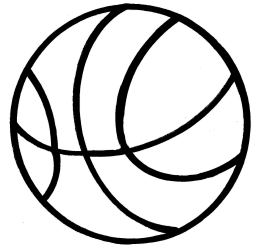




**ST. PETER'S**



# **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**



**St. Peter's Lutheran School  
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**WELCOME** to the St. Peter's Athletic program! We hope it is a positive experience for your athlete and you. Athletics is a major offering at St. Peter's, one that can occupy your child's time virtually from the first day of school to almost the last. Why have such a complete program? Our school's athletic program attempts to help our children grow in five ways: Spiritually, Emotionally, Intellectually, Socially, and Physically.

Our athletes grow **Spiritually** when they:

- learn to trust in the Lord for all things
- develop faith-filled relationships with Christian teammates

Our athletes grow **Emotionally** when they:

- learn to lose with grace and dignity
- learn to win with grace and humility
- develop the discipline to be good athletes

Our athletes grow **Intellectually** when they:

- discover the relationship between the classroom and the athletic field
- learn the mental challenges of mastering a sport

Our athletes grow **Socially** when they:

- develop spiritual bonds with their teammates
- see opponents as fellow Christians and friends

Our athletes grow **Physically** when they:

- develop coordination through repetition
- develop strength and endurance through practice

It is our desire to have your child experience these benefits through our sports program. This handbook describes our program in detail and describes what you, your athlete and your coach can do to make this a positive experience. Please read it carefully and enjoy St. Peter's sports!

## **St. Peter's Sports – General Overview**

As a member of the Lutheran School Athletic Association, St. Peter's offers a wide variety of athletic experiences on several levels. There are 16 schools in the LSAA located throughout Allen, Adams and Noble Counties. In most sports, the schools are split into two divisions according to geographic location – North and South. St. Peter's is in the North Division.

Interscholastic competition is offered at two levels: the 5th and 6th grade division, referred to as junior varsity, and the 7th and 8th grade division, referred to as varsity. Fourth graders may participate in wrestling and track at the junior varsity level. Occasionally, some sports may include fourth graders if numbers are not sufficient to complete a junior varsity team or if it is beneficial for the kids to do so. We do not include (gr. K-3) in junior varsity. When numbers are not sufficient to field a complete team, younger players may be moved to the varsity level (typically 6th graders to varsity). When younger players are needed to be on a higher level team, it is up to the coach on a game by game basis to determine the physical appropriateness of a younger student athlete competing against an opponent. If the coach, in connection with the athletic director, determines it is not in the best interest of the student athlete, they may not participate in a given competition. This is done to protect and provide the best learning environment for the student athlete.

St. Peter's Lutheran School has a policy which prohibits retaining a student in a grade level for the sole purpose of improving the student's ability to participate in our extracurricular athletic program.

Each season consists of a series of league games (usually playing each division team once) and a postseason tournament at the varsity level playoff. There are no league tournaments at the junior varsity level, although some schools choose to host a tournament on their own.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS OFFERED AT ST. PETER'S:**

### **BOYS SOCCER**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Mid August

Ends: Early October

Practices: Held after school on St. Peter's property

Games: After school at various sites, mainly Kreager Park fields

Tournament: End of season, involving all league teams

### **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Mid August

Ends: Mid October

Practices: Held after school in the Church gym

Games: After school at various sites, some at St. Peter's

Tournament: End of season, involving all league teams

### **BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Practices – Mid October; Games – Early November

Ends: Late January or Early February

Practices: After school and early evening, and some Saturdays in the Church and School gyms

Games: JV – after school at various sites including St. Peter's

Varsity: After school and on Saturdays, various sites including St. Peter's

Tournament: End of season, at various gyms and CLHS

### **BOYS WRESTLING**

Levels: Pee Wee, Junior, Senior, based on age, grade and weight

Begins: Early February

Ends: Mid March

Practices: In the Wildcat gym, after school and/or early evening

Matches: After school, at various sites, including St. Peter's.

