

ST. IGNATIUS ATHLETICS – BASIC INFORMATION

A comprehensive sports program is available to students in grades 1-8. Competition with nearby schools is organized through the Parochial Athletic League (PAL) and the River City Soccer Club. These programs are designed to meet and encourage the health, safety, and recreational needs of our students. All students planning on participating in the PAL must have a current medical release form on file and parents must complete all Athletics participation forms by the first practice/tryout (whichever comes first). The school provides all equipment (except for golf) and uniforms. Purchases of uniforms, warm up gear, t-shirts, any team clothing is not permitted outside of the school's athletic program. The River City Soccer Club is not a St. Ignatius school sponsored program and does not fall under the school administration's or the school athletic committee's jurisdiction.

The Parochial Athletic League (PAL) is an integral part of the educational mission of the schools who participate in the league. In order to participate in the league, St. Ignatius Parish School must abide by the rules and guidelines of the league. The PAL is dedicated to fostering Christian and human development, encouraging a positive vision in boys and girls through exercise, example, and athletic competition and fully recognizing the dignity of each student in Christ's image. With this mission in mind, the following goals have been determined:

- To develop Christian spirit, school spirit, team spirit and personal acceptance;
- To instill Christian sportsmanship in the life-styles of the participants;
- To teach the participants the proper attitude towards winning, losing and competing with dignity;
- To develop acceptance and appreciation of others;
- To train, instruct and follow athletic/sport rules;
- To develop the students' physical abilities and coordination;
- To help form well-rounded students by fostering good health habits;
- To provide a Christian environment and outlet for youthful energy;
- To teach the positive value of athletic participation; and
- To show the necessity of practice, hard work, and time management.

Player Eligibility

- A student must maintain a 2.0 or higher, with no "D's"
- Students with identified learning disabilities will have this taken into consideration for eligibility.
- A student must attend at least half of the regular school day/full minimum day to participate in that day's practices or games.
- Physical examination form completed by physician, required yearly after June 15th of the beginning of the current school-year.
- Students on behavioral or academic probation may be ineligible to play
- Students not regularly attending practice sessions will not be allowed to participate in games.

Conduct of Players During Games and Practices

Athletes are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all games and practices. Athletes are expected to represent St. Ignatius Parish School in a manner that exemplifies good sportsmanship, pride, and respect. Athletes displaying inappropriate behavior will be removed from the game and face disciplinary consequences.

Conduct of Parents and Fans

- Parents and fans are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect for the coach, athletes on both teams, and other parents and fans.
- Parents should not offer coaching instructions to their children during a practice or game.
- Parents should not confront coaches with demands or complaints concerning strategy or playing time for their children during a game. Instead, parents are asked to observe a 24-hour cooling off period after a game before contacting the coach with a concern.
- All children are to be supervised by an adult during games and practices.
- Parents and fans must comply with requests from coaches, the athletic director, the principal, or other site-supervisors during a game or practice; if compliance is not demonstrated, the participants will be asked to leave the premises.
- Non-compliance with the above guidelines may place the enrollment of the students in jeopardy.
- Practices are closed at St. Ignatius. No one is permitted in the gym besides the coach and players.

Playing Time

Playing time is the prerogative of the coach who will follow PAL guidelines on this issue; coaches are encouraged to play every player as much as possible. Players cannot expect to play in games if they have not been attending practices and giving 100% effort throughout these practices.

Reporting Injuries and Illnesses

Parents and athletes must report all injuries to the coach as soon as possible. Before the sports season begins, parents should discuss with the coach any special limitations their child may have. Any sports limitations should be listed on the student's Medical Release Form on file with the school.

Communication with Coaches

- Players are to report all injuries to the coach as soon as possible.
- Students should express any concerns to the coach first before involving parents.
- If student concerns are not resolved after speaking with the coach, parents should contact the coach to express concerns.
- If resolution cannot be achieved, all parties should involve the athletic director.
- The principal should only become involved if none of these steps has achieved resolution. Decisions of the principal in athletic matters are final.

Uniforms

Sport uniforms must be turned in within a week of the last game of the season. Uniforms must be laundered and bagged, and the bag should be labeled with the athlete's name. Uniforms may only be worn during games and not during practice. Participants may lose their uniform fee deposit if uniforms are returned late, damaged, or dirty.

No Cut, No Quit Policy

St. Ignatius has a “No Cut, No Quit Policy” once team rosters are released. The formation of teams is completely dependent on the number of students participating in both days of tryouts. An 8th grade student who quits forfeits his or her right to play another sport in the same season and the following season. A 5th – 7th grade student who quits forfeits his or her right to play another sport in the same season and in the same sport the following year.

Extra-Curricular Participation Policy

Any student whose report card grade point average falls below a 2.00 or earns any grade lower than a C- will be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity until the next report card. Should a student receive a grade below C- in any subject or fall below a 2.0 GPA during the trimester, he/she will be monitored and will be ineligible to participate until improvement is noted. When a student is removed from an extracurricular activity for the second time, the student will not be allowed to participate in that activity during the same school year. Participation in any Fall sports or extracurricular activities will be based on the report card from the past spring. Students with identified special needs will be considered apart from this academic policy. When a new season of athletics begins mid trimester, the student’s eligibility will be assessed the Friday before the week of tryouts will begin. If the student does not have a 2.0 or a C- or above in all subject areas the student will not be permitted to try out for a team, therefore, ineligible that entire athletic season.

Transportation to Events

All drivers who are transporting students to sports events must follow all school volunteer driver regulations. All students who require a ride to any school-sponsored sport activity must have written authorization from their parents/guardians allowing them to ride with drivers the parents/guardians have authorized. No student may ride in a car to or from a school-sponsored game with an adult who has not been pre-authorized by his/her parents/guardians. Coaches are permitted to drive two or more players, with prior parent permission. A single athlete cannot be the only person in the car with the coach, unless the athlete is a family member. Students should not drive themselves or other students to any school activity.

Parent Participation

All parents/guardians of athletes are required to sign up for work hours in the snack bar, at game entrance, or score keeping for league games/tournaments held at St. Ignatius Parish School. For each athletic season a child participates in, the family owes 4 hours of volunteer service not to exceed 12 hours in a year. These hours also count for REGULAR parent hours.

Opioid and Concussion Fact Sheet Acknowledgement

A new law, SB 1109, which went into effect on January 1, 2019, requires each athlete (and his or her parent for those 17 and younger) participating in an athletic program that takes place outside of the regular school day sign an acknowledgment of receipt that the athlete and his or her parent have received an Opioid Factsheet and a Concussion Fact sheet before the athlete may participate in practices or competition. The factsheets will be distributed by the school.