



All Saints Academy

Athletic Handbook

2014-2015

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Forward

This handbook is designed to provide you with the information you need to understand the rules and regulations that govern All Saints Academy Athletics. The handbook is intended to be in harmony with Belleville Diocesan policies and regulations, but is not intended to supersede them. Changes in policy that affect this handbook will be communicated to students and parents. Policy changes during the year supersede the provisions found in this handbook. It is the parents' and student's responsibility to read and abide by the policies contained in this handbook. Interpretation or areas of concern should and are encouraged to be brought before the Athletic Director.

Philosophy:

The tradition of Catholic Education has its roots in the mission of the Church to reach out to people where they are and to teach Christian values in the context of real life. Few better opportunities exist for effectively doing this than in our Catholic sports programs. This world in miniature contains all the elements of the larger, more serious 'real' world: challenge, failure, victory, defeat, excellence, limitation, growth, stagnation, competition, participation, self-esteem and self-destruction. It is the mission of our sports program to use these experiences to further the objectives of the church, to form our young men and women, players and coaches alike, into authentic Christians. This purpose lies behind and directs all our decisions and actions. We ask God's grace to help us act in accordance with the fundamental principles that form the basis of our faith. Our program sets out to accomplish the following goals:

1. *To act as catechist.* This is to provide opportunities to teach Christian values in the context of a sports environment.
2. *To form community.* That is, to build the natural bond that forms with the creation of a team, linking it with the larger community of the program and that of the Church. In addition, adding the spiritual dimension, mingling prayer, worship and service with athletics in natural and appropriate ways.
3. *To promote Christian sportsmanship.* That is, to teach and model what it means to be a Christian athlete, one who can win with humility, accept defeat with grace, and respect always the human being behind the opponent.
4. *To develop skills that enables competitiveness.* That is, to teach the lower grade levels the fundamentals and develop skills in order to be competitive at the 7th and 8th grade levels. When you and your child make the commitment to participate in athletics at All Saints Academy, you are entering this competitive environment. This includes competition with other schools, as well as competition within the teams themselves. This competitiveness is part of the nature of sport and integral to the successful enjoyment of any sports program.

Sports Descriptions:

All ASA sports teams will follow all Diocesan, SIJHSAA and conference rules.

Cheerleading: This is an 8th grade sport. The team will cheer at all contests when the 8th grade boys' basketball team plays. Practices are held starting in September and ending near the end of the season in late January or early February.

Volleyball: This is a 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girl's sport. Practices may start in the beginning of January, with the season ending in early April.

Basketball: The 7th and 8th grade programs are for both girls and boys. All team members will dress, unless there is a limit established by one of the aforementioned governing bodies. Practices for the girls start in September and the season ends in mid to late January.. Practices for the boys start in late September or early October and the season ends in late January or early February. The 8th grade boys and girls play in the 8th Grade Diocesan Tournament.

The 5th and 6th grade programs are for both boys and girls. . Practices for the girls start in late August or early September and the season runs through the first week of November. Practices for the boys start in early October and the season runs through the middle of January. The 6th grade boys and girls play in the 6th Grade Diocesan Tournament.

Track: Track is offered for both boys and girls in grades 5-8. Practices start in March and the season runs through the second week of May. The team will enter in both the Juvenile and Parochial divisions of the Diocesan Track Meet and in the SIJHSAA Regional and State Track Meets.

Playing Time and the Role of Competition:

A perennial trouble spot in nearly all sports programs is the amount and quality of playing time allotted to each player. Diocesan rules require that, for 5th and 6th grade teams, each child listed on the team roster plays by the end of the game. This is the Diocesan way of ensuring that coaches at that level strike a proper balance between competing to win and participating to play and learn, a balance appropriate to the children's age and ability.

It is the position of our program that we should do whatever we can to provide positive, competitive, age- and ability-appropriate playing experiences for as many of our children as we can. Competition both to win games and to earn playing spots on a team is an integral component of sports. It is our responsibility not to deny the existence of competition, but to keep it in its proper place. We expect our coaches to base their decisions upon awareness of the individual child's motivation, dedication, attendance and behavior at practice, as well as the child's skill level. We also expect the coaches to base their decisions during the game to what the game conditions are. To the extent that they can, coaches should provide quality time to the largest numbers of players possible, especially at the 5th and 6th grade levels. Parents and players are reminded that this does not mean equal playing time. (Diocesan Regulation 6145.2)

The policy at All Saints Academy for the 7th and 8th grade teams shall be that all players may dress, unless there is conference, state or Diocesan rules on the number that can dress. When team rosters exceed the recommended roster limit, additional teams may be added. The decision to add additional teams is based on diocesan policy, the availability of teams to play, coaches to coach and the availability of gyms in which to practice and play games.

