

# ***St. Simon Parish School Sports Handbook***

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## **Philosophy**

The St. Simon Parish School sports program offers an interscholastic athletic competition within the context of Christian values. The philosophy and educational mission of the school are the foundation of all its policies, procedures, activities, and events. The sports program enriches and supports the school community by:

- Providing a positive athletic experience for children of all ability levels.
- Teaching and upholding the attitude, standards, and actions consistent with the Word of God and challenging those which are not.
- Promoting good sportsmanship and respect for all persons and property.
- Fostering behaviors needed for teamwork including commitment, responsibility, self-discipline, cooperation, and appreciation for the contribution of others.
- Emphasizing that the success attained in the process of improvement, both individually and as a team, is of a higher priority than the success of winning.

The sports program educates and coaches the whole child in an environment, which reflects the Gospel message and supports each student-athlete's physical, social, emotional and spiritual growth. It recognizes that each athlete is, first and foremost, a student whose primary responsibility is to his/her schoolwork and academic progress. The sports program develops those qualities, which can be useful today and later in life, enabling the student to become a knowledgeable, skilled, respectful, cooperative and spirited team player.

*(Adapted from the Philosophy Statement of St. Simon Parish School, 1997, and the Sportsmanship Code of the Diocese of San Jose, 1996)*

## **Goals**

1. Provide the opportunity and positive atmosphere for every eligible student to participate regularly in interscholastic competition.
2. Foster skill development to the best of one's ability through practice, and participation, recognizing the obligation of the student to practice and the obligation of the coach to maximize participation.
3. Foster an appreciation for commitment, collaboration, responsibility, perseverance, and discipline required for personal, and team achievement.
4. Promote, and require good sportsmanship, and a Christian attitude on the part of all participants: athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators.
5. Demonstrate by word and action that the success achieved in the process of improvement, both individually and as a team, is a higher priority than the success of winning

## **Responsibilities**

Everyone associated with an athletic event—athletes, coaches, parents, spectators, and school administration—play an important role in seeing that the goals of the sports program, and philosophy are upheld before, during and after a contest is played. Each person in attendance should strive to meet the following fundamental rules of behavior associated with sportsmanship:

- Show respect for all coaches, athletes, spectators, and officials.
- Know, understand and appreciate the rules of the contest.
- Maintain self-control at all times.

Within the framework of these basic fundamentals are some specific responsibilities:

### **Athletes**

- With the support of his or her parents, must maintain at least a C average. Failure to do so will jeopardize a student's standing on the team.
- Consistently attend all practices and games. The athlete may not attend the practice or game if he or she was not in school that day. Absences must be communicated to the coach. Absence from a practice may result in reduced playing time and three absences may result in removal from the team.
- Treat all equipment, uniforms and facilities with the utmost respect.
- Will conduct him/herself in accordance with the Schoolwide Learning Expectations and School Philosophy during all games and practices.
- Cooperate with the coach(es) and fellow teammates in maintaining a high level of sportsmanship.

### **Parents**

- Responsible for helping the athlete maintain his or her schedule to allow for consistent attendance at practices and games.
- Support students in turning in all required paperwork, money and uniforms.
- Ensure that their child arrives safely and on time to all practices and games.
- Pick up or make transportation arrangements for their child within 15 minutes of the completion of a practice or game.
- Help with the care of the provided uniform(s) and support the student in returning it to the Athletic Director on time.
- Responsible for supervising the behavior of younger and older sibling and friends that come with them to watch the game.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship when a spectator at a game or practice. Failure to do so may result in the parent being barred from participation in future sporting event.

### **Coaches**

- Responsible for modeling good sportsmanship for his/her team and the team's fans. This includes, but is not limited to: no profane language, no use of negative coaching.
- Will be fingerprinted by the Diocese of San Jose.
- Attend scheduled training sessions.
- Abide by the policies and philosophy of the sports program and St. Simon Parish School.
- Remain at the practice or game site until the last player is picked up.
- Maintain regular and consistent lines of communication regarding schedules, scores, and any other team business.
- Will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and well being of the players during all practices and games.
- Will lead his/her team in prayer prior to the start of the game.

