



ST. JOHN'S PREP STUDENT- ATHLETE HANDBOOK

2017-2018

Welcome to St. John's Prep Athletic Program!

We are pleased that you have expressed an interest in participating in our athletic program. The mission of our Athletic Program is to promote the education and development of students through interscholastic competition. We promote an attitude of discipline, sportsmanship, integrity, and leadership to our student-athletes. We are very proud of the great reputation and rich tradition that St John's Prep has achieved in athletics. We have been blessed with skilled and dedicated athletes and coaches. Our players, coaches, and support staff dedicate themselves in making the athletic program a source of pride for the students, faculty, parents, alumni and our community.

The SJP Student Athlete Handbook has been compiled to better acquaint you and your family with some of the policies, practices and regulations that govern the athletic program at St. John's Prep. If your questions or concerns are not answered within this booklet, please feel free to contact me. **DO NOT** let your questions or concerns go unanswered or unresolved.

Mr. Danial Levent

Director of St. John's Prep Athletics

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Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Girls JV Volleyball	Boys JV Basketball	Boys Volleyball
Girls Varsity Volleyball	Boys Varsity Basketball	Boys JV Baseball
Boys Varsity Soccer	Girls JV Basketball	Boys Varsity Baseball
Girls Varsity Soccer	Girls Varsity Basketball	Girls Varsity Softball
Cross Country Track	Indoor Track	Outdoor Track



Dear St. John's Prep Students and Parents/Guardians,

Interscholastic athletics is a very important component of the educational experience at St. John's Prep. The purpose of our athletic program is to promote an opportunity for the student-athlete to learn and grow in ways not available in a traditional classroom setting. Our goal is for each student-athlete to thrive academically, spiritually and emotionally. We are preparing our students for life. We hold our students to a very high standard when it comes to representing themselves, the St. John's Prep community and their family.

Student athletes at St. John's Prep strive for good sportsmanship, develop self-confidence, learn personal responsibility and respect and achieve success in a competitive environment. Our athletes are expected to develop respect for others, exhibit self-control, assume responsibility for their actions to be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. We believe the more our young men and women become involved in athletics, the greater contribution we can make in the development of better citizens.

At St. John's Prep, our parents/guardians and our student-athletes are a part of the St. John' Prep family. We hope to hear you cheering us on at our matches, supporting our fund raisers and attending our athletic events. We thank you in advance for your continued support in growing our program. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead of us filled with milestones, wins, and achievements on and off the court.

Student-athletes, coaches and parents are all expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, community involvement and a strong code of conduct. As the public holds student-athletes to a higher scrutiny, we must work to demonstrate good judgment and a positive perspective of high school athletics. Success and pride will come from competing the right way.

Go Red Storm!

**Sincerely,
Danial Levent
Athletic Director**

PHILOSOPHY

Our goals are to help all of our students to achieve academic excellence; to foster a community of lifelong learners; to equip students to meet the challenges of a changing world; and to encourage our students to develop responsibility to themselves and their community. Athletics provide an opportunity to extend the values and ideals developed in the classroom and constantly strive towards the development of a well-rounded individual.

Tryouts for programs are open to all students providing they meet the standards of academic eligibility, school citizenship, completed permission/medical forms and up to date physical qualifications. Participation in the program, therefore, is a privilege earned by students who meet and maintain these standards.

As a member of the SJP Athletic Program, students are expected to demonstrate proper respect for all coaches, teammates, officials, spectators and property. Student-athletes are expected to exhibit the highest level of conduct, both on and off the playing field, as they are, at all times, representatives of their team, school and community.

SJP ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Athletics at St. John's Prep is to provide an athletic program that helps develop the whole person. Through education and competition, the athletic department will encourage an attitude of discipline, sportsmanship, integrity, leadership and responsibility. In this way we strive to develop athletic abilities consistent with our high standards of academic excellence.

