



St. Patricia Athletic Association

St. Patricia

Athletic Handbook

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION	3
OUR OBJECTIVES	3
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COMPOSITION	4
MEMBERS:	4
SPAA BOARD MAKE-UP:	4
EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:	4
PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBER:.....	4
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:	4
VOTING RIGHTS:	4
TERMS OF OFFICE:	4
SPORTS DIRECTORS:.....	4
FISCAL YEAR:	4
MEETINGS:.....	4
SPAA BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:.....	4
SPORT PROGRAMS	5-10
GIRLS BASKETBALL	5
FOOTBALL.....	6
POMS CHEERLEADING.....	7
BOYS BASKETBALL.....	8
COMPETITION CHEERLEADING.....	9
VOLLEYBALL.....	10
SOCCER.....	11
SELECTION OF COACHES	
SPECIAL POLICY FOR PLAYING GUIDELINES	
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES	
COACHES' RESPONSIBILITY	
PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITY	
PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES	
ENFORCEMENT OF PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY	
ENFORCEMENT OF COACH / PARENT RESPONSIBILITY	
WORKING OUT CONCERNS	
AWARDS	
CHILD AGREEMENT	
PARENT AGREEMENT	

The St. Patricia Athletic Association reserves the right to handle specific situations or conflicts not mentioned in this handbook as they deem necessary with the involvement of ex-officio members. These updates or changes will be posted monthly if a particular situation warrants notification.

(December 2006)

** Participants must adhere to the individual sport requirements set forth. These requirements may vary for each individual sport. Considerations for the continuation of a specific sports program may warrant change due to lack of participation, enrollment,etc. Contact the specific sporting director for details and information.*

(March 2007)

MISSION

It is the primary purpose of the St. Patricia Athletic Association to provide an extension of the Christian education experience. The parish athletic program is designed to provide enjoyable extracurricular activities for children, teach the fundamental of the sport, develop self-worth, sportsmanship, discipline, sound judgment and physical well being.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Foster a sense of sportsmanship – how to win with grace and lose with dignity in conjunction with our Christian beliefs.
2. Provide an opportunity for wholesome and enjoyable use of time by children through sports activities.
3. Provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in sports programs and to set good examples for their children.
4. Foster teamwork and unity among participants.
5. Aid in physical development and well being.
6. Teach fundamentals of sports and help develop athletic skills.
7. Raise funds to support athletic programs.

The St. Patricia Athletic Association reserves the right to handle specific situations or conflicts not mentioned in this handbook as they deem necessary with the involvement of ex-officio members. These updates or changes will be posted monthly if a particular situation warrants notification.

(December 2006)

** Participants must adhere to the individual sport requirements set forth. These requirements may vary for each individual sport. Considerations for the continuation of a specific sports program may warrant change due to lack of participation, enrollment,etc. Contact the specific sporting director for details and information.*

(March 2007)

ST PATRICIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COMPOSITION

NAME: St. Patricia Athletic Association (SPAA)

MEMBERS: All members of St. Patricia Parish may be members of the Association. There are no eligibility requirements. Members do not have voting rights. As a parent of a participating student, you are a member.

SPAA BOARD MAKE-UP: *The board shall consist of (13) Elected Positions:*

- (4) Executive Officers
- (9) Participating Members

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: *The officers must be an elected member:*

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBER: The (9) remaining positions may include, but not restricted to individual sport directors (ie: Football, Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball, Soccer, Poms, Competition Cheer, Fundraising, Concession Coordinator, Equipment Director, or any other position the board deems necessary to assist in any way.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

The pastor, principal and teachers are members.

VOTING RIGHTS:

The (13) elected positions of the SPAA will have voting rights as amended in 2005.

TERMS OF OFFICE:

The (13) members shall serve 3 year terms as defined: (9) New elected positions in June 2005. (4) Positions remain in place and will be up for (re) election in June 2006. (4) Positions in June 2007. (5) Positions in June 2008. (4) 2009, (4) 2010, (5) 2011. Continued repetition as stated. Elections will be held on a predetermined date in May and new position effective first meeting in June.

SPORTS DIRECTORS:

The (13) elected SPAA members shall determine the selection of Directors. Nominations will be taken for each sport directorship and a majority vote of the (13) positions shall prevail. Qualifications for that particular sport will be necessary to assume that particular directorship. In the event there are no qualified nominees amongst the (13) members, the SPAA will accept nominations outside the board and again majority vote will prevail. This particular member must adhere to all rules and regulation here and within, attend all monthly meetings, and will be asked to remain for executive session on that particular sport only. All sport directors are required to create, distribute and collect coaching evaluations for SPAA records and documentation for possible coaching restrictions.

