

St. Anthony's Athletic Program **Handbook**

- I. Athletic Program Philosophy: The inter-scholastic athletic program at St. Anthony's school exists as an essential part of the total educational process. The athletic program is intended to assist in developing students spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically through wholesome competitive activities and experiences. The St. Anthony's Athletic Board promotes an all-participation/no-cut policy for every sport in our athletic program. Christian behavior is expected from all players, parents and anyone affiliated with the Athletic Program.

- II. Athletic Program Goals/Objectives:
 - A. To conduct an athletic program in a well organized and supervised manner affording any interested school students the opportunity to participate in this program.
 - B. In cooperation with the principal and teachers to promote academic and athletic achievement through the development of personal qualities, particularly discipline.
 - C. To assist our children in their mental, spiritual, emotional, and physical growth through their participation in a competitive program.
 - D. To provide an inter-scholastic athletic program which is meaningful and fun for all those who are involved as participants, coaches, and parents.

- III. Sports included in the St. Anthony's Athletic Program:

Boys (grades 5-8): soccer, football, basketball, baseball
Girls (grades 5-8): soccer, softball, volleyball, basketball, track
Boys and Girls (k-4): intramural soccer and basketball

- IV. Student Eligibility for Athletic Participation (8-10-08)

Extra-Curricular Activities Policy

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students are responsible for maintaining their academic standing and for comporting themselves in such a manner that reflects positively upon themselves, their parents/guardians and the school. Parents are expected to avail themselves of their access to PowerSchool to insure that their child is maintaining grades commensurate with his/her abilities. The school reserves the right to remove students from extra-curricular activities if they and/or their parents do not fulfill their educational responsibilities.

At mid-trimester any student whose grade in any academic area falls below 77% will receive a progress report. Such a student will be removed from all extra-curricular activities for a period of two weeks. At the end of the two weeks, if the student is achieving a 77% or better in all academic areas, he/she will be reinstated; if grades are not at 77% or better, the student will remain ineligible until the end of the trimester. Cases of unsatisfactory conduct (i.e. acquiring before or by mid-trimester half the requisite number of conduct marks to merit a grade of "4") will also result in a two week's probationary period; at the end of the two weeks, the student will be reinstated IF conduct has been acceptable. If the conduct has not improved, the student will remain ineligible for the remainder of the

trimester. All students become eligible for extra-curricular activities at the beginning of each trimester.

V. Student/Parent/Coach/Fan Conduct

All participants in the St. Anthony athletic program are responsible for an accepted code of student conduct in or around school.

Student athletes are expected to demonstrate personal self-discipline in all activities while representing St. Anthony's School, their team, and their family. A participant's speech and actions should always reflect strong Christian ideals including respect toward coaches, adults, fellow players, opponents, and officials.

Any technical foul, yellow card, red card, ejection, or complaint from an official or league representative pertaining to a player, coach, parent, or fan of St. Anthony's School will be reviewed by the sport coordinator and presented to the Athletic Board at the earliest possible Board meeting. All behavior during activities related to a St. Anthony team is subject to the discipline standards and procedures listed in the Parent/Student Handbook.

VI. Coaching Guidelines for the St. Anthony Athletic Program

All candidates for coaching positions in the St. Anthony Athletic Program are recruited by the Athletic Board or designated representatives. Candidates are welcome for coaching positions, and interested candidates should be directed to the coordinator of that particular sport. Coaching assignments will be determined by the Athletic Board's sport coordinator. All coaching candidates will be subject to background check in keeping with Diocesan guidelines.

All St. Anthony coaches will follow coaching guidelines.

Important coach/participant/parent guidelines include:

- A. Pre-season meeting with coach and parents. This meeting will be held before the first game. One parent or both parents are strongly encouraged to attend with their student. If unable to attend, parents are encouraged to review handout information and address any questions to the coach

The meeting will discuss:

1. What the participation fee pays for.
2. Athletic equipment issue and collection dates and guidelines for use of equipment.
3. Procedures for keeping participants and players well informed.
 - ~practice/game dates and times
 - ~team parent
 - ~call list

4. Participation policy on playing time.

“Varsity Concept”: 5th, 6th, and Colors teams will emphasize participation over competitiveness during league play. Tournament play emphasizes competitiveness. Varsity sports will emphasize competitiveness over participation both during league and tournament play

Colors: Every student who attends practice will have the opportunity to participate in every game. Player participation for a particular game will be at the discretion of the coach based on a number of factors including academics, attendance, player attitude, ability, and game situation.

