St. Paul School of Ann Arbor

Athletic Handbook

St. Paul Athletic Handbook

St. Paul Ann Arbor (SPAA) is part of the Washtenaw County Christian Conference (WC3). This allows us to be part of a league with other area Christian and private schools, to participate in league tournaments, and to easily establish sports schedules for the year, allowing us to interact with and witness Christ's love to other schools. When possible, we will continue to compete with other Lutheran schools as we have done.

Philosophy
SPAA works with the family to "train up a child in the way he should go." Athletics at St. Paul exists as an extension of the overall school program, and it is considered a privilege to be able to participate in extracurricular athletic activities. The aim of St. Paul Athletics is to facilitate the goals of St. Paul School through interscholastic sports activities.

God's Word emphasizes that God is concerned with how we use our physical body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 exhorts us: "Don't you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you. You do not belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body." St. Paul gives participants a unique opportunity to bear and bring glory to our Lord and Savior.

Goals
St. Paul Athletics is in the unique position to provide an opportunity to meet many goals in the overall physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth of the student-athlete.

Among these objectives are:
1. To glorify God in all that is done on and off the playing field.
2. To recognize that the use and development of physical skills and talents is a part of good Christian stewardship.
3. To help instill God-pleasing priorities, namely: God, family, school, and athletics.
4. To realize the importance of others in our lives and to learn to work cooperatively with them.
5. To develop critical thinking and decision-making skills.
6. To provide a positive athletic experience for each athlete and to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of sport and recreational activity.
7. To prepare athletes for high-school-level athletics.
8. To promote school spirit.

Code of Conduct
As a Christian school, we desire to teach and encourage Christian conduct and sportsmanship among our student-athletes, coaches, and fans. To help us achieve that goal, we have developed the following guidelines to help us identify what we feel is proper conduct for our athletes, coaches, and fans. By accepting a position on any St. Paul team, the student-athlete, as well as his/her family, agrees to abide by the following:

The Student Athlete

1. Win or lose, thanks his Lord for allowing him to take part in the contest and keeping him safe.
2. Realizes that he is representing his Lord - as well as his church, school, and team - and reflects his awareness in his conduct.
3. Treats the opponent as a guest and a friend - as he wishes to be treated; appreciates his opponent's good play and encourages his opponent when he makes a mistake.
4. Does not use profanity or vulgarity at any time.
5. Accepts referees' decisions in a proper manner; does not argue or make non-verbal gestures that indicate disagreement with officials, opponents, coaches, or fans.

The Coach

1. Knows he is an ambassador for Christ and, as such, properly conducts himself/herself when dealing with athletes, parents, and fans.
2. Sets a Christ-like example for players and fans.
3. Uses the game as an avenue to minister to children, parents, and fans.
4. Maintains self-control at all times. The desire to win must not overcome rational behavior
5. Treats each player, opposing coach, referee, parent, and administrator with respect and dignity.
6. Expects good sportsmanship from his athletes - removes players not showing good sportsmanship from the contest.
7. Helps players appreciate opponents' good performance and encourages opponents who make mistakes.
8. Shows respect for his opponents. Does not "run up" scores or seek to embarrass his opponents.

The Fan

1. Attends the games to encourage and support the athletes.
2. Is a positive example for setting the tone for those around them so that everyone may enjoy the game.
3. Shows respect for the judgment of the officials; does not question their calls.
4. Accepts and respects the decisions of the coaching staff. Does not discuss aspects of the game on the day of the contest or within hearing distance of any member of the team.
5. Does not use profane, obscene, or abusive language.
6. Shows respect for those who are hosting; respects the rules and expectations of his host.
7. Recognizes and appreciates outstanding plays by either team.

Eligibility
One of the primary goals of St. Paul Lutheran School is to provide a quality education to each student. In keeping with that principle, a student is considered to be a student first. He/she must maintain an overall average of "C" or better and must not be failing in any course in order to participate. Grades will be checked every three weeks. Any Students not maintaining a "C" average, or failing any course, will be ineligible for practice and competition until the next progress check. Any student who is ineligible for a second time during the season will be removed from participation for the remainder of the season. Parents and coaches will receive written notification from the athletic director informing them of the student's ineligibility.

Athletes are also expected to demonstrate Christian conduct and behavior in all classroom and school activities. Students receiving a suspension from school will be suspended from athletic participation for the remainder of the season.