FISCAL YEAR:

Begins July 1 and ends June 30.

MEETINGS:

The Board shall meet 12 times each year, every 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

SPAA BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Each member shall be required to attend at least 10 meetings. Each member is required to conduct themselves in a manner that is representative of our association. Issues and items discussed shall remain confidential between the members and the respective party(s). In the event of a particular ruling by means of a majority vote, we as members need to support that decision, even though it is contrary to your beliefs.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Grades 4 thru 8

(Little Dribblers Basketball Program offered for 3rd Grade and Under Students)

Season: August - December

Team Size: Min 8 / Max 15 (Discretionary)

Player Eligibility

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation.

Payment of a registration fee, concession fee, and uniform fee is required

- Grades 4 and 5

Coaches are required to play every player in every game as equally as possible.

There is no set amount of playing time for 4th and 5th grade. All players should get a fair amount of playing time for the team size and grade level. No player should get a considerable amount of game time over another child.

- Grade 6

Coaches are required to play every player in every game for at least 6 minutes.

- Grades 7 and 8

Since these grades are extremely competitive, there are no minimum playing time requirements. **It is strongly suggested that all players get some playing time in every game during the regular season.** Playing time will be based on regular practice attendance, desire to learn, attention paid and attitude during practices and games, game conditions, and any other factors that the coach(s) feel appropriate.

For all grades, with the exception of disciplinary cases, every player who regularly attends practice and exhibits a desire to learn, merits playing time. Although a playing time requirement does not exist for playoff games for all grades, once again **it is suggested that all players get some playing time.**

The Athletic Director/Basketball Director can always answer questions on what is deemed fair amount of play.

Players will typically play at their grade level; the only exception being if the minimum requirement for forming one team cannot be met. This does not include moving players up to meet the requirement for splitting teams into "A" and "B".

The suggested minimum number of players on a basketball team will be 8. If a basketball team cannot field a team for a game due to players' illnesses, or a conflict of events (band concerts, school related activities), the Basketball Director will attempt to replenish the roster with players from lower grades who can competitively fill in temporarily.

Splitting of teams:

- The Girls Basketball Director, along with qualified persons, shall evaluate the children. Coaches may be present, but the only input will be from the previous season's performance evaluation supplied by the previous season's coach at the end of the previous season.
- The coaches for the grade level being evaluated do not participate in the evaluation / choosing of teams. They may be asked to help evaluate a grade level other than their own.
- Evaluations may be one (1) or two (2) days.

FOOTBALL

Grades 3 – 8 (Co-Ed)

Season: August – October (Thru November if eligible for Play-Offs)

Junior Varsity – Weight 125 Lbs. Max (Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Varsity – Weight 185 Lbs. Max (Grades 7 & 8)

Player Eligibility

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation. (If a medical condition exists or is observed)

Payment of a registration fee and a refundable concession fee is required. Full refunds are given up to the official weigh-in date 1 week prior to the first game.

All participants are required to properly care for all SPAA/school issued equipment. In the event equipment is lost/damaged, that particular player may be asked to reimburse the current replacement value of that item.

JUNIOR VARSITY

- Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6 - Weight Limit is 125 lbs. Players over 105 lbs. are restricted to non-skilled positions on the offensive and defensive line.
- Player participation is based solely on ability to safely perform on the field. Additional games are scheduled randomly to ensure all players have playing time against equally sized and talented opponents.
- When a player signs up for football, they are not guaranteed any minimum playing time with the team until the coach determines the player is capable of playing safely at the level of skill required for this contact sport.
- Based on the number of registrants, efforts are made each year to Schedule "B" squad games for the younger, inexperienced or other players whose skills have not fully developed yet.

VARSIITY

- Grades 7 & 8 - Weight Limit is 185 lbs. Players over 140 lbs. are restricted to offensive and defensive line play in a downed position for safety issues.
- Player participation is based solely on ability to safely perform on the field and regular attendance at practice.
- When a player signs up for football, they are not guaranteed any minimum playing time with the team until the coach determines the player is capable of playing safely at the level of skill required for this contact sport. Extra efforts are made to try to ensure all players participate with opponents of equal size and talent. After the conclusion of the regular season, the league asks for (3) to (4) 8th grade representatives to participate in a league sponsored "All-Star" game. Coaches shall determine the participants based on sportsmanship, athletic ability, and leadership qualities.
- Further league information is available at www.cgscsports.org

POMS CHEERLEADING

Grades: 3 – 8 (Co-Ed)

Season: **August - October – March (Currently No Poms Program)**

Team Size: Min 15

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation. (If a medical condition exists or is observed)

Payment of a registration fee is required.