### **Athletic Director**

- Will maintain consistent communication with St. Simon families, the administration, coaches and players.
- Organize tryout, practice and game schedules in a timely manner.
- Provide and organize all necessary paperwork needed for the smooth operation of the sports program.
- Review and provide feedback to the coaches.
- Attend monthly league meetings.

### **Sports Advisory Board**

- Advise and assist the Athletic Director as needed.
- Coordinate fundraising efforts that support the sports program.

### **Administration**

- Supervise and support the Athletic Director.
- Support efforts to create a sports program that is aligned with the school's mission and philosophy.

## **St. Simon Sports Overview**

Below is information regarding the structure and policies of the St. Simon Parish School Sports Program:

### **Team Make-up:**

#### **Soccer, Football, and Softball**

**Junior Varsity B (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade):** One week prior to the start of practice, team formations will take place. Every attempt is made to create equally balanced teams. This does often result in the mixing of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade athletes on each team.

**Junior Varsity A (6<sup>th</sup> Grade):** One week prior to the start of practice, team formations will take place. When necessary some 5<sup>th</sup> grade athletes may be asked to play at the JV A Level.

**Varsity:** One week prior to the start of practice team formations will take place. When necessary an A and B division is created.

#### **Basketball:**

**Junior Varsity C (4<sup>th</sup> grade only):** One week prior to the start of practice, team formations will take place. Every attempt is made to create equally balanced teams.

**Junior Varsity B (5<sup>th</sup> Grade only):** One week prior to the start of practice team formations will take place. Every attempt is made to create equally balanced teams.

**Junior Varsity A (6<sup>th</sup> Grade only):** One week prior to the start of practice, team formations will take place. Every attempt is made to create equally balanced teams.

**Varsity A, B and Tournament (7<sup>th</sup> And 8<sup>th</sup> Grade):** Prior to the start of practice, tryouts are held. Placement on the respective teams is based on overall skill level of the athlete regardless of his or her grade level. If the development of two Varsity B teams is necessary player talent will be distributed equally. Prior team participation does not guarantee a spot on any specific team. The creation of a Tournament Team is at the discretion of the Athletic Director and school administration with feedback from the Sports Advisory Board.

### **Coach Selection:**

The following steps will be followed in the selection of coaches:

1. Requests for coaching volunteers are sent out and received by the Athletic Director.
2. The interested coaches are reviewed by the Athletic Director and school administration.
3. Feedback / advice is provided by the Sports Advisory Board.
4. The Athletic Director and school administration makes the final decision.
5. All interested coaches are notified of the final decision.
6. Coaching selections are formally announced.

The following criteria (in no particular order) is used when selecting coaches:

1. Knowledge of the sport.
2. Past coaching experience.
3. Creating a good fit between team and coach.
4. Commitment to the mission and philosophy of the St. Simon Sports Program.

### **Player Selection:**

**Junior Varsity:** Please refer to the “Team Make-up” section for additional information.

**Varsity:** When there is an A and B division tryouts are held to determine the most skilled players for the respective division and/or team. During tryouts players are evaluated on a variety of skills and his/her knowledge of the sport. Individuals with limited or no affiliation with the respective grade levels conduct these evaluations. At the completion of tryouts the Athletic Director, school administration, evaluators, and head coach review the athletes tryout performance. However, the ultimate decision regarding team formation lies with the head coach and Athletic Director.

### **Playing Time:**

The following playing time expectations have been established:

- Junior Varsity teams: Every athlete will play **on average** 50% of the games.
- Varsity Teams: Players are guaranteed to play **on average** 25% of the games.
- Tournament Teams: Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

\*\*\* Playing time may be altered depending on the overall size of the team. Absence from a practice may result in reduced playing time and three absences may result in removal from the team.

## **Grievance Policy**

When issues arise the following procedures should be adhered to and all individuals approached with the utmost respect.

