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**S.P.A.A. Handbook**

Welcome to St. Patrick’s athletics program! We hope that your experience in the program is a positive one. With that hope in mind, the following information is provided to help you understand what this program offers and what the program expects from the athletes and their parents. Our primary objective is the personal improvement and development of each and every participant, emphasizing an appreciation of sportsmanship and team play in a Christian environment.

1. **In Parish Eligibility**

Registered and participating member of St. Patrick Parish or a student of St. Patrick School (If you have recently joined our parish but have not physically moved into the parish, eligibility to participate will hinge on the time frame in which you registered. If you fall into this category, please contact the Athletic Director immediately for more details).

1. **Age Limitations**
2. Eighth grade league: Maximum age is 14 years; a player whose birthday falls after September 1st of the current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.
3. Sixth grade league: Maximum age is 12 years; a player whose birth day falls after September 1st of the current school year is eligible for the balance of that school year.
4. **Physical Examinations**
5. All athletes, participants, and tryout candidates should be informed, in very specific terms, of the possibility of injury.
6. All athletes participating in athletics must have a current physical examination record on file. Current is defined as on or after April 15th of the current school year.
7. **Limited Team Membership**
8. A player may not be registered simultaneously with more than one team in the CYO League. After a player has been listed on a team, he/she may not be transferred to another team within the same Parish CYO program without permission from the CYO Office.
9. **A student who, after participating in an athletic contest as a member of a CYO athletic team, participates in any athletic competition in the same sport during the same season is ineligible. This rule applies specifically to Junior High School, Middle School, Recreation Leagues, P.A.L. Teams, Michigan Youth Teams, AAU Teams/Leagues or any other organized league including organized neighborhood leagues.**
10. **Registration Fees**
11. These fees are set by the S.P.A.A. committee to cover the cost of league fees, tournament fees, referee fees, equipment replacement, uniforms and any other costs that may occur.
12. Registration fees will not be refunded after tryouts start unless your child is not placed on a team.
13. **Volunteer and Equipment Deposit**

Parents/Guardians: Part of registration for this sport is a commitment to work a minimum of 5 hours of scheduled volunteer time. A deposit of $200.00, in a separate check, is required by the start of tryouts to insure compliance. This deposit is also applied as security against loss of any returnable equipment issued to your child, and will be held by S.P. A.A. and returned to you at the conclusion of the season. If you do not wish to volunteer for the required time, we will cash you deposit and hire out your time.

1. **Participant’s Responsibilities**

To be a true member of a team, one must show commitment to teammates and respect to the coach. Participation in our programs is a privilege, not a right or a perk that comes without responsibility. Be sure in your hearts that you are ready to make a commitment to be at all of your teams activities. You are expected to make 100% effort with the team you join. We expect the parents of our athletes to guard against over commitment on the part of their children. Encourage your children to give their teachers. If our athletes follow these guidelines, they should expect to have a great experience playing in our program.