Varsity: Varsity sports will emphasize competitiveness over playing time both during league and tournament play. Playing time will be at the discretion of the coach. Playing time is not guaranteed. Players who want guaranteed playing time may opt for the Colors league. No 5th-6th grade students may play at the Varsity level, unless it is necessary to field a team with Athletic Board approval.(8-10-08)

5. Specific requirements or recommendations from the coach.

a. Athletic Board Guideline (12/11/05) As a member of a St. Anthony’s athletic team, a student athlete is expected to make that particular team a priority during the season. If a student athlete is a member of a team not associated with St. Anthony’s and the seasons overlap or run concurrently, and they choose to attend a non-school practice or game, instead of the St. Anthony’s practice or game, she/he will be jeopardizing their playing status with the St. Anthony’s team.

6. Chain of command for feedback.

B. General Guidelines

No abrasive language will be tolerated.

A child may be disciplined for not complying with rules and regulations.

Absolutely no gum in the gym.

All athletes should dress appropriately for their sport, by using all required equipment.

Team uniforms will conform to Athletic Board standards. No alterations or additions to uniforms are permitted.

No street shoes on the gym floor.

C. Team Formation

In the event that it is decided by the sport coordinator that more than one team is required due to the number of students signed up to participate, the teams will be formed pursuant to the philosophy and guidelines of the league.

If the league has no guidelines for having multiple teams, the teams will be divided equally by talent as best possible. An attempt will also be made to have the same number of athletes from each class involved on each team as best possible.

Each year teams will be reformed so as to mix players from previous year’s team and avoid teams staying together year after year.

VII. Athletic Budget and Equipment

The St. Anthony athletic program is offered within the guidelines of a budget. This athletic budget is developed through parish donations, athlete participation fees

(\$20/student/sport)(8-10-08), hosting receipts, and annual fundraiser (“Smoker”). Parental participation (working, donating, and buying raffle tickets) in the fundraiser is expected.

The Athletic Board Budget is reviewed by the Parish Finance Committee.

A continuous goal of the Athletic Board is to provide safe and top quality equipment for all participants. Two important areas must be recognized:

New uniforms or types of equipment are purchased as needed for various sports teams at St. Anthony’s. Athletic equipment inventories are maintained assessing equipment use, and the purchase of new equipment.

Parents must accept a responsible role in the use, care, and scheduled return of athletic equipment. Uniforms for sports require a \$25 deposit check to be refunded upon return of uniform to the coach at the end of the sport’s season. Specific guidelines for equipment use will be provided by the individual coaches. An athlete will not be able to play any future sports if their uniform is not returned.

VIII. Athletic Board Membership

The Athletic Board is a separate and permanent organization of St. Anthony’s Parish. The Athletic Board exists to institute, direct, and maintain a suitable inter-school athletic program for the school children of St. Anthony’s.

New members to the Athletic Board shall be appointed by the Athletic Board, upon the approval of one half of the present Board members. Application to the Athletic Board must be submitted in writing.

Athletic Board regular meetings shall be called by the president on the second Sunday of each month. The date and time will be announced. Meetings are opened to all persons connected with the Athletic program. Specific issues to be addressed need to be placed on the agenda in advance of Athletic Board meetings by a Board member.

IX. Athletic Awards

The Athletic Board is responsible for determining and establishing the requirements and regulations for the presentation of any athletic awards to eligible athletes. Letter and chevron awards require a minimum of 70% attendance in team events.

X. Parental involvement in athletic program

A. Parental responsibilities in program:

1. Please provide positive reinforcement to your athletes.
2. Please attend games as often as possible.
3. Please organize transportation for practices and games.

Please assist with the proper use of and care of the athletic equipment. (This includes helping with gym clean up and returning uniforms and other school equipment in a timely manner)

Please be willing to assist coach in suggested areas.

Please get students to practice on time.

Please behave in a Christian manner at all times.

B. Parental Feedback

Parental feedback is welcome. Feedback should be directed to achieving previously stated goals of the Athletic Board rather than sport specific suggestions or strategy. Any concerns regarding a coach or coaches should be directed first to the coach of that team. If concerns still exist then the sport coordinator is contacted and then if necessary, the Athletic Board should be addressed in writing. The Athletic Board will approach the matter in a thorough and effective manner.

XI. Release of Liability

It is the policy of the board to seek a release of liability before the child can participate in any of the athletic programs (see exhibit A).

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