Tournaments: Ed LeBeau Invitational and LSAA League Meet @ CLHS

### **BOYS & GIRLS TRACK**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Early April

Ends: Late May

Practices: After school, church parking lot, school playground

Meets: After school or early evening at CLHS or Seminary

Tournaments: LSAA Relays and LSAA Cadet Divisional Meet @ CLHS

## **GIRLS SOCCER**

Levels: Junior Varsity, Varsity

Begins: Early April

Ends: Late May

Practices: After school on St. Peter's property

Games: After school at various sites, mainly Kreager Park fields

Tournaments: End of season involving all league teams

## **CHEERLEADING**

Levels: Varsity (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Begins: September

Ends: March

Practices: After school in Church or School Gym

Games: Cheer at Varsity Basketball Games

For more information on each sport, please contact the Athletic Director.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **THE JUNIOR VARSITY PROGRAM**

The purpose of St. Peter's junior varsity athletic program is to give our children exercise, build self-esteem, highlight sportsmanship, and acquire new skills. Because we do not want to defeat a child's willingness to take a risk or try a new sport, no athletes are cut from teams at the junior varsity level and we follow an "everyone plays" policy. Exception to this policy is only for designated tournament games at the discretion of the coach and athletic director or when it would not be in the best interest of the athlete due to the size/ability of the competition. Coaches do have the right to exclude a player because of poor attitude, attendance or determination.

### **THE VARSITY PROGRAM**

While the varsity level teams strive for the same ideals, competition and winning the contest become more important. St. Peter's maintains a no cut policy at the varsity level but does not guarantee an "everyone plays" rule for every contest. Winning isn't the most important thing but striving for victory is one objective of competition. In a close contest, interjecting a player with weaker skills into the heat of the battle is unfair to that player and to the team. Many factors enter into a coach's decision on who to play, when, and for how long including, but not limited to: 1) Player's attitude during practices; 2) Player's attitude during games; 3) Player's attendance at practices and games; 4) Player's determination in practices and games; 5) Player's skill level attained; 6) Number of players on the team; 7) Score of the game; 8) Caliber of opponents overall; 9) Caliber of opponents in the game.

Varsity athletics are not intramurals. If victory is within reach, a player may not play as much as s/he would like, or when s/he wishes. That is the coach's decision alone. The coach is the only person who has all the data to make the decision and it is the expectation that coaches decisions are respected and supported. If there is a complaint with playing time, we encourage parents to wait at least 24 hours before contacting the coach. Sports are by nature an emotional endeavor so this time gives an opportunity for perspective as well as understanding on all sides.

## THE ATHLETE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Interscholastic athletics put St. Peter's "on display". Athletes who compete against other schools represent not only themselves, but St. Peter's and their Lord as well. On a day-to-day basis, there is no other program that brings our students and parents together with students and parents from other schools. We expect our athletes to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting their Christian faith in and out of school, in the gym and on the playing field. We expect our athletes to:

1. Attend church regularly
2. Show Christian sportsmanship
3. Have a cooperative spirit with team members and coaches
4. Be a team player motivated by team spirit
5. Win without boasting – lose without complaining
6. Be courteous to all coaches, officials, and opposing players
7. Accept all officials' decisions gracefully

The principal, coach, athletic director or any teacher may, after a conference, exclude a student from participation in interscholastic athletics if the student has proven to not be a worthy representative of St. Peter's due to conduct or an unchristian attitude. However, the student is expected to attend all practices and be present at games. In addition, anyone found smoking, vaping, using alcoholic beverages, drugs, or selling the same, or chronically foulmouthed will be expelled from all athletics for the remainder of the school year.

## ATTENDANCE

Prompt and regular attendance is necessary for team membership.

Unexcused absences or tardies in sufficient number will result in probation or dismissal from the team.

1) It is the responsibility of the athlete to **PERSONALLY** inform the coach in advance of any anticipated absence or tardiness from a game or practice. Any violation of the above will result in an unexcused absence.

2) An unexcused absence will result in the player not being allowed to play in the next regularly scheduled game, but s/he must attend all practices.

3) Three (3) unexcused absences will result in immediate dismissal from the team.

4) Students should be picked up **PROMPTLY** after games and practices. Check schedule, as well as TeamSnap for times. If a student is not picked up within 15 minutes after a practice has ended, s/he may be ineligible for the next game.

5) To be eligible to participate in a game or practice a student must be in attendance at school no less than the second half of the day of the event.

## **ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege. St. Peter's students are expected to meet both grade and behavior standards to remain eligible to participate.

See School Handbook for details.

## **AGE LIMITS**

The following age limits have been established by LSAA:

Grade 8 – Must not be 15 years old before August 15

Grade 7 – Must not be 14 years old before August 15

Grade 6 – Must not be 13 years old before August 15

Grade 5 – Must not be 12 years old before August 15

Grade 4 – Must not be 11 years old before August 15

## **THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Parents have distinct responsibilities toward their children and their school regarding the athletic program at St. Peter's. These areas closely parallel the student's responsibilities

## **THE BASICS**

First, it is the parent's responsibility to make sure his/her student meets all of the basic requirements for the athletic program. These include:

1) Ensure the student has adequate accident insurance. Most often this is covered through the parent's insurance company through work. If additional insurance protection is required, it may be purchased through the school at the beginning of the school year.

