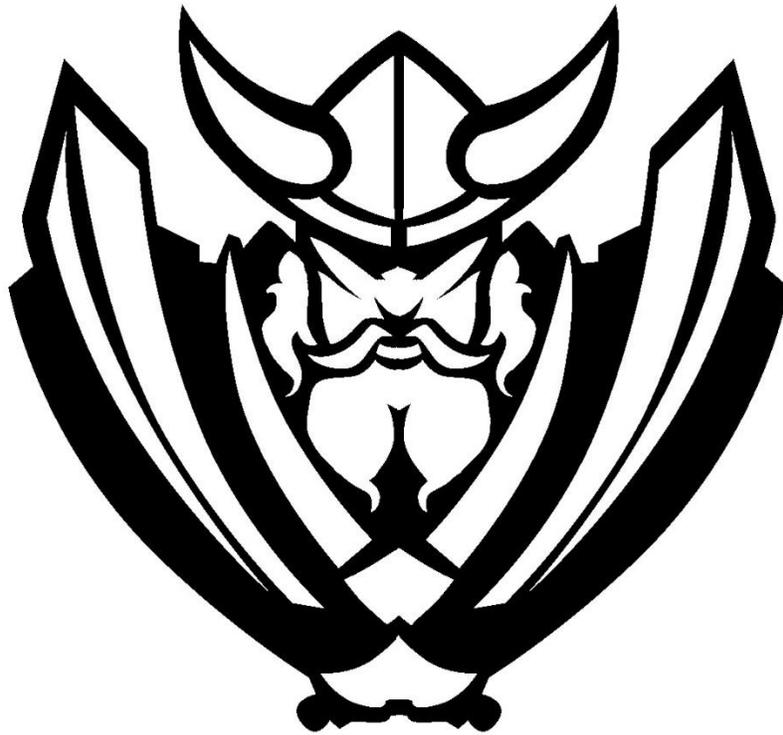


Saint Philip Lutheran School



Athletic Handbook

2500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave

Chicago, IL 60659

Phone Number: (773) 561-9830

Dear Parents and Students,

Greetings in the name of the Lord! Saint Philip has a rich and distinguished history and it is always looking for ways to enable its students to be the best that they can be. This can be accomplished in the many different activities that Saint Philip has to offer. One of those activities is athletics.

This handbook will answer many of the questions that you may have regarding athletics. Please read through this handbook so that you can be informed of the different guidelines that we have for the athletic program at Saint Philip. If you are unsure of something that you read, or need further clarification, please contact the athletic director, coach, or principal at your convenience.

This handbook serves as a guideline. We follow the handbook as closely as possible, however, we reserve the right to make corrections and/or additions to this handbook as we feel are appropriate.

We look forward to serving each child and pray that every child's experience at Saint Philip is a positive one.

Once again, if there is anything that we can do to make your athletic experience more positive, please do not hesitate to contact the athletic director, coach, or principal.

Additions to this year's handbook are noted in *italics*.

(2015-2016)

Philosophy and Objectives

The mission statement of Saint Philip is to bring the love of Christ to our community by providing quality education to life-long learners. That mission statement is also firmly rooted into our athletics program. Athletics provide students an opportunity to develop emotionally, socially, and physically. Participation in athletics is encouraged to assist in developing positive Christian attitudes toward life. While success in athletics can be measured by wins and losses, it is better measured by the success of its participants to live as Christian citizens in future years. Saint Philip's athletic program helps to ensure the future success of its students by encouraging participation at various levels of athletic competition while maintaining a proper relationship to the overall educational program.

Athletics is not an end in itself, but a means by which to:

1. Promote high Christian, moral, and ethical standards.
2. Provide experiences and guidance that will lead to self-discipline and emotional maturity.
3. Develop positive mental attitudes towards life.
4. Provide the opportunity to experience the need for cooperation with others in teamwork as a means to gain common objectives.
5. Develop skills to be a community member.
6. Promote Christian fellowship and wholesome competition between interscholastic teams.
7. Teach a healthy balance of academics and athletics.
8. Promote physical fitness and a healthy life style.
9. Have fun!

