

St. Pius X Catholic School  
Parent & Student Athletic Handbook

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Dear Parents & Students:

In accordance with the high standards of the Diocese of San Antonio; St. Pius X Catholic School Athletic Department seeks to further enhance the overall educational experience for its Middle School students by providing sports. With the assistance of Coaches, parents and volunteers; the St. Pius X Athletic Department will serve to promote physical fitness, socialization, teamwork, leadership skills and good sportsmanship.

St. Pius X participates in the Archdiocesan Interscholastic Athletic League (AIAL); a league composed of area Catholic Schools. St. Pius X plays under the Texas High School Athletic Association rules as amended by the By-Laws of the AIAL. In addition to playing schools in our league, St. Pius X teams may play other schools in the San Antonio area.

The Athletic Handbook was developed to guide student athletes and their parents/guardians. Please read through its policies carefully and contact myself should you have any questions. If a student chooses to play or cheer for a school team, both the student and the parents/guardians must follow the policies within this handbook.

Sincerely,

Anastacia Salazar

Athletic Director

St. Pius X Catholic School

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## **St. Pius X Way of Life**

Character development, faith formation and academic excellence are inseparable at St. Pius X Catholic School. Every moment presents teaching and learning opportunities. In our daily lives together, we live according to the principles reflecting our faith. These principles governing our community and promoting our way of life include:

- Respect God, self & others: recognize that every person has worth and act accordingly. Treat all people with dignity.
- Be a person of integrity: always tell the truth and be responsible for your thoughts and actions.
- Live a life of service: Ask, “What can I do for others?” Strive to use your God given talents and gifts to make the world better for everyone.
- Product quality work: Show that you care for God, yourself and others by consistently doing your best.

## **Sports Offered (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

\*\*\*5<sup>th</sup> CANNOT tryout for Football/Golf/Softball/Baseball\*\*\*

### Fall

- Six Man Tackle Football (Coed)
- Cross Country (Coed)
- Soccer (Coed)
- Girls Volleyball (A & B Team)
- Cheer (2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls)

### Winter

- Girls Basketball (A & B Team)
- Boys Basketball (A & B Team)

### Spring

- Track & Field (Coed)
- Golf (Coed)
- Tennis (Coed)
- Softball
- Baseball

## **Sports Policy**

The sports policy may be changed at the discretion of the school administration as needed and without notice. Please direct any inquiries to the School Administration. All students must meet all eligibility requirements to participate in any school sport. Where both “A” and “B” teams are available, the school will field teams at both levels of competition. If there are not enough players to field a team at both “A” and “B” levels, only an “A” team will be established.

- 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to tryout for all sports (exceptions for 5<sup>th</sup>: football, softball, baseball and golf)
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are only eligible for participation on “A” teams.
- A letter “P” will be awarded to student athletes. After the initial letter an award pin will be awarded for additional sports.
- Students and parents are expected to exhibit Christian behavior and good sportsmanship at all school related functions and activities, whether on or off campus.
- The Administration and game officials, at their discretion, have the authority to remove anyone displaying unsportsmanlike conduct at any school related activity, whether on or off campus.

## **Requirements for Participation**

- Physical Examination: a yearly physical examination is required. The physical exam form must be completed by the physician and submitted to the Coach prior to participation in any try-out or game competition. The examination will be valid for a period of one year from the date it was first obtained. The form will be kept on file in the Athletic Department office.
- Each parent or guardian and athlete shall read the Athletic Handbook and certify that they understand the athletic eligibility, rules and policies of the school. The signed document will be filed in the Athletic Department Office.

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible for athletics, the middle school athlete must be in compliance with the St. Pius X policies concerning eligibility and the rules and regulations of the Archdiocese Interscholastic Athletic League (AIAL). Individual sports may adopt rules and regulations, with Administrative approval, regarding expectations and requirements for students participating in the particular sport. These policies, one signed by the parent and student, become an extension of the student/parent handbook.

- Must be enrolled in St. Pius X Catholic School
- Must have a 70 or better cumulative average of all subjects and an “S” or better in electives
- All applicable fees must be paid in full prior to the first game/competition of the season
- Attend mandatory parent/coaches/player meeting(s) given after tryouts
- Athletes must be marked present in school half day in order to be eligible to participate in games/competition or practice later that same afternoon or evening.