The student-athlete experience must complement the educational mission of St. John's Prep. Our intention is that interscholastic team membership and competition are extensions of the classroom where positive learning opportunities arise. A positive educational environment provides students with opportunities to grow intellectually, physically and emotionally. Coaches are role models and teachers who strive to enhance the educational growth of our students through interscholastic athletics. Parents, fans and students should be partners with coaches and student athletes in the pursuit of appropriate learning goals.

Our coaches are expected to teach the proper techniques of their sport, while also building character and preparing our young men and women to utilize the values they learn well into their adult life. The teaching of sportsmanship, respect and class should be an important part of each practice plan.

Athletics are an important component of the St. John's Preparatory educational program. The St. John's Prep Student Athlete Handbook will apply to student athletes from their initial interscholastic participation through their graduation from high school. The rules governing student athletes are in

effect from August 15th through June 30th of each school year, and apply to all student athletes grades nine through twelve, both in and outside of St. John's Prep.

Student participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. A student athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics is contingent upon their full compliance with all provisions of this Athletic Code of Conduct. The following goals will serve as the foundation for the specific provisions within this Handbook:

Our goals are:

1. To develop and maintain the highest level of sportsmanship.
2. To develop proper attitudes toward winning and losing, success and failure.
3. To encourage and develop respect for fellow athletes whether they are teammates, members of other St. John's athletic teams, or members of opposing teams.
4. To assure that the amount of time required for athletic participation does not interfere with academic success.
5. To develop proper attitudes toward individual success, appearance on and off the field, and positive representation in and out of school.
6. To encourage competition for the development of positive attitudes that makes athletic competition valuable and worthwhile.
7. To orient all athletic staff members to abide by the rules, regulations, and officials' decisions that govern each sport.
8. To maintain the highest standard of ethics, recognize each participant as an individual who will conduct him or herself in a manner befitting his or her responsibilities.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SJP COACHES

Here at St. John's Prep, relationships are built on mutual respect. The coaches are professionals who are aware of and committed to upholding the responsibilities, policies and regulations of the CHSAA. Each student must be treated as an individual, yet as a part of the team. Rules and regulations must be uniformly and fairly enforced at all times. In most instances, during the season of play a student-athlete spends more time daily under the direct supervision and guidance of his coach than any other adult. This time spent should be enjoyable, educational, positive and worthwhile; the influence that a coach may have with each individual team member is enormous.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES

At St. John's Prep, each student-athlete should be treated with dignity and respect as an individual whose welfare shall be primary at all times. The coach must be aware that he or she serves as a model in the education of the student-athlete and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.

The coach must, at all times uphold the honor and dignity of the coaching profession. In all personal contact with the student-athletes, parents, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach will strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall support and enforce school rules for the prevention of steroid, drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse and under no circumstances shall allow the use of these substances.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony within the total school program.

The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with contest, state, league and local rules, and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The coach shall abide by the letter and spirit of these rules at all times.

Coaches shall actively use their influence to promote sportsmanship by working closely with parents, athletes, and administrators.

Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not engage in conduct, which will incite players or spectators against the officials, or against each other. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

CPR, FIRST AID AND COACHING REQUIREMENTS

All coaches must have current and valid First Aid, CPR/AED, and Concussion certifications.

UNIFORMS AND ATHLETIC APPAREL:

All official SJP uniforms and Coaches apparel must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director and the Principal.

COLLEGE/CAREER GUIDANCE

One of the most important decisions facing high school students is what to do with their lives after high school. St. John's Prep's Athletic Department and coaching staff are willing and eager to assist all students with this extremely important decision. As appropriate they will guide students to work with the SJP College Counselors who can help with college decisions. If a student's goal is to compete athletically at the collegiate level it is very important to be aware of the ever-changing NCAA regulations. Copies of the latest regulations are available in the Guidance Office and online at www.ncaa.org. Please be familiar with these regulations and seek assistance if clarification is needed.

BUILDING AND FACILITY ACCESS

No student will be allowed access to the school building, locker or sport's facility after practice or games without proper supervision by the coach

Message to the Parents

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him or her to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal, athletic, and academic growth.