No Cut Policy

Saint Philip Lutheran School has adopted a no-cut policy in all athletic activities to ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate at all levels.

Playing Time

The main focus of the athletic program is to teach fundamental skills while representing Christ in all that we do. Each child will receive an opportunity to play and practice. However, we cannot guarantee equal playing time for everyone during each game. It is our desire that all athletes receive a fair amount of playing time. If a sport's roster is too small, it will be up to the discretion of the coach and athletic director to use students from younger grades to increase roster size. In the event that we combine with another school to roster a team, playing time will not be based off the school in which the child attends.

Playing time will be based upon:

1. Placing the student in the best possible position to succeed.
2. Attitude and work ethic of the athlete.
3. Attendance at games and practices.
4. Safety of the players.

Each player is expected to maintain good grades and attend all practices and games. All participants are asked to carefully consider the amount of commitment required to participate fully on a team or a squad. Please consider not only in-school commitments, but also out-of-school commitments before deciding whether or not to be a member of the Saint Philip team or squad. If for some reason you are unable to attend a practice or game, please notify the coach at least 24 hours before practice or a game.

Athletic Interscholastic Eligibility Guidelines

Rationale

Although athletics is an important source of recreation, exercise, and social development available to students in the upper grades, it is important that the primary purpose of St. Philip Lutheran School is not sacrificed (see mission statement.) Such a guideline should emphasize the Christian attitude and academic progress that are the focus of St. Philip Lutheran School. Students have a responsibility to their school work first, and only when that responsibility is reasonably met are they allowed the privilege of representing St. Philip in extracurricular, interscholastic activity.

Guidelines

St. Philip realizes that God has blessed its students with varying talents and abilities, and that an eligibility guideline based on active pursuit of academics to measure eligibility could be biased against certain students. St. Philip does expect that students who participate in athletics should exhibit satisfactory progress in all subjects.

Eligibility for participation in activities (practices and games) which represent the school to the public is dependent upon Christian fellowship and good scholarship. In order for a student to participate in athletic events, parents must sign and abide by the guidelines of the Athletic Handbook and the Athletic Permission Forms. These forms are available on the school website, or can be obtained by contacting the school office. Our school recognizes that over involvement in extra-curricular activities can detract from a child's follow through on his or her academic responsibilities. Consequently, teachers, parents, coaches, and students walk the fine line of encouraging extra-curricular activities without allowing participation in them to inhibit a child's attention to his or her academic work.

A student's progress can be checked on Sycamore. This is a valuable tool to help parents and students keep track of academic performance. We highly suggest that students and parents check their grades weekly on Sycamore. As an institution we will check grades every 2 weeks. If a student has 2 Ds or 1 F on any bi-monthly, mid-term, or quarterly report he or she will adhere to the following guidelines:

Incident	Consequences
1 st	Student is off the team until all missing work is turned in and active pursuit of academics is evident. Student must attend all athletic study halls.
2 nd	Student is off the team for a minimum of 2 weeks. All missing work must be turned in and active pursuit of academics is evident. Student must attend all athletic study halls.
3 rd	Student is off the team for the remainder of the season.

** Evidence of academic pursuit will be determined by coaches, teacher, parents, principal, and athletic director. **

Also, a student displaying an inappropriate or non-Christian attitude or behavior may be declared ineligible. This determination is at the discretion of the teacher or athletic committee and is not open for negotiation. Examples of such behaviors and attitudes may include: disrespect to teachers or other students, non-cooperative attitude during school, excessive disruptions in class, and any behavioral detentions.

Any child who serves a behavioral detention on a day of a game or practice will not be allowed to participate in a practice or game that occurs on the same day as they serve the detention.

Any child who is not in attendance in class for a full day may not participate in any school-sponsored event during the day or evening. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the principal (e.g. funerals, physicians and/or dental appointments).

A student who is ineligible needs to be in attendance at all athletic study halls for their 1st or 2nd incidents.

Any child who does not participate in P.E. on a game or practice day for a sport cannot participate in that competition for that day.