### **Ineligibility**

If a student becomes ineligible, due to grades, he/she may not participate in practice or games. Grades are reviewed every two weeks. During their ineligibility, they will be required to attend tutoring in the given subject(s) they are failing until their grade has improved. If practice is still going on after tutoring, they may attend. They may dress out for a game, but they will not be allowed to play.

### **Participation on other Organized Teams**

Effective August 2014, students may be listed on AIAL roster AND other same sport season roster. Students may play for their school and any AAU, Travel or CYO team at the same time. Please note, school sports come first.

### **Transfer Students**

- Transfer students will be granted a tryout for a team if there is more than half of the games remaining in the season.
- Transfer students are guaranteed the same tryout duration as other athletes, but they are not guaranteed placement on the team.

### **Fees**

- All sports offered have a fee required for participation
- Some uniform and equipment needs are not included in this fee and must be purchased separately by participants

### **Gym Rules**

- No outside food/drinks, other than water, allowed in the Gym
- Children should be supervised at all times
- Athletic shoes only allowed on the court
- Spectators are to sit on the bleachers

### **Outside Facilities**

For sports which require use of a field/track, SPX secures outside facilities for practices and HOME games:

- Football – played at Mount Sacred Heart
- Soccer – played at Olmos Basin, Field #5
- Track – practice at Cole High School
- Baseball – practice and played at TBD
- Golf – practice at TBD
- Tennis – practice at MacArthur High School

### **Transportation**

SPX does not have a bus. Coaches are not allowed to transport athletes, we recommend to carpool. An approved sign-out list will be in the office for parents to designate others who they allow to transport their student athlete to practices/games.

### **Uniform Policy**

Athletic uniforms are the property of St. Pius X Catholic School. The student athlete is responsible for any uniform and equipment that has been issued to them at the beginning of the season. Any damaged or lost uniform/equipment will be charged back to the student athlete at current market price. Uniforms must be returned to Coach Salazar at the end of the season.

### **Extended Day Policy**

- Supply fee waived (they pay an athletic fee)
- Free for athletes BEFORE practice and only on practice days
- They will be allowed to dress out 15 minutes before their practice

It is the parents responsibility to pick up their children after team practices are finished for the day. If a practice concludes at 5:00 PM and the parent is not there, they will be checked into Extended Day and a \$15 fee will be applied.

### **Parents & Spectators Expecations**

The role of the parents and spectators within the SPX Athletic Department is to support the student athletes in a positive way. In the event that a parent feels dissatisfied with something in the program; they are responsible to first make their concerns known to the Coach and then the Athletic Director.

- Only Coaches and players on the court/field for games
- Be positive
- Cheer for our team
- Show good sportsmanship

As in the case in any athletic competition at any level, we cannot assume that all officials will be fair and competent in their actions and calls. Regardless, it is critical that parents set a positive example in dealing with game officiating.

The use of profanity, racial slurs, or profane gestures is strictly prohibited. Persons witnessed acting in this behavior will be reported to Administration. This can result in immediate ejection (serving a two game suspension) and possible suspension from future SPX athletic events at the discretion of Administration.

### **Safety**

SPX and its Athletic Department provide a safe environment for all individuals. Physical, verbal and written threats made against the physical or emotional well being of any individual will be taken seriously. Anyone making such threats (seriously or in jest) faces suspension and/or expulsion from SPX sports and possibly SPX.

### **Game Changes & Cancellations**

Unfortunately practice and game schedules often change. These changes are unavoidable and even though frustrating are something that is just going to happen. In the event of changes, every attempt will be made to notify people in a variety of methods as fast as possible. It is difficult and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

### **Removal from the Team (parent decision)**

The Principal, Athletic Director and Coaches will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his/her child from a team for any reason. However, once a child is removed, he/she may not return to the team for the remainder of the season.

# ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION CONSENT FORM

I have read and understand the St. Pius X Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document.

I hereby give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to compete in the AIAL approved sports. We agree to be responsible for the safe return of all athletic uniform(s)/equipment issued by the Athletic Department.

In the event of an emergency, I grant permission for school employees to secure medical services for the above student if necessary.

Health Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Insurance Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_