- POMS Cheerleading: A registration and a uniform fee is required.

Registrations may not be accepted once the registration close date has been reached. Directors may make an exception if the addition of participants would result in a full roster. Cheerleaders can be required to participate in basketball and football events if required by the acting director. Specific requirements may vary from year to year.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Grades 4 thru 8

(Little Dribblers Basketball Program offered for 3rd Grade Students)

Season: October – March

Team Size: Min 8 / Max 15

Player Eligibility

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation.

Payment of a registration fee, concession fee, and uniform fee is required

- Grades 4 and 5

Coaches are required to play every player in every game as equally as possible.

There is no set amount of playing time for 4th and 5th grade. All players should get a fair amount of playing time for the team size and grade level. No player should get a considerable amount of game time over another child.

- Grade 6

Coaches are required to play every player in every game for at least 6 minutes.

- Grades 7 and 8

Since these grades are extremely competitive, there are no minimum playing time requirements. **It is suggested that all players get some playing time in every game during the regular season.** Playing time will be based on regular practice attendance, desire to learn, attention paid and attitude during practices and games, game conditions, and any other factors that the coach(s) feel appropriate.

For all grades, with the exception of disciplinary cases, every player who regularly attends practice and exhibits a desire to learn, merits playing time. Although a playing time requirement does not exist for playoff games for all grades, once again **it is strongly suggested that all players get some playing time.** The Athletic Director/Basketball Director can always answer questions on what is deemed fair amount of play.

Players will typically play at their grade level; the only exception being if the minimum requirement for forming one team cannot be met. This does not include moving players up to meet the requirement for splitting teams into "A" and "B".

The suggested minimum number of players on a basketball team will be 8. If a basketball team cannot field a team for a game due to players' illnesses, or a conflict of events (band concerts, school related activities), the Basketball Director will attempt to replenish the roster with players from lower grades who can competitively fill in temporarily.

Splitting of teams:

- The Director, along with qualified persons, shall evaluate the children. Coaches may be present, but the only input will be from the previous season's performance evaluation supplied by the previous season's coach at the end of the previous season.
- The coaches for the grade level being evaluated do not participate in the evaluation / choosing of teams. They may be asked to help evaluate a grade level other than their own.

COMPETITION CHEERLEADING

Grades: 3 – 8 (Co-Ed)
Season: May - March
Team Size: Min 14

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation. (If a medical condition exists or is observed)

Payment of a registration fee is required.

- In addition to the registration fee and a uniform fee, a Tumbling Class participation fee may be required. All participants will be informed of all required fees and attendance requirements.
- **Evaluations** will be held to determine eligibility on the squad. **Evaluations** are open to all girls in 2nd through 7th grades in the spring session of that school year.

Registrations may not be accepted once the registration close date has been reached. Directors may make an exception if the addition participants would result in a full roster.

**** Current participation requirements are currently being reviewed. Revisions, terms and re-defining currently being analyzed (3-21-07)

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Grades 4 thru 8
Season: October - March
Team Size: Min 8 / Max 16

Player Eligibility

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation.

Payment of a registration fee, concession fee, and uniform fee is required

- Grades 4 and 5

Coaches are required to play every player in every game as equally as possible.

There is no set amount of playing time for 4th and 5th grade. All players should get a fair amount of playing time for the team size and grade level. No player should get a considerable amount of game time over another child.

- Grades 6, 7 & 8

Since these grades are extremely competitive, there are no minimum playing time requirements. **It is suggested that all players get some playing time in every game during the regular season.** Playing time will be based on regular practice attendance, desire to learn, attention paid and attitude during practices and games, game conditions, and any other factors that the coach(s) feel appropriate.

For all grades, with the exception of disciplinary cases, every player who regularly attends practice and exhibits a desire to learn, merits playing time. Although a playing time requirement does not exist for playoff games for all grades, once again **it is suggested that all players get some playing time.**

The Athletic Director can always answer questions on what is deemed fair amount of play.

Players will typically play at their grade level; the only exception being if the minimum requirement for forming one team cannot be met. This does not include moving players up to meet the requirement for splitting teams into "A" and "B".

Minimum number of players on a volleyball team will be 8. If a team cannot field a team for a game due to players' illnesses, or a conflict of events (band concerts, school related activities), the basketball Director will attempt to replenish the roster with players from another team.

