



St. Paul Lutheran School

Athletic Philosophy

The overriding athletic philosophy at St. Paul Lutheran School is simply that: “Coaches will have the whole team’s best interest at heart. Coaches will try to play each child in every game.”

If you were to look at other teams, you would find some teams where coaches play just their best players and go for “the win” while many athletes sit on the bench and watch. On the other hand you have some teams where playing time is split up equally whether the team wins or loses. This is pretty rare, but it exists. The philosophy of St. Paul Lutheran School falls somewhere in the middle.

At the 5th and 6th grade level, skills will be introduced and basics will be taught. Since the skills and the concepts of the game are new to most of the athletes, the coaches will make every effort to play each player. For example, in volleyball, each player should get in at least a few serves and in basketball, each player should get at least one quarter of playing time. Of course, this all depends on how many players are on the team. It is stressed at this level that much practice is needed at home, and that if the athlete wishes to excel in the sport, they need to work on skills not only at practice time, but also at every opportunity presented. While each athlete will get their playing time, some may play more than others based on their ability, their effort at practice and during the games, their attitude, and how much they work on their game at home and other places. This stage is mostly a learning stage, and while winning games is nice, it will not be stressed. Improvement of skills and concepts will be stressed.

However, as an athlete gets older and into more competitive levels of the game, there will be many things that change. While at no level of our athletic programs will the coach take a “win at all cost” attitude, winning will become more important to show athletes the importance of hard work, dedication, teamwork, and striving to achieve goals. God has given us all different talents. Some individuals are athletic, while others excel in other areas such as music, art, etc. Those who are gifted in athletics should be allowed to use this gift to its fullest potential. While everyone can be in the choir, only those with the best voices sing the solos – so it is with sports. Anyone can join the team, but those who work at it more and have more ability should receive more playing time. Coaches at all levels will attempt to play each player in every game, but in the higher levels of the sport, the amount of playing time will be determined by ability and work ethic. Coaches will have the best interest of the “team” at heart.

Parents have a vital role in assisting your child to be the best that he/she can be. You can explain to your child that they will get out of athletics what they put into it. If they spend much time practicing and working on their skills not only during the season, but also during summer, then they can expect to play more and enjoy the sport more. You can also help by supporting the coaches of your children. They do not get paid and they sacrifice much time and effort so that your children can participate in athletics at St. Paul. The decisions regarding which athletes play is that of the coaches and should be fully supported by parents and athletes alike.

You as parents play another vital role as examples for your children. Just as we expect proper conduct from all athletes, should we not as adults be expected to act in the same manner? Sometimes we let our emotions get the best of us when we watch the sports that our children are participating in. This makes us very biased towards our team and feel that the officiating is unfair. As one who has been in the officiating role, I know that you cannot please everyone all the time. We as Christians should respect the official’s decision and keep our feelings to ourselves. Nothing could be worse than for our school to obtain the reputation of being a bunch of complainers. On the other hand, if we exhibit supportive attitudes toward the game and its participants, we are shining examples of our faith. If we lose, let us lose gracefully, not grudgingly.

Thank you for all of your support and your willingness to help in whatever way possible. St. Paul has always had a great deal of support from our parents and that is what make our school such an exceptional one. Without your help and support, there could be no sports programs at St. Paul

Academic Eligibility for Sports at St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

Intent:

- To insure that our athletes, as representatives of our school, represent the entire program and its purpose.
- To help develop the self motivation and acceptance of responsibility necessary in all aspects of a Christian life.
- To remind all participants of the dual purposes of St. Paul Lutheran School – education and the service of Christ our Lord.

Definitions:

- Unacceptable grade – an average for a given grading period in any subject which is lower than a C- (D+ or lower).
- Probation – a period of time, with full participation, in which the athlete may bring his grade up to an acceptable level. First probation is 2 weeks, second probation is 1 week.
- Suspension – a period of time with no participation in which the athlete may bring his grade up to an acceptable level.
- Subjects involved – All Subjects Are Averaged Individually!