* Attendance at all practices is mandatory.
* Player must remain with coaches after practices until parent arrives. If other arrangements have been made, coaches have to be made aware of it ahead of time.
* Never criticize another member of your team/squad or other opposing team/squad. Moreover, players associated with any CYO team shall not abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks or gestures whatsoever to any opposing coach, player, team, officials, score/clock keepers, athletic directors or referees.
* No inappropriate language or behavior (i.e. obscene gestures) will be tolerated. Such behavior shall be reason for ejection or other penalty to be imposed by the Athletic Director, Parish representative and/or SPAA representative.
* Any player who makes any physical contact, however slight, with any official, player or spectator before, during or after a game shall be ejected immediately from the game and gym & expelled from the league. Ejected players shall have adult supervision.
* Any player who conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner while at any CYO practice or competition and whose behavior reflects to discredit St. Patrick Parish or the CYO program may be removed from further events. This includes being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or having possession of drugs or alcohol.
* Be at practice 15 minutes early and ready to start on time.
* Be at games 45 minutes early, with uniforms, ready to play.
* Missed Practice: Any player missing practice must notify your head coach, failure to notify your head coach prior to missing practice, for any reason, is considered an unexcused absence.
* Unexcused absences could affect your playing time in your next game.
1. **Parent’s Responsibilities**
2. All participants’ responsibilities are also the parent’s.
3. Parents: Please show the coaches the consideration they deserve by picking your child up on time. Our coaches spend a great deal of time and energy coaching your children and should not be put in the position of waiting for parents to arrive.
4. Fraudulent information on registration and/or physical forms will result in disqualification for the current season.
5. Parent/Spectator Conduct: The A.D. reserves the right to remove unruly fans at official events or through assigned representatives. Good sportsmanship will be expected in all aspects of participation.
	1. No parent/spectator associated with any CYO team shall abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks or gestures whatsoever to any opposing coach, player, team, officials, score/clock keepers, athletic directors or referees.
	2. Profanity, along with obscene gestures, from spectators directed towards any player, coach, official or spectator shall not be used at any CYO event. Profanity shall be reason for ejection or other penalty to be imposed by the Athletic Director, Parish representative and/or SPAA representative.
	3. Any parent/spectator who makes any physical contact, however slight, with any official, player or other spectator before, during or after a game shall be ejected immediately from the game and gym & expelled from the league.
	4. Any parent/spectator who conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner while at any CYO practice or competition and whose behavior reflects to discredit St. Patrick Parish or the CYO program may be removed from further events.
	5. Parents and spectators at all CYO events may not possess, consume and/or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
		1. 1st offense-parent/spectator will be banned from the duration of current season’s CYO events
		2. 2nd offense-player of offending parent will be released from his/her team for the duration of the season.
6. Must have a Criminal Background check, participated in the Protecting God’s Children program, and signed and reviewed the Concussion Awareness protocol.
7. **Equipment Return**
8. All equipment and uniforms must be returned to the Equipment Manager by a set date at the end of the season.
9. **Coach’s Rules & Code of Conduct**
10. Our program is staffed with all volunteer coaches, the majority of which are parents of participating athletes.
11. Must have a Criminal Background check, participated in the Protecting God’s Children program, and signed and reviewed the Concussion Awareness protocol.
12. We strive to recruit the most qualified candidates available for these positions and once they are selected we strive to provide them every opportunity to improve their skills.
13. We expect our coaches to treat all athletes on their squads with respect and understanding.
14. Our athletes should expect and receive very clear directions as to their coaches’ team objectives, as well as, what their coach expects from them as individual parts of a larger team.
15. No coach shall abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks or gestures whatsoever to any opposing coach, player, team, officials, score/clock keepers, athletic directors or referees.
16. Profanity, along with obscene gestures, from coaches directed towards any player, coach, official or spectator shall not be used at any CYO event. Profanity shall be reason for ejection or other penalty to be imposed by the Athletic Director, Parish representative and/or SPAA representative.
17. Any coach who makes any physical contact, however slight, with any official, player or spectator before, during or after a game shall be ejected immediately from the game and gym & expelled from the league.
18. Any coach who conducts himself/herself in an unsportsmanlike manner while at any CYO practice or competition and whose behavior reflects to discredit St. Patrick Parish or the CYO program may be removed from further events. This includes being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or having possession of drugs or alcohol.
19. Teams must be accompanied by an adult (21 years old) at all events, at all times.
20. All coaches must have a positive and patient attitude with all members of their team.
21. All head coaches must provide their team with practice and game schedules.
22. No practice may start prior to the scheduled start time.
23. All coaches will be at all practices 15 minutes prior to start time.
24. All coaches will be at all games 45 minutes prior to start time.
25. All coaches will make themselves available to players and parents in the event of a problem so it can be resolved as quickly as possible.
26. **General Information**
27. **Complaints**
28. If an athlete has any type of issue with a coach, the first line of communication should be between the player and the coach.
29. If an athlete, for some reason, can’t communicate their problem to the coach, then one of the athlete’s parents should approach the coach with the issue.
30. DON’T LET ISSUES FESTER! Many issues on athletic teams are the direct result of bad communication or bad interpretation. Coaches want to know if there is a problem.
31. If an issue is of a nature that the athlete and their parents can not work it out with the coach, the next step is to bring the issue to the Winter Sports Manager.
32. If an issue is of a nature that the athlete and their parent can not work it out with the Seasonal Sports Manager, the next step is to bring the issue to the Athletic Director.
33. The initial communication can be verbal but it is preferred that it be written or followed with a written statement.
34. In the event that the A.D. can’t resolve the problem, he/she will bring it before the S.P.A.A. Committee.
35. Unless a request for privacy is received that is deemed appropriate, all written complaints/issues will be made known to the committee.
36. Until you have done all of the above things do not call the C.Y.O. Athletic Office.
37. **S.P.A.A. 24 Hour Policy**
38. Parents and/or guardians of participants in parish sponsored C.Y.O. events are required to refrain from approaching any member of the coaching staff with a complaint within 24 hours of a contest.
39. This rule does not apply to basic logistical questions; i.e. practice times, game locations, etc.
40. The intention of this rule is not to discourage communication between parents and coaches, but rather to allow a “cooling off” period for both coach and parent that are more likely to facilitate a productive discussion of the issue at hand.
41. Failure to follow this rule will result in:
42. 1st offense-parent involved will not be allowed to attend the next official contest of the team at hand.
43. 2nd offense-player of offending parent(s) will be removed from team for balance of current season.
44. **Playing Time**
45. The 5th and 6th grade level is an instructional level where playing time is divided up by the coach. Some of the things that may go into the decision are ability, attitude, and attendance.
46. All players at 5th and 6th grade level should play in every game.
47. The 7th and 8th grade level is much more competitive level and there is no required playing time for any player.
48. All coaches in the 7th and 8th grade level of play will do their best to see that all players are played whenever they see fit.
49. With all this in mind at all levels all players and coaches would like to win as much as they can.

1. **ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT, AND PERMISSION TO TREAT AND REFER FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WITHIN ST. PATRICK PARISH AND SCHOOL.**

Parents of player participants hereby acknowledge receipt and review of the **ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT, AND PERMISSION TO TREAT AND REFER FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WITHIN ST. PATRICK PARISH AND SCHOOL** agreement at registration. Parents and players further acknowledge that they have been advised of the terms and conditions of this document at the Parent Meeting. Parents and player participants must immediately advise the SPAA Athletic Director of any and all incidents which may involve injury to any player participant.

We have tried to answer as many questions as we can in the limited space we have. If there is something you would like explained further, please contact any of the appropriate SPAA committee members. If they can’t answer your question, they can direct you to the appropriate person.