



Saint John Paul II Academy

Student-Athlete Handbook

Mission and Philosophy

Saint John Paul II Academy's athletic program exists to develop the whole student—spiritually, academically, and physically—through participation in interscholastic athletics. Rooted in Catholic values, the program emphasizes integrity, discipline, leadership, and respect for others while fostering a strong sense of community and teamwork. Athletics are viewed as an extension of the educational experience, providing opportunities for students to grow in character, perseverance, and responsibility. The ultimate goal is not only competitive success, but also the formation of individuals who demonstrate moral strength, accountability, and a commitment to excellence in all areas of life.

Athletic Program Overview

Saint John Paul II Academy offers a wide range of athletic opportunities for students in grades nine through twelve, encouraging participation across all levels of experience and ability. Students are generally permitted to participate in one sport per season, although participation in multiple sports simultaneously may be allowed with approval from both head coaches and the Athletic Director. All athletic programs provide a minimum tryout period, ensuring each student has an opportunity to demonstrate ability and commitment.

Athletes are expected to complete the full season of their chosen sport before transitioning to another. In cases where seasons overlap, participation in multiple sports may be permitted only with administrative approval and clear communication between coaching staffs with clear expectations placed upon the student-athlete. Commitment to one's team is essential, and

student-athletes are expected to prioritize team responsibilities over outside activities during their season of participation.

Eligibility Requirements

All student-athletes must comply with the eligibility rules established by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), which govern participation in interscholastic athletics. These regulations include standards related to academic performance, age, attendance, transfer status, and amateur standing. Students who fail to meet these requirements are not permitted to participate in competitions for SJPII.

Eligibility is an ongoing responsibility, and it is the duty of each student-athlete and their family to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations. The school strictly adheres to FHSAA guidelines, and any violation may result in ineligibility, suspension, or additional disciplinary action.

Academic Expectations

At SJPII, academics take precedence over athletics. Student-athletes are expected to maintain satisfactory academic performance in accordance with school and FHSAA standards. Regular class attendance, timely completion of assignments, and active engagement in coursework are essential components of eligibility and participation.

Students who experience academic difficulty may be required to attend tutoring sessions, study halls, or other academic support programs. Failure to meet academic expectations (minimum 2.0 unweighted GPA) may result in reduced playing time, suspension from competition, or removal from a team. Open communication between students, teachers, coaches, and parents is encouraged to support academic success.

Code of Conduct

Student-athletes are held to a high standard of behavior both on and off campus as well as in the classroom. Participation in athletics is a privilege that requires adherence to all school rules and expectations. Athletes are expected to demonstrate respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, school personnel and spectators at all times. Sportsmanship, honesty, and self-discipline are essential qualities that must be consistently displayed. All team members are expected to represent Saint John Paul II Academy in a positive manner at all times.

Behavior that is inconsistent with school values—including bullying, harassment, academic dishonesty, or the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products—will not be tolerated. Violations

may result in suspension or dismissal from the team, along with possible school disciplinary action.

Locker Room Etiquette

Lockers and the locker room areas are expected to be kept neat and orderly at all times. Coaches will work to check the locker rooms and lockers for cleanliness.

Lockers are school property and may be searched when it is determined that safety is a concern. Valuables should be kept at home or with the student-athlete at all times. Theft is unacceptable and will be handled by the Principal, Assistant Principals or Dean of Students as needed. Foul play and/or fighting is not tolerated and will result in school disciplinary measures. Removal from a team is also a possibility in this occurrence.

Attendance and Commitment

Consistent attendance at practices, games, and team activities is a fundamental expectation for all student-athletes. Athletes are required to be punctual, prepared, and fully engaged in all team commitments. Absences must be communicated in advance and approved by the coach whenever possible. "Excused" absences from practice and games are at the coaches' discretion with input from the Athletic Department when needed.

Unexcused absences or repeated tardiness may result in reduced playing time or suspension. Athletes are required to attend school on the day of a practice or game unless excused for a valid reason. Student-athletes must be in class a minimum of five class periods on days of games to be eligible to play.