Attendance/Student Absence

1. **Clear and open communication between parents and school personnel is vital for the successful implementation of this policy.**
2. **It is important that parents notify their child's homeroom teacher, coach, and athletic director by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the student's absence and explain the cause of the absence. (It is not necessary to also contact the school office).**
3. **Full-Day Absence - For the care of all students and staff, students who miss school due to illness will not be allowed to participate in athletics on the day of their absence.**
4. **Half-Day Absence - Students must be present for an academic half-day following the lunch hour to be eligible to participate in athletics that school day.**
5. **Absences for reasons such as funerals, academic testing, medical evaluations, etc., are eligible to participate if the parents communicate the situation in advance with the homeroom teacher, athletic director, and coach.**
6. **Students not participating in a scheduled physical education class may not participate in athletics that day.**

Forms required to participate.
Each student must have a valid physician-certified physical form on file in the school office before participating *in any St. Paul practice or contest.* The Michigan High School Athletic Association mandates physical examinations annually, dated after April 15th. Students may only compete on one St. Paul team each season.

Athletes must use the MHSAA Physical Form. Using this form ensures we have all the correct information, permissions, and athletic agreement on file.

Developmental Interscholastic Athletics
St. Paul Lutheran School offers competition in the following developmental sports:

Early Fall Sports:
5th/6th Girls' Volleyball

Late Fall Sports
3rd/4th Boys Basketball
5th/6th Boys Basketball
5th-8th Girls Cheerleading

Winter Sports:
5th/6th Girls' Basketball

Season:
Developmental Sports will be held corresponding with the 7th - 8th grade season of the same sport. Participants will compete in a limited number of interscholastic games against teams of similar ages and abilities.

Playing Time:
St. Paul developmental teams are instructional teams, with the emphasis being placed on individual fundamentals and skill development. Coaches are encouraged to allow each individual team member a comparable chance to participate in games and scrimmages.

Competitive Interscholastic Athletics
St. Paul Lutheran School offers competition in the following competitive sports:

Early Fall Sports:
7th/8th Girls' Volleyball
4th – 8th grade Coed Cross Country
7th/8th Coed Flag Football

Late Fall Sports:
7th/8th Boys' Basketball
5th-8th Girls' Cheerleading

Winter Sports:
7th/8th Girls' Basketball

Spring Sports:
4th - 8th Coed Track

Practices
Coaches will determine the appropriate role for each player on the team.
All effort is made to allow for maximum participation of each athlete on the team. In rare instances, team numbers may need to be limited. The coach determines Maximum roster sizes in consultation with the athletic director.

Playing Time
St. Paul competitive teams are involved in interscholastic competition. Our competitive teams are not recreational teams guaranteeing equal playing time. Playing time, which involves both games and valuable practices, is left to the coaches' discretion and may be determined by various factors, including attitude, cooperation, work ethic, skill and knowledge level, and contest situation. St. Paul's goal is to involve all team members while remaining competitive. Coaches are acutely aware that they are involved in building the skill level and self-confidence of each individual member of their teams.

Team placement
St. Paul will only move players up a level if the need arises to field a team adequately.

Absences
When an athlete makes a commitment to a team, he/she commits to attending all practices and games. Missing practices or parts of practices affect the skill development of the individual athlete and the entire team and could drastically affect playing time. Approved absences must be communicated to the coach or faculty representative before the missed activity. If an athlete misses school on an activity day, the absence is considered excused, and no written notification is necessary. Two unexcused absences will result in an athlete being removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

Transportation
Parents are responsible for driving their children to and from games and practices or arranging a ride for their children. These arrangements must be in place before school begins on the day of the scheduled activity.

Parental Involvement
In order for an athletics program to work, it is imperative that parents be active in the program. All parents of student-athletes at St. Paul are considered to be athletic boosters. The purpose of the boosters is to support the athletic programs at St. Paul through fund-raising and service. Parents are expected to assist by running a concession stand, keeping score, setting up/tearing down, and collecting gate receipts at home tournaments. If a parent cannot work at an assigned time, it is the parent's responsibility to find a replacement. If you are interested in volunteering in any other way, please contact the athletic director.

Uniforms
St. Paul provides uniforms for all of its interscholastic sports. They are to be kept clean and worn only for competition. Uniforms must be washed in cold water and must be air-dried. Uniforms will be returned on the designated day in the same condition they were issued. Families will be charged a fee for late uniform returns and missing or damaged uniforms.

Athletic Fees
A $100 fee will be added to a student's tuition account (FACTS) for the first sport in which that student participates. Additional team fees per student/year will be $75/each. These fees are not refundable.

Contact *updated 11/23/26*
Athletic Director email:
athletics@stpaulannarbor.org