in athletics at SJB must maintain good academic standing.
2. To maintain eligibility, school administrators will review grades every two weeks.
3. Any student doing unsatisfactory academic work in the class and showing an attitude of not trying to improve their work will not be allowed to participate in athletics.
4. Students will be reinstated once.
5. Any student who receives a “U” on their report card previous or during that sport will not be eligible to participate in that sport.
6. Any concerns or questions about academic eligibility should be addressed to the school administrator.

GENERAL SPORTS POLICIES:

1. A student-athlete may participate with a non-archdiocesan team in the same sport during the season provided that the student's priority and commitment is with the parish/school team, and the student maintains the eligibility requirements established by the school administration and published locally.
2. There is to be no practice or competition without proper adult supervision. The coach or supervisor shall remain until the last athlete has left.
3. There is to be no competition or practice during the hours school is in session. No practice may be scheduled to begin after 8 p.m.
4. All appropriate forms related to athletics must be complete and returned before a student may participate in any tryouts, practices or games. (Included are the Medical Information and Emergency Consent Form, the Parent's Risk Acknowledgement and Consent Form, and the Student Physical Examination Form, and both the Student Athlete and Parent/Guardian Sportsmanship Pledges).
5. Coaching will be on a volunteer basis, with non-parent coaches given first consideration. Coaches must be at least 21 years of age.

CONDUCT:

1. Just as SJB expects the pursuit of excellence scholastically and athletically, this same expectation holds true on the behavior and conduct of its student athletes.
2. Any student who presents undue and persistent discipline problems in school will not be allowed participation in school athletics.
3. Any student consuming, using or in possession of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or smoking materials, non-prescription or non-medical drugs, or weapons will be suspended for the season.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **ATTENDING PRACTICE IS MANDATORY.** Any combination of 3 unexcused absences or unexcused tardy will result in a next game suspension. Having one more unexcused absence or unexcused tardy will result in removal from the team. You may be excused from practice via the following methods:
 - a. Call your coach at least one hour prior to the scheduled practice time.
 - b. Inform your coach you will miss the next practice at the end of the current practice session or game you are attending.
 - c. Present a note to the coach signed by a parent following the practice or game you missed. That note must document the reasons for missing the scheduled game or practice.
2. Team members will be responsible for equipment and uniforms checked out to them. Uniforms are to be maintained in good order and cleaned after games. As all uniforms are washable, this should pose no hardship.
3. Uniforms must be returned to coaches no later than two weeks following the end of the season.
4. Players are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times --- during practice, at games, and while going to and from practices and games. Failure to do so will subject a player to suspension from the team. Since players represent SJB, all school conduct rules also apply.
5. Athletes are expected to report for opening practice in good physical condition. It is also the player's responsibility to remain in good condition during the season. Any athlete found drinking, smoking, or abusing their physical well-being will be dropped from the team.
6. The opportunity to participate in sports at SJB is a privilege. Abuse of this privilege could result in a player being dropped from the team.
7. Student athletes are expected to help with fundraisers. We host several fundraisers throughout the school year and all athletes are expected to help.
8. A student athlete who is absent due to illness or leaves school due to illness will not be allowed to practice or play that day.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY:

While the success of our program is primarily dependent on the coaching staff, athletic committee and the students themselves – your role is often overlooked. We wholeheartedly need your support, just as your son or daughter needs your encouragement. We believe our athletic program is a positive base for Christian development. With this in mind, we expect parents to display positive examples of Christian values.

1. Parents are encouraged to attend games in which their children participate. It means a great deal to these student athletes to have the opportunity to perform in front of their parents.
2. Parents are expected to provide transportation for children to all practices and games. PLEASE BE PROMPT IN PICKING YOUR CHILD UP FROM PRACTICE.
3. Parents of students participating in SJB athletics will be required to perform specific jobs for league and tournament games in each sport/activity their child participates in.
4. Parents should feel free to contact the coach if they have questions, concerns, or wish to make comments about the program. Discussion should take place away from team.
5. Parents should provide good sportsmanship-like behavior when attending all athletic events.
6. Parents and participants will be required to attend a pre-season mandatory meeting at which the philosophy of the Athletic Board and coaches will be explained in detail. To make sure parents fully understand the philosophy and guidelines, no uniforms will be given out unless the participant's parents, at least one parent, attend the meeting.

COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY:

1. The coach's responsibility is to support and adhere to the athletic guidelines and policies and philosophy as written by the SJB Athletic Board and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, at all times.
2. Inform team of practice and games schedules in WRITING! Last minute cancellation or changes – each family must be called. Do not depend on a student to pass the word along to the rest of the team members, as this has not proved to be effective. Try to maintain the same beginning/end times and days of practices, so parents can be more informed.
3. Responsible for the SJB facilities and equipment and uniforms. Each coach must ensure that all lights are turned off and doors locked and the gym area is secured. All equipment must be accounted for before locking up the equipment closet. If you can't fulfill these obligations as a coach, appoint someone responsible to see that this job is done.
4. The coach must be sure that all kids are picked up after practice or games.
5. Coaches are required to be the epitome of good sportsmanship, and live this conduct as a role model for athletes.
6. A background check is performed and social security numbers must be submitted. These are required by the Archdiocese. All coaches must be at least 21 years of age.
7. All coaches are accountable to the SJB principal. The athletic board may recruit coaches, but the principal has the final decision on those people representing our school and responsible for coaching our school teams. The Athletic Director will present a slate of coaches scheduled to coach the following year to the SJB principal to approve. The SJB principal may approve or disqualify coaches, as he/she believes the action warrants. This policy is stated in the Diocesan Policies and Regulations for Athletics.
9. All coaches will hold a mandatory parent meeting at the first practice.

WORKING OUT CONCERNS:

Hopefully, problems that develop with regards to the athletic programs and participation can be easily and quickly worked out.

If problems arise with regard to any aspect of the athletic programs, players and/or parents should discuss them first in detail with the coach involved. Most problems and misunderstandings can be resolved through discussion among players, parents and coaches.

If parents feel their concerns have not been resolved to their satisfaction after meeting with the coaches involved, they may petition the Athletic Director or Board Member respectively, in writing, outlining their specific grievance. Grievances must be submitted when an apparent problem exists – not in generalities at some future date. The SJB Athletic Board will handle such grievances and those involved will be notified of the ultimate disposition.

We urge you to discuss personal concerns with the coaches before seeking help and/or support from the Athletic Director or Board Members.

A personnel committee comprised of the SJB principal, athletic committee chairperson and the athletic director will be formed to handle violation of the guidelines. This committee will meet within one week after the reporting of the violation. The grievance should be given initially to the principal or athletic director.

ROSTER SIZE:

The teams shall consist of 8 or more players in basketball and 9 or more players in volleyball. If the 5th and 6th (only) and the 7th or 8th (only) grade teams are less than 8 players, both grades will be combined to form one team of 15 or less. If more than 15, two teams will be formed.

The teams will be selected first on grade level, then capability level with player, coaches, and athletic director in agreement. A look at the students to determine capability level will be at a minimum of two practices with the older students and selection will be by non-parent coaches. Parents will be consulted prior to selection to be sure their child wants to be moved up.

If the opportunity arises where three teams could be formed from two grade levels, parents from those teams will be given the option to cast a vote to help determine the general team formation. This option will be sought in the interests of maximizing playing time for all players.

At the 5th and 6th grade level, these teams will be divided according to grade level, than combined with the next team, if needed. At the 7th and 8th grade level teams may be divided according to grade level or based upon competitiveness with competitive preference given to our 8th grade teams. In the event that there are too few players to form a like age team, the Athletic Board may explore the option to combine that group of like age players with players from another conference school to reach an appropriate roster size.

The Athletic Board, including the Athletic Director and Principal will make the final decision regarding team formation.