Student-athletes for some sports may need an early release from classes to attend games. Only student-athletes who have a pre-approved "E-Hall Passes" sent by the Athletic Department may be dismissed early. Once a student-athlete is dismissed early from classes they are not allowed to leave campus for any reason.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of student-athletes is a top priority. All athletes must complete required medical documentation, including a physical examination, prior to participation. Students are responsible for reporting injuries immediately and must follow all medical recommendations.

Athletes may not return to participation following an injury without proper medical clearance. Emphasis is placed on proper nutrition, hydration, rest, and injury prevention to support overall well-being.

Mandatory Athletic Clearances that Need to Be Submitted Prior to Participation:

EL1 (EKG Screening) ****mandatory for all student-athletes entering 9th grade in August 2026**

EL2 (Athletic Physical)

EL3 (Parent Consent Forms)

GA4 (transfer students only-does not apply to incoming 9th grade students)

EL6 (any transfer student-athlete who attended a class at another school prior to athletic participation)---documentation is submitted by the SJPII Athletic Department and sent to previous school attended once GA4 is turned in by student-athlete

All injuries must be reported to our Athletic Trainer, Ms. Kristina Porzenheim (kporzenheim@sjpii.net) . The Athletic Trainer is responsible for evaluating injuries and determining when an athlete is cleared to return to practice. Players and parents do not make this determination on their own. When a student-athlete is seen by a physician, a clearance note must be sent to the Athletic Trainer prior to the student-athlete resuming sport participation.

Transportation and Travel

Student-athletes are expected to travel to and from athletic events using school-provided transportation when available. Alternative arrangements may be permitted with prior approval by the Athletic Director. While traveling, students are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and represent the school with integrity. Parents/guardians who wish to take home their child from away games may do so. The Head Coach must “hand off” the student-athlete directly to their parent/guardian face to face. Student-athletes may not leave with a family member other than a parent/guardian under any circumstances.

Uniforms and Equipment

Athletic uniforms and equipment are the property of Saint John Paul II Academy and must be properly maintained. Athletes are responsible for returning all items at the end of the season. Lost or damaged equipment may result in financial responsibility. In the event that the financial responsibility is not met for failing to return a team issued uniform, student-athletes will have additional privileges taken away or not be allowed to continue participating in Athletics at SJPII. Seniors who do not return uniforms will have their diplomas withheld.

Communication and Team Relationships

Effective communication is essential to a successful athletic experience. Student-athletes are encouraged to communicate directly with coaches regarding concerns or conflicts. Parents should support appropriate communication channels and allow students to take responsibility for initiating conversations.

Playing Time and Team Roles

Participation on a team does not guarantee playing time. Decisions are made by the coaching staff based on skill, effort, attitude, and team needs and player roles (which may change from game to game). Student-athletes are expected to accept their roles and contribute positively to the team.

Order of Protocol When Team Issues Arise:

1. Head Coach/Player meet to discuss issue before or after practice
2. Head Coach/Player/Parent meet to discuss issue at hand if necessary
3. Head Coach/Athletic Director/Player/Parent meet
*meeting will occur in the Athletic Director's office

If an issue arises during or after a game, parents/guardians are asked to wait 24 hours before addressing the coach or Athletic Department

Social Media and Public Conduct

Student-athletes represent the school at all times, including online. Social media activity should reflect school values and demonstrate respect for others. Inappropriate social media content may result in disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Procedures

Violations of school and/or team policies are addressed based on severity. Consequences may include warnings, suspension, or dismissal from the team. The goal of discipline is to promote accountability and personal growth.

Parent Responsibilities

Parents and family members are encouraged to support Athletics on the SJPII campus. This support is vital to our community's growth and to the overall success of our Athletic programs. Just like our student-athletes are expected to demonstrate respect for coaches, team members, opponents, officials, school personnel and spectators at all times; so are our parents and spectators. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in removal from the event, loss of spectator privileges, and/or prohibition from attending future athletic events.

Verbal abuse of team members, opponents, officials or opposing fans will not be tolerated.

Acknowledgment and Responsibility

Participation in athletics requires a commitment to the expectations outlined in this handbook. Student-athletes and their families share responsibility for upholding these standards and contributing to a positive athletic environment.

Student-Athlete Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student-Athlete Print

Parent/Guardian Print