

St. Peter's
Lutheran School

Athletic Handbook

2019-2020

This handbook is prepared for the benefit of all student/athletes, their parents, and the staff of St. Peter's. Please read it carefully so that our athletic program can be a blessing to our school, our spectators, our athletes, and our LORD.

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VALUE OF ATHLETICS

Athletics at St. Peter's Lutheran School reflect Mark 12:30, "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." Athletics serve to help train up students to be spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically healthy. Therefore our objectives are:

1. To develop opportunity for Christian witness in practice and competition.
2. To develop an attitude of good sportsmanship with athletes, parents, and the school family.
3. To develop interaction with athletes from other schools.
4. To develop team and school spirit in accomplishing spiritual goals.
5. To increase physical development and skill levels.
6. To develop an appreciation of the value of physical activity as a lifelong pursuit.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

All parents with children in athletics are automatic members and are expected to work during athletic events in which their child participates. Jobs include admissions, concessions, scoring table, line judges (volleyball), and clean up after home events. The coach will designate how many times a parent should sign up to run events (per child on team) per season.

SPORTS OFFERED AT ST. PETER'S

BOYS

Basketball
Track and Field

GIRLS

Basketball
Volleyball
Track and Field
Cheerleading

BLUE WATER PAROCHIAL LEAGUE POLICIES

PHILOSOPHY

The Blue Water Parochial Athletic League (BWPAL) is designed to be a learning experience and to provide a time of enjoyment for the boys and girls. While winning is highly desirable, learning is the priority. Furthermore, coaches, parents and all adults should set a good example of positive sportsmanship to the youngsters. You are a role model to the children.

GOALS

1. To glorify God in all that is done on and off the playing field.
2. To help instill the priority that God is always first: God, family, school and athletics.
3. To realize that certain rules are necessary and the necessity of learning to abide by them.
4. To learn the importance of cooperation and the need to respect the rights of others, to win with grace and humility, and accept defeat with poise and dignity.
5. To recognize that the use and development of physical skills and talents is good Christian stewardship.
6. To improve the athlete's overall physical condition and specific athletic skills.
7. To prepare athletes for high school level athletics if they choose to try once in high school.
8. To provide a positive athletic experience for each athlete and to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of sport and recreational activities.

LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY

BWPAL is open to students in good standing who currently attend Blue Water Catholic Schools, and to students registered and attending Faith Formation classes at a Blue Water parish. One of the primary purposes of our schools is to provide a quality Christian education. Athletes are also expected to demonstrate Christian conduct and behavior in all classroom and school activities. In keeping with that principle, an athlete is considered to be a student first. He/she must maintain a good academic grade point average as established by your child's school in order to participate. Any student not in compliance with school eligibility requirements will not be able to dress or play until

he/she has corrected the situation and re-established him/herself as eligible at his/her school. Students may practice during periods of ineligibility. The coaching staff will be informed of the student's eligibility status. Students may not play in a game if absent for more than one half of the day on the day of the game. Absences due to illness or injury on a school day prior to an event scheduled on a non-school day will be evaluated on an individual basis by supervising school personnel. If you do not participate in a scheduled physical education class, due to illness or injury, you may not take part that day in any extracurricular athletic activity. Failure to meet these required standards will result in probation/suspension from the team. Suspensions will be determined by the student's instructors. Parents will be notified.

ST. PETER'S ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

A. CITIZENSHIP

1. All athletes, as well as other St. Peter's students, should at all times exhibit the kind of conduct and personal habits which suggest Christian ethics and morals and show respect for their school, church, community, officials, and opponents.
2. General conduct in and out of school shall be such as to bring no discredit to the athlete, parents, school, church, or team.
3. Disrespectful speech or actions toward teachers, officials, fans, coaches, or opponents should never take place.
4. Profane or vulgar language has no place in the life of a Christian athlete especially during practice sessions, game situations, or while representing the school in the community.
5. Coaches have the authority to restrict playing time for those athletes not conducting themselves in the above-mentioned manner while the athlete is under that coach's supervision.
6. Playing time may also be restricted by the Administration for those athletes not conducting themselves in the above-mentioned manner while away from his/her coach's supervision.