Bringing Up Underclassmen:

If there are not adequate numbers to make up a team, whereas the AD and coaches determine that number, then underclassmen may be permitted to play on the older team. The Athletic Directors since 2005 have determined that an adequate number is double the number that is put on the floor to play a game. In that manner, teams can scrimmage at practice (10-basketball, 12-volleyball). The decision to bring up players will be a joint decision among the principal, AD, and coaches. The coach, not the athletic director, has the final decision on which players are brought up to the recommended number listed above. In the case a student is pulled up to the varsity level (7/8) they forfeit their right to play at the junior varsity (5/6) level for the remainder of the season. ASA will adhere to the SIJHSAA and Diocesan regulations regarding the six-quarter rule for varsity players (7/8), which refer to players playing no more than six quarters a day. In case of seasonal or tournament participation the decision of playing at your grade level will be based on unforeseen conditions, abiding by our ASA athletic policy.

Registration:

Registration for sports will be held in the spring. Registrations for the spring sport, track, will be held open until February 1st.

If two or more children of the same family are playing the same sport, the second and third child's fee is reduced to one-half. This applies to the same sport only.

September 1 is the deadline to switch sports or withdraw. After this date, registration fee will not be refunded.

Mandatory Sports Meetings:

Two mandatory sports meetings are held each year for parents or guardians. There is a meeting for those in fall sports (basketball and cheerleading) and a meeting for those in winter and spring sports (volleyball and track).

Items Needed Before an Athlete Can Play:

By the first practice of each sport, an athlete must have all three of the following:

1. Registration complete and all fees paid.
2. An up-to-date sports physical (since May 1 of last school year), completed by a doctor and turned in to the school office.
3. At least one parent or guardian of each athlete must attend a mandatory meeting.

Uniforms

Athletes will be issued team uniforms. The uniform is to be worn only during games. Care must be taken to keep uniforms in good condition. At the end of the season all uniforms must be returned to the Athletic Director in a plastic bag labeled with the player's name. Students who leave the team before the end of a season must return uniform immediately. Basketball and Volleyball players are asked to wear school dress code before and after all

games. Khaki pants may be substituted for navy pants.

Personal Electronic Devices

Players are expected to adhere to the ASA Electronics Policy (ASA Policy 4007) as listed below

CELL PHONES

- Cell phones brought to school must be kept in book bag and turned off during the instructional day
- Their use, including text messaging and digital photography, is prohibited during the school day and school sponsored activities.

Transportation:

Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from both home and away games.

In the event the school provides a fan bus, the school assumes responsibility for the transportation and management of children; the following rules apply to ensure the safety and security of the children:

Any parent may take their children home with them from any game or activity. Parents must, however, notify the coach or the fan supervisor that they are leaving with their child and sign the child out. Someone other than the child's parents or guardian (grandparent, friend, other parent, etc.) may also transport a child home from a game, match or meet provided that the school has written permission for this to take place from the parent or guardian. Parents may arrange for this by sending a written note to the coach or Athletic Director granting permission. The person assuming responsibility should notify the coach and sign the child out just as the parent would before leaving.

Spectators:

Good sportsmanship, like so many things, begins at home. Please remember that parents and older siblings are powerful role models for our young athletes. Our behavior in the stands and outside the gym teaches important lessons. Please ensure that what we teach reflects our Christian orientation. Please be as positive and supportive of our athletes as you can.

An adult must accompany any student in 4th grade or under to any game, home or away. Any student in Grades 5-8 may attend games without specific parental supervision.

Problem Solving:

As with any program, differences of opinion and direction, as well as problems with the execution of the program are bound to arise. To better facilitate the fair and Christian resolution of these difficulties, we ask that everyone follow the proper procedures outlined below:

1. *Wait 24 hours.* Before beginning any of these steps, we ask that you wait 24 hours. This often allows a person to cool down and look at the problem from another perspective. Please do not confront the coach the night or day that a problem occurred. The one time that you should make immediate contact is if one of the student's safety is involved.

2. *Contact the coach first.* Since most of the difficulties arise on this level, we ask that parents or players talk first with the coach about this problem. Call him or her and arrange a mutually agreed upon place and time. Please do not confront him or her without an arrangement, or in front of the players.
3. *Next step – Athletic Director (AD).* The AD is responsible for overseeing the entire athletic program. If you are not satisfied with the response of the coach or his or her actions after you talked to that coach, contact the AD. The AD will work with you to resolve the problem, as best it can be. Remember, that does not mean that the Athletic Director will always take your side, nor does it mean that he or she will always side with the coach. The AD will listen to your issue and do the best that he or she can.
4. *Final Step – Meeting.* If the AD feels that a meeting is necessary, one will be scheduled. This meeting will include the parents, the coach, the AD, and the principal.

The well being of the athletes enrolled in our program is the joint concern of the parents, coaches, AD, and the principal. We can and will resolve differences most effectively if they are approached in as positive a manner as possible and if the procedures are used as intended.

Harassment of Other Students:

Athletes will not harass others in any manner, verbal or non-verbal. This includes making fun of, ridiculing, name-calling or any physical abuse. Such actions will result in a suspension from participating in athletic activities, the notification of parents and probationary status in the athletic program. Upon the second offense, the athlete will be removed from the athletic program.

Diocesan Regulation 6145.2

Philosophy and Purpose of Catholic School Athletic Programs in the Diocese of Belleville is available on our school website www.asasaints.com. A hard copy can be requested by contacting the All Saints Academy Athletic director.

This handbook has been reviewed by the ASA Policy Committee and

Adopted by the ASA School Board May 2013