As a parent/guardian of a student-athlete, you also have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in this Athletic Handbook. Your signature on the Athletic Code, along with the signature of your student-athlete, indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and obligations, and agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Athletic Code. Compliance with the Athletic Code is mandatory and essential to the success of the athletic program.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Be positive with your son or daughter. Let them know that they are accomplishing something by being part of the team. Encourage them to work hard and do their best.
2. As a fan, you are entitled to cheer enthusiastically for your team in a positive manner. Coaches work with athletes and know their talents. Respect that!

3. Athletes must respect team rules, school rules, game officials, and sportsmanship. Self-respect always begins with self-control.
4. Encourage your athlete to play for the love of the game.
5. Remember that the coach is involved as a coach because he or she is passionate about the sport and is an experienced professional.

PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

As your son/ daughter becomes involved in the sports program at St. John's Prep, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. This is the opportunity for your child to talk with their respective coach and discuss the situation. When your child handles the problem, it becomes part of the learning and maturation process. There may also be situations that require a conversation between the coach and the parent. These are encouraged. It's important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position. Please follow the procedures below to help promote a resolution.

1. If the concern is not resolved between your child and the coach, call the Athletic Director to arrange a conference. A meeting will be arranged with the coach, parent, and Athletic Director.
2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolutions.

Message to the Athlete

St. John's Prep has a long history and tradition of athletic excellence. This tradition was not built overnight. It took years of dedication, commitment, and hard work by a countless number of people. As a St. John's Prep Athlete you must continue to strive to uphold this high standard of excellence.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Athletic Code of Ethics

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility as an athlete and the privilege of representing your school and community.
2. Learn the rules of your sport thoroughly. This will assist you in achieving a better understanding and appreciation of the game and promote fair play.

3. Cooperate fully with coaches and officials, always exercise good sportsmanship, abiding by the rules as they are stated.
4. Present yourself in a respectful manner during matches.
5. Always respect the official's judgment and interpretation of the rules. Never argue or make non-verbal gestures that indicate disagreement. This type of immature activity may invite undesirable behavior on the part of teammates or spectators. Remember, you are an important role model for others.
6. Congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. This is a true measure of character and sportsmanship.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Abide by the St. John's Prep Code of Conduct, Athletic Code of Conduct, and the CHSAA Guide Lines.

1. **Detention:** An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until detention has been completed.
2. **Attendance:** It is extremely important that a coach be notified if a student is not going to be present at a practice or game, particularly if the student is not absent from school. The coaches in our program expect athletes to be present at all team-related activities and may suspend a team member from contests for absences. Students are excused from team activities for illness, injury, academic, family or religious reasons but prior notification and approval is strongly recommended. Attendance will be taken at each practice. A student-athlete with two unexcused absences may be dismissed from the team.
3. **Out-of-School/In-School Suspension:** An athlete may not participate in any extracurricular activity until the suspension period has concluded and the student has been formally readmitted to school.
4. **School Absences:** St. John's Prep asserts that attendance is an integral component of academic success; therefore, absence from school or class will affect a student's opportunity to participate in any interscholastic, extra-curricular activity. Students participating in our athletics program must attend school that day to participate in the athletic event that afternoon or evening. For weekend or holidays, a student must be in attendance the last school day before the weekend or holiday. This participation includes all practices, games, events, etc. The only exceptions to this rule are legal excuses such as doctor/dentist appointments, college visitations, court appearances, or other extraordinary circumstances. We ask the parents/guardians to avoid scheduling outside appointments during a school day. The Principal or Athletic Director has the authority to grant exceptions to this rule.
5. **School/Family Vacations:** Every team member is expected to be present for all team practices and contests. Because of scheduling demands set by the CHSAA, many of our teams practice

and/or play during scheduled vacations. Student-athletes must understand that time away from practice and games will impact one's ability to return to competition. Vacations by athletic team members during a sport season are strongly discouraged. Parents/ Athletes wishing to do so may wish to reassess their commitment to being part of the SJP sports program. We expect our student-athletes to practice during school vacation during the sport's season. We ask parents/ guardians to understand that the team depends on full participation of all its members for practice as well as games. In rare cases, a player may find it necessary to miss a practice or a game, the player must contact the coach directly - not through another player.

