



*St. Cletus Catholic School
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Parent Student Athletic Handbook

August 2016

It's a great day to be a Cardinal!

Mission Statement & Program Objectives

As an extension of the school's academic program, the St. Cletus Team Sports Program provides both an instructional and competitive athletic program for our students. The main goal of this program is for all involved to have a "positive" experience. In addition, the actions of student athletes and coaches are a big influence on how the outside world perceives St. Cletus. Therefore, it is important that our program stresses a sense of sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play. Sportsmanship includes showing respect towards coaches, opponents, officials, teammates and one's self. During competition, athletes, parents and coaches are all expected to act in a manner which brings honor to St. Cletus.

Student Athlete Eligibility Requirements

Participation in the St. Cletus Team Sports Program is a privilege, not a right. Athletes will be held to personal, academic and disciplinary standards. In addition, enrollment in the St. Cletus Team Sports Program is a commitment by the student to play according to all rules and at all the locations at which their team is scheduled to play. Full participation in all aspects of the program, including, offsite locations for games/practices as well as possible holiday tournaments should be expected. ***Please consider all other commitments before registering for St. Cletus sports as a part-time player. This adds an extra burden to both coaches and teammates and may hinder team goals.***

- A. **Academic Eligibility** – Athletes are expected to perform academically to the best of their abilities. When academic performances are not consistent with the student's abilities and/or a pattern of incomplete or missing assignments develops, the principal will notify the parents and the Athletic Director that the student has been placed on academic suspension. The duration of the suspension will be determined by the principal. If a student athlete has been placed on academic suspension multiple times during a school year, the principal has discretion to determine eligibility for the remainder of the school year and subsequent seasons as well.
- B. **Disciplinary Eligibility** – As students, athletes are expected to follow the St. Cletus Code of Conduct. Violations of this code may result in a suspension from sports. When athletic suspensions are warranted, the principal will notify the athlete's parents and the Athletic Director. The duration of the suspension will be determined by the principal. If multiple Code of Conduct violations occur, the principal has discretion regarding further athletic eligibility. Any athlete who receives a school suspension will not be allowed to attend or participate in the sport on the day(s) of scheduled suspension.
- C. **Health Eligibility** – Any athlete who is absent from school due to illness on the day of a competition or practice may not attend the activity. Absence from school on Friday does not affect weekend participation if the athlete has recovered sufficiently to participate. Athletes unable to participate in gym class due to injuries are also ineligible to participate in athletics. If a student has sustained an injury and a coach or representative of St. Cletus has concerns regarding the athlete's ability to safely compete, a note from a parent/guardian or medical practitioner giving clearance may be requested.
- D. **League Rules of Eligibility** – All student athletes are bound by league rules regarding age, weight and birth date requirements.

Code of Conduct

A. Athletes

Students who choose to participate in the St. Cletus Team Sports Program are representing our school and parish at all times. They must act in a manner that reflects favorably upon St. Cletus. These guidelines should be followed at the school, in the community, at other schools and before, during and after games.

Expectations:

- Are expected to play by rules and show good sportsmanship.
- Are expected to demonstrate respect for coaches, officials, teammates and opponents.
- Should never use foul language.
- Should never argue an official's call or coach's decision.
- Are expected to put team goals before individual goals.
- Are expected to win or lose with honor, knowing the true nature of competition is evaluated by effort and teamwork.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in disciplinary action which may include reduced playing time or suspension.

B. Parent/Guardian/Spectators

Parents play a vital role to the success of the student athlete and also the team. Positive cheering sets the tone and is a great example for our students. Parents should support and encourage their child's efforts. Spectators are always reminded to act in a responsible manner and show good Christian sportsmanship. Conduct at games is a direct reflection of St. Cletus. **Act accordingly!**

Expectations:

- Should be a fan of everyone on the team.
- Should respect other fans, players, and the decisions of the officials and the coaches.
- Should **not** attempt to direct the play of the team or an athlete.
- Should **not** criticize the playing efforts of the team or an individual.
- Should **not** criticize or berate the officials, coaches or any other gym/stadium personnel.
- Parents should get involved in areas that make the team become stronger and more unified.

In the event of unacceptable behavior, parents/spectators can be asked to leave a game or tournament. Anyone asked to leave a contest will serve a minimum one game suspension.

Grievances and Discipline

If a situation arises between an athlete or parent and a coach, it is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the other's position and adhere to the following guidelines. First, **WAIT 24 HOURS!** When an incident occurs, it is important to wait 24 hours before calling, emailing or setting up a meeting.

Directly before or after a game/practice, can be an emotional time for both the parents and coach. Meetings during these times do not promote resolution. Allow time to reflect on the issue, before reacting. If the meeting or correspondence with the coach does not result in a satisfactory resolution, the Coaching Coordinator and/or Athletic Director should be contacted. The following sequence in resolving player/parent/coach issues should be used.

- First:** Player with Coach
- Second:** Parents with Coach
- Third:** Parents with Coaching Coordinator
- Fourth:** Parents with Athletic Director
- Fifth:** Parents with Principal

General Guidelines:

Appropriate Concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The Treatment of your child, both mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues **not** appropriate to discuss with coaches:

- Game strategies.
- Play calling.
- Other athletes.
- Playing time.

Player Discipline: The following should be used as a guide when dealing with player discipline issues.

Disruptive or inappropriate behavior at practice/games will be handled as follows:

- 1st Offense – Warning from one of the coaches.
- 2nd Offense – Player is held out of practice while parent is contacted.
- 3rd Offense – One game suspension.
- 4th Offense – Dismissal from team.

Any coach or player ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, the following should occur:

- 1st ejection – One Game Suspension
- 2nd ejection – Two Game Suspension

Discipline issues are ultimately handled at the discretion of the Athletic Director in tandem with the principal. Any type of physical contact involving parents, coaches and or referees shall result in an immediate suspension determined by the AD and principal.