Procedure:

- Every two weeks, each teacher with students participating in a sport will determine those students with unacceptable grades or in danger of receiving unacceptable grades. Those students and the coach will be notified in writing and notification will be sent home to the parents. Written notices will be sent home on Monday or the first day of the school week if not a Monday.
- Any student with an unacceptable grade will be placed on two week probation for the first offense for a subject.
- If, after 2 weeks, the grade(s) have not reached an acceptable level (letter grade C- or above), the student will be suspended from any participation for 2 weeks.
- If, after the suspension period the grades are still unacceptable, the student will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
- If, after a period of probation, the grade is acceptable, and then once again drops below C- level, the student will be placed on one week probation.
- If, after a suspension, the suspended grade(s) are brought to an acceptable level and then drop below the C- level, the student will be placed on a one week suspension. If the unacceptable grade is not brought up to a C- or higher by the end of the one week suspension, the student will be removed from the team.
- All probation/suspension notices must be signed by a parent and returned to the student's teacher.

Eligibility at Start of Season:

Academic Eligibility will begin the first day of practice for each individual sport. Students will be notified after the first practice of their eligibility status, and, if applicable, will receive a probation notice, as given during the regular season.

Exceptions:

- If, in the opinion of the teacher and parent, the student is working at the peak of his or her capabilities and still cannot meet these standards, the rules above may be waived.
- If, in the opinion of the teacher and parent, the student is seriously slipping in the level of his or her work, even though work is above minimum requirement, the teacher may choose to enforce any or all parts of this procedure.

Athletic Code of Conduct Parents & Athletes

As athletic team participants and parents for St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, you are acting as a representative of both Jesus Christ and our school. As such, we believe there are certain standards of behavior to be followed so that you set a good example for others at our school and other schools. This code is to act as a guide for your responsibilities as a Christian athlete.

Attendance:

All athletes are to attend all scheduled practices and all scheduled games. Students are excused from practices and games for the same reasons that they are excused from school (mainly illnesses and planned family vacations). Except in the case of personal illness, the coach should be notified of any absence in writing at least 24 hours before the event to be missed. Two (2) unexcused absences from practice will result in removal from the team. Any one (1) unexcused absence from a game will result in removal from the team.

Appearance:

All athletes should be neat, clean, and well groomed in uniform or out. The same school dress code applies to the athletes appearance at all sporting events.

Sportsmanship:

All athletes and parents should be humble and gracious in victory and respectful in defeat. All athletes and parents should maintain self control and sportsmanlike behavior under all situations.

Volunteers:

Parents of a student participating in a sport shall volunteer to help at 3-4 sporting events per sport that his/her child participates in during the year. If the parent fails to meet his/her obligation, then the student shall be suspended from participating in a game.

General Guidelines for Athletes:

- Exhibit Christian behavior
- No vulgar or abusive language
- Obey and respect coaches
- Obey all other adults – whether from St. Paul or other schools

These rules will be enforced by the coaches and staff of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. Disciplinary measures will be determined by the coaches and staff.

I, the parent/guardian of _____ and my child, do hereby agree to follow the Athletic Code and understand the term thereof.

Student Athlete Signature _____ date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ date: _____



St. Paul Lutheran School -Athletics

85 S. Constitution Drive, Aurora, IL 60506

630-896-3350

www.stpaulaurora.org

Dear Families of St. Paul Student/Athletes:

This is to inform you of the \$30.00 participation fee per sport that is assessed of every child who participates in any sport at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. The participation fee must be paid at the start of each sport. The money collected as sports fees will be used to support the athletic teams. These sports fees are the only fees charged for athletic participation all year.

The State of Illinois requires a sports physical for every athlete. Athletes in grade 6 do not need a separate sports physical as they are required by the State of Illinois to have a complete physical on file.

All paperwork and fees are required to be turned into the school office prior to the first practice. An athletic card will be issued to the student upon receipt of all fees and paperwork that will be required to be presented to your coach before participating.

If you have already turned in the required paperwork for an earlier sport, the \$30 sports fee is the only requirement for participation. Please turn your money into the school office and pick up your athletic card.

Indicated below are the items that we need from your athlete:

- _____ Participation Fee \$30.00
- _____ Sports Physical (or complete physical on file in St. Paul School office)
- _____ Athletic Code/Participation Sheet
- _____ Legal & Medical Waiver

Regards,
Sam Schmidt,
Athletic Director

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

School (circle): St. Paul / St. Luke

Sport: _____