State Tournaments

The Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois offers several state tournaments for the 7th and 8th grade level teams. Selection and participation in State Tournaments is a privilege and not a right. If the athletic director, in consultation with the principal, athletic committee, and coach, feels a team is deserving of participation in a given tournament, an application will be completed. The following factors will be considered (but not limited to) before applying to the given tournament: the team's performance at tournaments (minimum of eight schools participating), the team's performance during conference play, and a general assessment of the team's strengths and weaknesses from the athletic director, principal, coach, and athletic committee.

Expectations of Athletes

- A. *Worship* Since one of the goals of the athletic program is to promote high Christian standards and servant leadership, we strongly encourage athletes to attend worship regularly with fellow Christians. We also mandate that every team must participate in a servant project to be determined by the coach. This is emphasized to our entire student body, and we hope will be stressed at student homes as well.
- B. *Mandatory Paperwork* An athletic physical form signed and dated by a doctor or a signed medical examination form, emergency contact form, letter of intent, and the athletic handbook consent form is required each school year a student participates in any athletic activities, either interscholastic or intramural. The mandatory paperwork must be on file in the athletic office before that student is allowed to participate in games or practices.
- C. *Academic* All athletes are expected to use their God-given abilities to show active pursuit of academics. Parents and students should review grades on the Sycamore reporting website and discuss concerns with the child's teacher. (See eligibility guidelines for further academic criteria.)
- D. *Athletic Study Hall* An athletic study hall will be provided for all student athletes after school. Any child that plans to stay after school and wait for their activity to begin needs to be in this classroom by 3:05 PM. The children will be dismissed ten minutes before the start of their activity to give them time to change and prepare. During this time, no one will be permitted to leave campus or use their cell phone. Athletes should not be in other classrooms or in the hall. Everyone is allowed to bring a healthy, nut-free, snack with them. A snack will not be provided by the school. Everyone will quietly work on their school work. An adult will be in the classroom at all times to provide assistance and answers questions. If your child would otherwise be attending after care, you will still need to pay the monthly fee for after care.

E. Conduct All students are expected to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at all times. Athletes, however, are highly visible as Christians and representatives of our school and therefore should be even more aware of their conduct during athletic activities. Any serious problems in controlling behavior will be dealt with accordingly by the coach, parent, student, athletic director, and principal.

F. Attendance

1. If an athlete is absent part or all of the day due to illness or vacation, he/she cannot participate in any game or practice that day. However, if the absence is caused by a funeral or by a scheduled professional appointment, for example, the student may participate with specific permission of either the principal or the athletic director.
2. If an athlete has three unexcused absences from practices or games, he/she may be dismissed from the team or squad.
3. If an athlete is to participate or play in a game or practice, he/she must participate fully in p.e. classes on a regular basis.
4. Any participant that is not present at the start of a game or match may not be eligible to participate in the game or match. They are allowed to remain on the bench to support their team, unless there is prior communication with the coach.

G. Uniforms

1. Individuals are responsible for the care and cleaning of the uniform assigned to them.
2. Uniforms, including warm-ups, must not be worn to practice.
3. Any uniform not returned in good condition will be assessed accordingly. Students who do not return uniforms by the stated deadline will lose their \$50 uniform deposit.

H. Vehicle Transportation

1. Rides are the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
2. It is preferred practice that teachers, coaches, and school representatives cannot provide rides to games or practices.
3. All ride arrangements are to be made at least 24 hours prior to a game or practice.

4. Phone calls to arrange a ride cannot be made during the school day, unless there is an emergency or extenuating circumstance.
5. Parents are encouraged to help with rides. Volunteering and permission for rides can be found on the athletic emergency contact sheet.

Expectations of Parents

Parents strongly influence their child's attitude and participation in athletics.