Splitting of teams:

- The Athletic Director, along with qualified persons, shall evaluate the children. Coaches may be present, but the only input will be from the previous season's performance evaluation supplied by the previous season's coach at the end of the previous season.
- The coaches for the grade level being evaluated do not participate in the evaluation / choosing of teams. They may be asked to help evaluate a grade level other than their own.
- Evaluations for 4th and 5th grades may be two (2) days.
- Evaluations for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades may be two (2) days.

Soccer

Grades: 1 – 8 (Girls, Boys, & Co-Ed Teams)

Season: March - June

Team Size: Min 13 / Max 26

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

* Player eligibility is determined by the rules governed by that particular sport. Strict compliance for St. Patricia's School attendance, the parish CCD program and/or Parish membership will be monitored and enforced. The SPAA will consider extenuating circumstances for participation, provided they are complying with that particular sports league changes, rules and prerequisites.

A doctor's permission may be required for participation.

Payment of a registration and uniform fee is required. Soccer, no refunds, 14 days after registration.

Registrations may not be accepted once the registration close date has been reached. Directors may make an exception if the addition of one player would result in a full roster or the creation of another full team.

For sports with an evaluation event, no refunds will be given once the first evaluation has taken place. If there is only one team at a grade level, no refund will be given once the first practice is held. The exception would be if a player somehow was injured during the evaluations or was injured before the first game and was not able to play for the remainder of the season.

- Grades 1 through 5

Coaches are required to play every player in every game as equally as possible. With the exception of disciplinary cases, every player who regularly attends practice and exhibits a desire to learn, merits playing time. Although there is no set amount of playing time, players should get a fair amount of playing time for the team size and grade level. No player should get a considerable amount of time or games over another child.

- Grades 6 through 8

Since these grades are competitive, there are no minimum playing time requirements. Playing time will be based on regular practice attendance, desire to learn, attention paid and attitude during practices and games, game conditions, and any other factors that the coach(es) feel appropriate.

The Athletic Director can always answer questions on what is deemed fair amount of play.

SELECTION OF COACHES

The coach has the greatest responsibility as well as opportunity to guide and influence the student athletes. Coaches assume the role of teacher, mentor, and minister to the young people in their charge. A coach's behavior is crucial to modeling of good Christian sportsmanship both in word and in deed.

1. One head coach is required. Additional assistants may be chosen to help with the responsibilities (Varies for each individual sport)
2. All previous year's coaches and new coaches, who sign up as volunteers during registration, have their names presented at an Athletic Board meeting for approval by means of majority voting.
3. All head coaches and assistant coaches must be approved and assigned by the Athletic Association, and are subject to a background check through the Archdiocese and must complete VIRTUS Training. Other league requirements may require some form of training or seminars and must be completed.
4. All head coaches must be 21 years of age. In the absence of a head coach at a game or practice, a person at least 21 years of age must assume responsibility (preferably the assistant).
5. The source of coaches is volunteers. Those interested in coaching should contact the Athletic Director for that sport.
6. Coaches have the option of following his/her team from year-to-year, pending yearly approval from the Athletic Board.
7. Head coaches for Grades 6, 7 and 8 will be chosen based on experience and knowledge. Assistant coaches will be chosen after the splitting of the teams.
8. Teams are divided based on talent level first. Head coaches are selected second. The manner in which this occurs is as follows:
 - Upon Board approval, the previous year's head coach is offered the team that his/her child is placed upon. If that coach rejects the offer, then the previous year's assistant coaches are offered the head coaching position.
 - If the assistants reject the offer, then the director refers to the volunteer sheet that was available during registration.
 - If a match does not exist between the volunteers and the grade level, then the director will search for volunteers who have coaching experience, but do not necessarily have a player in the respective program/division.
 - If a volunteer cannot be found, the team will be dissolved and the families will be issued a full refund.
9. Uniform money will not be refunded. Due to the length of time it takes to receive uniforms, in order for every player to be in uniform by the first game, they must be ordered before the evaluation or weigh-in takes place.

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(December 2006)*

** Participants must adhere to the individual sport requirements set forth. These requirements may vary for each individual sport. Considerations for the continuation of a specific sports program may warrant change due to lack of participation, enrollment,etc. Contact the specific sporting director for details and information.
(March 2007)*