Athletics, at times, can be a highly emotional atmosphere and can lead to very good sportsmanship or very poor sportsmanship. Even if it is not defined, most know the difference between good sportsmanship and poor sportsmanship. Simply put, good sportsmanship is a positive response and poor sportsmanship is a negative response. We must strive to obtain the best sportsmanship that we can in our schools. The coaches, the participants, and the fans in

their response to contest situations will be the ones who determine the sportsmanship of a school. There must be continuous positive effort of the three entities to make good sportsmanship a reality. The coach must teach and demand good sportsmanship of his/her athletes. The athletic director must teach and demand good sportsmanship from his/her coaches and the school administration must teach and demand good sportsmanship from its fan base (student body, parents and others in attendance at a contest). Our sportsmanship must be a direct relationship to our Christianity. Christ, as our example, answers our questions about sportsmanship and how to respond to difficult situations during contests should they occur.

B. PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND WELL-BEING

1. Athletes are to be clean, neat, and well groomed since they are constantly in the public eye and are representatives of St. Peter's. All clothing worn at practice must be modest.
2. Specific attire for game days will be set by the coaches; however, shirts and ties for boys and dresses or skirts for girls should be considered normal attire.

C. ATTENDANCE

1. All athletes must be in attendance in order to participate in practice or the game on that day, unless arranged ahead of time with the Principal or Athletic Director. Funerals, regularly scheduled doctor's appointments, and extenuating circumstances approved by the Administration may allow this rule to be waived. In order to receive an excused absence from the Administration, a note from the parent explaining the nature of the absence must be given to the coach prior to the game or practice.
2. All athletes taking P.E. class must dress out and participate in the class in order to participate in practice or the game on that day.
3. Athletes are expected to attend every practice. If he/she must miss a practice, verbal and/or written notice must be given to the coach before the given day. An emergency or illness would be the obvious exception.
4. Coaches have the authority to restrict the athlete's playing time in a competition because the athlete has missed a practice or game, even if it was excused. Our practice times are very valuable learning sessions that prepare us for competitions to come.

D. PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY

Playing time is exclusively in the hands of the coaches as long as the following criteria is met. Neither the Athletic Director nor any other St. Peter's Administrator will dictate to coaches who plays and who doesn't.

Every player will be developed during practice and games. Coaches will explain to each player his/her role on the team. Each player WILL play in each game unless circumstances arise in which a coach must decide to not play a player. These might include: sickness, discipline (team

rule) issues, injuries, school-related issues, etc. Without sacrificing the above-mentioned guidelines, the coach will compete in a contest with the intent to win and will not place an athlete in a position to fail.

E. ELIGIBILITY

1. Each athlete needs to maintain a “C” average or higher over all subjects. Exceptions may only be made in the case of special needs as determined by the teachers and approved by the principal. Mid-quarter and quarter reports will be submitted to the Athletic Director for review.
2. An athlete receiving an “F” in any subject or less than a “C” average over all subjects will be removed from the team for the remainder of that particular sport. Students may regain eligibility for the next sport by bringing up their grades by the next mid- quarter or quarter report.
3. Student behavior determines weekly athletic eligibility. An athlete who is involved in a behavior incident or has 3 Incomplete Schoolwork Notices is ineligible to play for one week (7 days including the day in which the notice, referral, detention or incomplete school work notice is issued (Monday through Sunday, Tuesday through Monday, etc.)). Teachers will immediately notify the Athletic Director of ineligibility through a copy of the notice given. Ineligible athletes cannot attend practices.
4. If continued behavioral incidents, or absences continue, the faculty and/or coach may recommend to the Athletic Director removal from the team.
5. Athletes who are on behavioral or academic probation shall not be eligible to participate in St. Peter’s athletics. Students may attend games, but must sit on the bench. They may not wear their uniform to the game.
6. Athletes must attend practices and games regularly. All practice and game absences must be excused to the coach. Failure to do so may result in removal from the team.
7. Athletes must maintain and display a Christian example at all times. Failure to do so may result in removal from the team.
8. Athletes must have a physical each school year before being eligible for athletics. The school office can provide athletic physical forms.
9. Parents may remove their child(ren) from a sports team as they deem necessary. It is asked, however, that the parent inform the coach, athletic director and principal if they find such drastic measures necessary.