Parents are expected to:

- A. Model and foster a Christian and attitude of sportsmanship.
- B. Be supportive of the athletes by attendance at competitions when possible and by providing constant encouragement and prayer.
- C. Assist the child in establishing proper priorities and balance with respect to church, family, peers, study, practice, and play.
- D. Respect and support the roles of coaches and officials. Positive cheering and comments are expected at all times.
- E. Share any concerns, first with the coach or person involved and then go to the principal or athletic director if necessary.
- F. Encourage proper health habits, including diet and rest.
- G. Be supportive of the athletic program through participation in the Athletic Committee, service events, Alumni Night, or other athletic events.
- H. Be willing to assist in helping with the set-up, taking down, cleaning, or keeping score at the various athletic contests throughout the year.
- I. Foster responsibility and encourage attendance to all athletic events.
- J. Provide transportation to and from athletic events.
- K. Pick up their child promptly after practice. If the parent is more than 15 minutes late, a \$5 fee will be charged with an additional \$2.50 for every 5 minutes after the first 15 minutes.

Special Treats

Please do not bring special treats for or gifts the team unless previously approved by either the coach or the athletic director.

Emergency School Closings

If school is cancelled due to a weather emergency, all games, tournaments, and practices are cancelled for that day. The only exception to this would be extenuating circumstances with principal approval.

General Participation Information

Students are encouraged to participate in one team during a given season. If a student chooses to participate in more than one activity, we ask that you communicate your schedules and priorities to your coach and realize that non-attendance may affect playing time, for example. Please consider the student's schedule and how much time they will have to spend at practices and/or games. If you feel that your student's health, school work, or other commitments may suffer due to being overextended, then we advise you to consider this when making parenting decisions.

Practice Information

- A. The athletic director will provide parents with a practice schedule during the first week of the season. Coaches will remind parents of practice times and inform them of any schedule changes through email or notes from school.
- B. Practices shall not exceed more than 2 hours in length.
- C. No team or squad will have practices or games on more than 3 school afternoons or evenings in a given Sunday through Thursday period.
- D. Parents must realize that due to limited gym space and availability, some coaches may call evening and/or Saturday practices. There may be some practices scheduled during Christmas break.

Fees

Each participant will be charged \$75 for participating in athletics at St. Philip. Fifty dollars will be used as a uniform deposit and the remaining \$25 will go

towards other athletic expenses. If all uniforms are returned on time and in good condition, you will receive the \$50 dollar uniform fee back - less the cost of uniforms or equipment that they keep.

If a parent, guardian, or other approved adult is repeatedly more than 15 minutes late to pick up an athlete, a \$5 fee may be charged - as per after care policies. For every 5 minutes after the initial 15 minutes, an additional \$2.50 may be charged.

Athletic Study Hall Rules

1. Arrive in the designated room no later than 3:05.
2. Quietly work on homework or other materials.
3. Provide a healthy, nut-free snack.
4. Stay out of the halls unless given permission from the adult in charge.

Home Game Behavioral Expectations

Please observe the following rules at home and away athletic events:

1. Children should be attended by a parent or responsible adult at home events. Children will not be allowed to run the halls, etc. Please take responsibility for your younger children and athletes during all home events.
2. Children are not allowed outdoors unsupervised.
3. All non-participants are asked to kindly stay off of the gym floor during athletic contests or events.

We are concerned about the safety of your child. We apologize for any inconveniences, but we do not have the staff to monitor these areas during the home athletic events. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Fall Sports

Cross Country - 5th -8th grade

Boys Volleyball- 5th-8th grade

Girls Volleyball - 5th -8th grade

Winter Sports

Boys JV Basketball - 5th -6th grade

Girls JV Basketball - 5th -6th grade

Boys Varsity Basketball - 7th - 8th grade

Girls Varsity Basketball - 7th -8th grade

Bitty Basketball - 3rd-4th grade

Spring Sports

Bowling - 5th -8th grade

Track - 5th -8th grade

Soccer - 5th -8th grade

If a sport does not have enough members to field a team, then students from the preceding grade can be asked to join the team if the athletic director and principal feel that it is necessary.

Student

I, _____, have read the following material and agree to all rules and regulations. I will do my best to follow these rules. I understand that if I am unable to follow these rules and regulations, the proper punishment will be enforced.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian

I, _____, have read the following material and agree to all rules and regulations. My child and I will do our best to follow these rules. I understand that if my child and I are unable to follow these rules and regulations, the proper punishment will be enforced.

Date: _____

Signature: _____