2) Ensure that before the student's first practice, s/he has on file with the school office through the Athletic Director and an IHSAA/physician's Certificate of Physical Fitness and Parent's Consent to participate (this must be done each



school year).

3) Ensure all equipment to be provided by the athlete is of good quality and in good repair (shoes, shin guards, etc.).

4) The school will provide uniforms for each sport. The athlete and his/her parents are to see that the uniforms are cared for and cleaned properly throughout the season and returned in laundered condition as soon as possible after the season has ended. Athletes and their families are responsible for lost or ruined uniforms and equipment.

## **CONDUCT**

This is the most important area of responsibility for the parent. St. Peter's places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of our athlete's conduct on and off the playing field. This holds doubly true for parents. Parents are the most important influence in any child's life. If we expect our athletes to act in a Christian manner on the court, then parents, as role models, must do the same. All of the rules of conduct applied to our athletes are doubly applicable to parents. This is vital for two reasons:

**First**, by his or her actions in the stands, the parent teaches the child how to respect the game and opposing athletes, honor referee's decisions, and encourage others through positive support.

**Second**, positive Christian behavior creates a positive image of St. Peter's in the minds of opposing players and parents. There are very few times other than at athletic events that are literally St. Peter's on display, where other schools' parents and athletes form opinions about us, just as we do about them. Through our conduct, we give St. Peter's a positive image and glorify our Father in heaven.

## **SPECIFICALLY, ST. PETER'S PARENTS SHOULD:**

1) Respect the opposing team. In the heat of the battle it is sometimes easy to forget we are playing fellow Christians, fellow sons and daughters of the King. Booing, negative yelling and cheering when an opposing player is injured or fouls out are examples of behavior we do not expect to see from St. Peter's fans or players.

2) Respect the referees and their decisions. It seems to be a common belief in Indiana that basketball games are opportunities for fans to release their frustrations on the referees. While we recognize the right of each of us to disagree with the referee, our primary emphasis at any sporting event should be on supporting and cheering on our athletes. Critiquing the refs should be secondary and should

reflect the Christian nature of our school and team.

3) Support our players and coaches. St. Peter's athletic program is designed to provide learning experiences in competitive situations. It is important to remember our athletes are not perfect. They need to be supported in positive ways when they fail. Likewise, our coaches are dedicated, caring Christians. If you have a concern about the coaching of a team, talk to the coach in a caring Christian way. If that does not produce satisfactory results, take the concern to the Athletic Director.

## **THE COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY**

In any sporting event, the coach is the leader of the day. S/he is the person to whom players and fans alike look for advice and guidance.

Coaches should:

- 1) Be role models for their athletes on and off the court or playing field and provide leadership in displaying the behaviors required of athletes and parents. Any conduct contradictory to the values and mission of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and School will be addressed by the athletic director. This could include but is not limited to corrective action as well as removal from coaching duties, if the conduct is determined severe enough .
- 2) Treat their athletes fairly, wisely and positively within the guidelines established in this book, valuing each student as a beloved Child of God.
- 3) Teach the positive values of winning and losing.
- 4) Take an interest in and emphasize the spiritual, emotional, physical, intellectual and social growth and development of each athlete.
- 5) Conduct practices in an orderly and organized fashion. Parents are reminded that practices are the responsibility of the coach. Parents may attend practices only with the Coach's permission.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

St. Peter's athletes participate in sporting events at sites throughout the city and county. For home events, athletes may stay after school in Clubhouse until the event is scheduled to begin. For events at other schools or sites, it is primarily the responsibility of the parents

to see that the athlete is at the site at the time designated by the coach. For after school events, we rely on parents who volunteer to transport athletes to the site. Parents are responsible for getting their child home after the event. Siblings of athletes are **NOT** to remain after school for practices or games.



## Sportsmanship Pledge

I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for and about kids, not adults.

I will be a positive role model for all children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy to players, coaches, referees, and spectators.

I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will respect the officials and their authority and will not confront them at the game.

I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.

I will not encourage or engage in unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing, taunting, cursing, threats, or being physical.

I will teach all children that doing one's best is more important than winning.