Decisions regarding eligibility are made by the Athletic Director under supervision and in consultation with the Principal. Teachers and the Principal reserve the right to apply all policies as they best meet the emotional, educational and spiritual needs of each and every student.

F. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

If a situation arises in which there is a disagreement between coach and player/parent, the following steps must be followed in order to resolve the situation:

1. Player/parent should talk to the coach about concerns.
 - a. "24 Hour Rule" – Parents should not contact a coach regarding coaching decisions (playing time, positions, discipline, etc) within 24 hours of completion of a game or contest.
2. Player /Parent should next talk to the Athletic Director/Principal.
3. If necessary, player/parent can request a joint meeting with the coach and the Athletic Director/Principal.
4. If necessary, student/ parent can inform the Principal of situation in writing.
5. If necessary, the Principal will call together all parties for a meeting.

G. EQUIPMENT AND LOCKER ROOM ---

1. Each athlete is responsible for athletic equipment issued to him/her. All lost equipment must be paid for.
2. St. Peter's athletic equipment (including uniforms) is to be worn or used for practice sessions and athletic contests only. Issued athletic equipment is not to be used for P.E. classes or personal use. Uniforms may be worn during the school day only with coach's permission – usually limited to twice a season.
3. All equipment is to be turned in promptly at the end of the season. Equipment from the previous season must be returned before an athlete may participate in the next season. If the uniform is not returned, a fee will be charged.
4. The locker room is a place for only the players and the coaches. No friends or relatives will be allowed in the locker rooms before, during, or after games or practices without the permission of the head coach.
5. Care for the locker room is just as important as care for the equipment. Clean changing areas show responsibility and leadership to all athletes.

H. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND INJURIES

1. Emergency cards are required before participation.
2. Athletic injuries should be reported to the coach immediately. Some minor injuries left untreated become major problems.

I. HOW TO SUPPORT OUR TEAM

1. Cheering implies positive vocal support for our team. We will not cheer about the other team or fans. We will not include any remarks about the other side. We will not single out individuals or personalize our cheers against the other team or fans.
2. Be positive for our team. Cheer when our team scores, cheer when they take the floor after time outs or at the quarters, cheer when they make a good play, etc.
3. Treat the other side like we want to be treated. Let them shoot their free throws without our crowd noise or interference. If our school has cheerleaders, we will follow their lead. Plan ahead and work with them to increase fan support and cheering.
4. Applaud our good fortune. We will not applaud the other team's misfortune.
5. When a player is injured from either team it is respectful that the crowd wait patiently and quietly. When the athlete seems OK it is expected that BOTH crowds and teams will give that player a strong ovation.
6. We will not boo or shout at the referees. Ignore the calls of the officials. They are impartial third parties sent by the League Office, not by our opponent. They will, from time to time, make calls that we will not agree with or understand. It is a part of sports and in SCHOOL SPORTS it is something we accept; knowing that we send the wrong message when we challenge the game officials. We will inform our adult fans of this concern.
7. Parents are to refrain from coaching their children from the stands.
8. Introductions: As the home team, we welcome all guests appropriately.
9. The Pledge of Allegiance: People have died for the flag and country that we pause to honor before every athletic event in this nation. We will remove our hats, stand and face the flag.
10. The athletes and coaches are challenged to do their part to demonstrate good sportsmanship. We will applaud displays of good sportsmanship seen from either team.