1. Have your child take the responsibility to speak to the coach about any concerns. It is important we teach students to communicate with adults in a mature manner.
2. If the child’s conversation with the coach did not help reach a resolution, then you should meet with the coach directly.
3. If the issue still has not been resolved parents can arrange an appointment with the Athletic Director. Some situations may require a conference between the coach, athlete and parent in order to reach a solution.
4. If the issue warrants further discussion the parents arrange an appointment with the school administration

\*\*\*Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both parents and coaches. Meetings of this nature rarely promote resolution.

## ***Boys Sports***

	<b>Months Played</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Tryouts and Team Formation</b>	<b>Days of Games</b>	<b>Days of Practices</b>
Flag Football	Mid-August to late Oct	\$50	1 <sup>st</sup> week of school	1-2 weekday games per week	1 -2 after school per week *
SJCAL Swim Meet	Mid – late Spring	No Fee	No tryouts	1 day after school	No practices
JV Basketball	Late October – mid-December	\$75	Early to mid October	1 -2 games per week *	1 -2 after school practices per week
Varsity B Basketball	Late October - Late January	\$75	Mid to late October	1 -2 per week*	1 -2 per week*
Varsity A and Tournament Basketball	Mid-October to mid-March	\$75	Mid to late October	1 -2 per week*	1 -2 per week*
Soccer	End of January to mid-March	\$50	Mid-January	Weekdays after school	1 -2 after school practices per week
Volleyball	End of March to late May	\$50	Mid-March	Weekdays after school	1 -2 practices per week
SJCAL Track Meet	2-Day meet in mid-April to mid-March	No Fee	No tryouts	A Friday afternoon and Saturday morning	1 – 2 per week

\* Indicates that there may be an occasional weekend practices and games.

## ***Girls Sports***

	<b>Months Played</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Tryouts and Team Formation</b>	<b>Days of Games</b>	<b>Days of Practices</b>
<b>Softball</b>	Mid-August to late October	\$50	1 <sup>st</sup> week of school	1-2 weekday games per week	1 -2 after school per week*
<b>SJCAL Swim Meet</b>	One day in the Spring (March/April)	No Fee	No tryouts	1 day after school	No practice
<b>Soccer</b>	Early November to mid-December	\$50	Mid-October	1 -2 per week (after school)	1 -2 per week*
<b>JV Basketball</b>	January - March	\$75	Early to mid October	1 -2 games per week *	1 -2 after school practices per week
<b>Varsity B Basketball</b>	January - March	\$75	Mid to late October	1 -2 per week*	1 -2 per week*
<b>Varsity A Basketball</b>	January - March	\$75	Mid to late October	1 -2 per week*	1 -2 per week*
<b>Tournament Basketball</b>	Mid-November to mid-March	\$75	Mid to late October	1 -2 per week*	1 -2 per week*
<b>Volleyball</b>	Late March to late May	\$50	Mid-March	1 -2 per week	1 -2 per week*
<b>SJCAL Track Meet</b>	2-day meet in the Spring	No Fee	No tryouts	N/A	1 -2 days a week after school
<b>Cheerleading – 8<sup>th</sup> grade only</b>	Various events throughout the year	\$150 - \$250 for uniform	No tryouts	Varies depending on the week.	Depends upon upcoming events.

\* Indicates that there may be an occasional weekend practices and games.

## **San Jose Catholic Athletic League (SJCAL) Overview**

St. Simon Parish School operates its sports program in conjunction with the SJCAL. Athletic directors from member schools are charged with the league's overall operations. They annually elect officers and directors to oversee league business, and address issues or disagreements that may arise. The SJCAL is responsible for scheduling league competition, securing the proper facilities to hold league events, setting the fees for each sport, and handling the financial obligations of the league.

Each league member is responsible for abiding by agreed upon rules and by-laws. Each school has the ability to adopt their own policies within these guidelines.

The following are participating schools: Resurrection, St. Cyprian, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Joseph Cupertino, St. Joseph Mountain View, St. Martin, St. Nicholas, and St. Simon.