PLAYING TIME:

5TH AND 6TH GRADES: EQUAL PLAYING TIME FOR ALL athletes is stressed in all games, including league and tournament games. We believe that at this particular level, the win-loss record is not as significant, but the fundamental skills, sportsmanship and knowledge of the game through these activities are of the utmost importance. Our coaches have the players in mind and are the best judge of where and when a player should be in a game. Further, it is not reasonable to assume that management of playing time will be exact to the second. Our coaches are teachers first.

7TH AND 8TH GRADES: ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY BY HALFTIME, UNLESS MORE THAN 12 PLAYERS. If the roster shows MORE THAN 12 PLAYERS, THEY ALL MUST PLAY BEFORE THE END OF THE GAME. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach. The board recommends liberal substitution especially when there is an imbalance in the score of the game.

If parents have questions concerning playing time, it is usually best to speak to the coach regarding their decision. Our coaches are volunteers and have the players' best interest in mind. Coaches not following the St. John the Baptist policy regarding playing time, as set forth by the Athletic Board will be warned with a written communication from the athletic director upon the initial infraction; and with subsequent infractions, will be removed from his/her coaching responsibilities.

FEES

The Athletic Committee has set a \$30.00 fee for the first sport/activity a student participates in and \$10.00 for each additional sport/activity in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The fee is payable to SJB Athletics prior to the first practice. **Athletic fees will not be refunded after the 1st game of the season has been played.**

“Rate Yourself as a Sports Parent”

- Do you allow a coach to guide your child without butting in?
- Do you accept your child’s disappointments without blaming your child, his/her coach, or anyone else?
- Do you accept your child’s triumphs without bragging or feeling jealous?
- Do you let your child make his her own decisions about playing sports?
- Are you providing consistent, positive messages for your child?

Date: May 31, 2004

SJB Cheerleading

The following outlines specific rules governing the SJB cheerleading program. The program must at all times also follow “Policies and Regulations for Athletics” published by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and the “Guidelines” published by the SJB Athletic Committee.

1. The cheerleading season shall be defined as a winter activity. This season runs from November 1 to March 31. All practices, games, or competitions must take place during this season. Tryouts are considered a practice. Gym time will be scheduled with the designated Athletic Committee member responsible for this task.
2. There must be a minimum of four practices before participating in games or competitions.
3. Teams will be defined as A & B squad (“A” squad to be made up of the older participants). “B” squad cheerleaders may be scheduled for a maximum of 2 practices per week, each being no more than 1-1/2 hours in length, or 1 practice per week, being no longer than 2 hours length. “A” squad cheerleaders may be scheduled for a maximum of 2 practices per week, each being no more than 1 ½ hours in length.
4. “B” squad cheerleaders are not allowed to participate in competitions.
5. “A” squad cheerleaders may participate in any cheerleading competition at a tournament in which the boy’s basketball team is participating. No other competitions are allowed.
6. Cheerleading is subject to the authority and supervision of the school principle. The Athletic Committee shall create policies that provide for participation. As such the Athletic Committee will also be responsible for funding the cheerleading programs (uniforms, competitions, ect.). The definition of a uniform is a top and skirt.
7. There is to be no practice, nor competition without competent adult supervision. An adult is a person who is 21 years of age.
8. There is to be no practice nor competition during the hours school is in session.
9. Players must be insured for both travel and participation. If not, the parish could be liable for injuries.
10. Children participating in cheerleading will be required to pay an annual fee.

“Policies and Regulations for Athletics”. Per Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Cheerleading

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1. No cheerleading team may use pyramids in any routine. According to WIAA, a pyramid is defined as “any formation in which a person(s) is supported in whole or in part by another person(s) who is NOT in contact with the floor”. In addition, standing shoulder mounts are not permitted; sitting shoulder mounts are permitted. Basket tosses and similar high-risk maneuvers are not allowed. The insurance carrier has been advised of these rules, and coverage may not be in effect if these rules are violated.

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