

# Athletics

Good sportsmanship is an integral part of team participation. The athletic handbook, given to every student athlete prior to athletic participation, contains detailed rules and regulations that govern athletic participation. Parents and student athletes are expected to abide by these standards.

## Regulations

- Before season begins, coaches meet with the athletic director to outline season plans. Coaches are under direct supervision of the athletic director.
- Students wishing to try out for any school sanctioned athletic activity must provide written documentation of a recent physical examination. Sports physicals must be completed after June 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming school year. Sport physical forms may be obtained in the school office or the athletic office.
- A fee of \$50 per student per sport is required to help alleviate the cost of uniforms, referees, and entry fees.
- Practice is generally held after school and in the evening. The athletic director develops this schedule.
- No practice may be held before 1:00 p.m. or after 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.
- Basic uniforms are provided for all basketball, cheerleading, cross-county, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Parents must provide practice shorts, shoes, and socks.
- The athletic director, prior to publishing, must approve all coaching schedules.
- Coaches remain with players after games or practices until parents arrive. Players must be picked up on time. Transportation to and from games or practices is the responsibility of parents.
- Participation on any athletic team is a privilege and must be earned through good conduct and academics.
- Students must be in school on game days or they will not be allowed to play (arrive by 11:30 a.m. or remain until 11:30 a.m.).
- No gum is allowed at games or practice on or off the campus!

## Eligibility

The academic eligibility program monitors the grades and conduct of all middle school students at the end of each mid-term and nine week grading period. Students with grades below 78 in more than one subject including conduct will be placed on academic probation and may not participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities, including sports teams, for a probationary period of five school days following written notification to parents. Parents and students will be notified in writing when the student is placed on academic probation. The academic probation list is provided to the athletic director, principal and the student's pastor. The athletic director will notify the appropriate coaches. Students may resume participation when an academic release form is signed by each teacher indicating that grades are 78 or above.

**Any student who is given a Discipline Referral for a conduct infraction will be excluded from all extra curricular school-sponsored activities, including sports teams, for a probationary period of five school days following written notification to parents. Students receiving a Discipline Referral may be required to meet with the school guidance counselor to discuss the situation and ways to avoid any future Discipline Referrals. A list of students on probation will be given to the principal, the student's pastor, and the athletic director. The athletic director will notify the appropriate coaches. If an athlete receives two detentions within a sport season, he or she will no longer be eligible to represent St. Joseph School in that particular sport for that season. A season begins with the first practice and ends after the final game.**

## **Teams**

All teams are coached by staff and/or volunteers. Parents are responsible for all transportation.

## **Basketball**

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys and girls may try out for team positions. Try outs occur in October. Positions are awarded on the basis of physical ability and skills; however, every interested student is urged to try out for this sport.

## **Cheerleading**

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls may try out for varsity cheerleading. Coordinated by volunteers, cheerleading practice is held after school and occasionally on weekends as scheduled.

## **Cross-Country**

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys and girls are eligible to participate each fall. Third, fourth, and fifth grade boys and girls may participate based on the availability of coaches.

## **Golf**

Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys and girls may participate each spring.

## **Soccer**

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys and girls may try out for positions on the co-ed soccer teams. Positions are awarded on the basis of physical ability and skill. Previous soccer experience is not necessary. The season begins in April and continues for six weeks.

## **Softball**

Fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls may try out for team positions. Try outs are in late February or early March. The team participates in a local recreational softball program. In the event there are not adequate numbers to comprise a complete team, athletes from other schools may be eligible to participate on the team.

**Tennis**

Teams practice and play September through October. Students participate in the U.S. and Knoxville Tennis Association League.

**Track**

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade boys and girls are eligible to participate each spring.

**Volleyball**

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls may try out in late August for positions on the girls' volleyball teams. The teams are part of the Knoxville Independent School League and play a minimum of two games per week with 1-2 practices per week. The season lasts through the end of October.

**IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN ATHLETICS, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON THE DAY OF THE ACTIVITY IS REQUIRED.**