6. **Dismissal/Quitting Team:** Any student who quits or is dismissed from an athletic team will not be allowed to participate in that activity or attend that particular activity until that sport season has concluded. The student athlete will not be eligible to participate in the next sport season, including the next school year.
7. **Sportsmanship:** Any athlete who exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior will immediately be suspended and may be removed from the team.
8. **Transportation:** All athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic contests with their teammates on the school bus. With the coach's permission, parents can "sign-out" their child from away contests.
9. **Community Representation:** Athletes are role models who should represent their team, school and community in a positive manner. Consequently, any inappropriate or unlawful action committed by an athlete on or off school property is subject to penalty. Such penalties may include suspension from the athletic team.
10. **Study Hall:** Students waiting for practice should not congregate in the lobby area. Study hall is mandatory while waiting for practice and coaches will notify players which room they will be reporting to work on assignments and prepare for their course work.
11. **Academic Ineligibility Policy:** All parties (school personnel, parents and students) of St. John's Prep acknowledge that academic endeavors have priority over athletics and extra-curricular activities. Participation in these activities is an honor and a privilege. St. John's Prep recognizes that while extra-class activities provide opportunity for personal improvement and education of the whole person, participation in these activities cannot take precedence over academic pursuits. Every effort must be made to be successful academically.
12. **Social Media:** Student- athletes will not author, forward, or post vulgar or offensive notes, texts, tweets, photographs, or other content that reflect negatively on the team, other individuals, the school, or that conflict with the mission of St. John's Prep.

Eligibility Criteria and Participation Guidelines

1. Student eligibility will be governed by rules set by the St. John's Prep Academic Handbook and the CHSAA.
2. Parents/guardians each set individual goals and standards for their children, and as such, may conclude the student's participation at any time.
3. Any student who quits a team will be ineligible to play the following season. A case by case basis may be reviewed by the St. John's Prep Administration and Athletic Director.
4. St. John's Prep student-athletes are expected and encouraged to maintain the highest level of scholastic achievement possible. They are also expected to maintain the highest level of citizenship. The Principal, Athletic Director or Assistant Principal reserves the right to remove a student from a team for poor academic performance or inappropriate behavior and may reinstate the student upon sufficient evidence of improvement.
5. Students are automatically placed on Academic Assistance if their GPA falls below a 70. All Academic Assistance participants will be eligible to compete in all in-season contests provided they agree to enter and fulfill an Academic Intervention Plan coordinated by the Athletic Director and the Guidance Department. The intervention plan will mandate that all probationary participants attend Academic Tutoring each week to improve their academic performance.
6. Failing more than one class will result in ineligibility which means that the student will not be permitted to participate in ANY interscholastic activity. (Extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration but must be approved by the Principal and Athletic Director.
7. It is the responsibility of the coach to be sure that no academically ineligible student-athlete participates in club or team activities.
8. Students are responsible for the school gear and team uniform issued to them. All uniforms and gear must be returned to the coaches upon the end of the season. If not, students must pay for the cost of the uniform and other equipment, otherwise registration/grades and or transcripts will be withheld.

SJP STUDENT- ATHLETE AGREEMENT FORM

I have read, understand, and support the rules and expectations governing my participation in any interscholastic athletic activity. In signing this contract, I am agreeing to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in the St. John's Prep Code of Conduct and Co-Curricular Policy. I further agree to abide by any approved training rules set forth by my coach / advisor. In signing this contract, I understand that my signature as well as those of my parents will be valid for any and all seasons that I choose to participate in extra-curricular activities throughout the time I am enrolled as a full time student at the school. I also recognize this contract is in effect each and every day for each calendar year I am enrolled as a full time student at St. John's Prep.

Please print, sign, date, and return this page to your coach.

Student Signature

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date