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. As a sport director, you must possess experience playing or coaching that sport with references if needed. A majority vote of the (13) board members must be reached for your directorship to be instated.
2. Solicit and recommend coaches to the Athletic Association.
3. Ensure league registration requirements for teams are met.
4. Distribute/Order uniforms and equipment for teams prior to the season and collect equipment at the end of the season. Any purchases to replenish equipment cannot occur without the approval of the Athletic Board.
5. Obtain schedules, rosters, league rules and other pertinent information and distribute to coaches prior to the season. Inform coaches of schedule changes. Obtain any tournament information.
6. Attend and represent St. Patricia at league meetings.
7. Ensure coaches are informed of, and understand, their duties and the Athletic Association Policies. This is done at a coaches meeting prior to the season.
8. Act as liaison between coaches and Athletic Association Board.
9. Address any concerns of parents and coaches. Investigate conflicts and attempt to resolve issues by meeting with appropriate parties.
10. Schedule practices and arrange for the end of the season awards and banquet, if necessary.
11. As a director you will be asked to support any and all decisions reached by the board even though they are contrary to your thoughts, beliefs and views; the majority decision shall be supported by all members.
12. You are also responsible to find a qualified person to fill your position as director and provide written direction that includes, in detail, your responsibilities. The assigning of an assistant 1 year prior to your departure is required to allow ample time for the new director to familiarize themselves with our policies and procedures.
13. All sport directors are required to create, distribute and collect coaching evaluations for SPAA records and documentation for possible coaching restrictions.

COACHES' RESPONSIBILITY

1. Agree to follow the guidelines and policies of the St. Patricia Athletic Program and the decisions of the Athletic Association Board.
2. Assume responsibility for all equipment issued to them.
3. Hold a mandatory pre-season meeting with parents of the players. This meeting will be to familiarize the parents with;
 - Practice and games schedules if available;
 - Conduct expected of parents and players;
 - Responsibilities of players, parents and coaches;
 - Concession stand responsibilities;
 - The rules in this Athletic Handbook and any other pertinent info.
4. Keep attendance records for all games and practices and keep records documenting disciplinary actions taken and circumstances which made these actions necessary. It is the prerogative of the coach to use these records and unnoticed absences from practice to guide them in allowing playing time.
5. Notify in advance players, their parents, and the Athletic Director of any disciplinary actions taken against any player. If an infraction occurs for which the penalty is more severe than one game suspension, the Athletic Director must review the matter before any action is taken.
6. Familiarize themselves with the sport, attend a clinic if available, and then teach the fundamentals of their respective sport, along with sportsmanship and teamwork.
7. Supply a team phone list as well as coaches phone numbers.
8. Coaches should model Christian sportsmanship, knowing that the school is judged more by the coach's sportsmanship than his/her record. The coach should teach and guide the team members with a sense of fair play and model winning and losing in a respectful, courteous and gracious Christian manner.
9. Coaches should show respect for the game officials and other coaches by publicly shaking hands before and after games. This gives clear witness to this respect.
10. Coaches are responsible for the actions of their fans. Unruly fans can affect the outcome of a game. Coaches should address the fans when this happens. Repeated offenses should be reported to the Director.
11. The State Legislature passed a law in 2000 that allows referees to charge coaches and spectators for verbal assault. This is another reminder that situations should never get out of control.
12. Coaches will only attend those practices assigned by the Director. Do not intrude on another teams' practice. You should not enter the gym any earlier than 10 minutes prior to start time. Wait in the hall until the practice has ended, holding all balls until the other team has collected theirs.
13. Coaches will ensure that players wear the uniform chosen by the Athletic Board and wear only those to games. Coaches will not purchase other uniforms/garments without consulting the Director and other team at the same level.
14. Coaches should wear the St. Patricia Coach's shirt that is provided at the beginning of each season, to all games. This shirt is provided to each coach and his assistant, with the exception of sports that have more than 16 players.
15. Coaches should know the proper procedures for entering and closing the gyms, and the Parish Center rules. (Public school and other practice sites included.) Failure to do so will result in the loss of practice time.
16. Coaches will have the ability to separate winning from the more important goals of the program.

17. The coach should refrain from public protest that may lead to similar behavior from parents and players.
18. The coach should always carry with them pertinent information of every athlete in his or her care in case of emergency. A first aid kit should be available at every game and practice.
19. Coaches should plan for proper physical conditioning of the student athletes. Practice should begin with warm-up exercises and end with cool down.
20. Coaches will give every athlete an opportunity to play. Playing time allotments will be adhered to (except for reasons cited above.) Players will not remember whether or not the game was won, but they will remember if they got to play in the game.
21. Coaches will only enter into leagues/tournaments with consent from the Athletic Director or Athletic Board. The coach will also follow guidelines for amount of leagues / tournaments allowed at their grade level.
22. A coach or approved assistant over 21 years of age must be present and assume responsibility for players during practices and games, and after practices and games, until players leave with parents. Make sure the facilities are in acceptable condition when you leave, and report any problems to your Director immediately. Never leave children unattended, whether they are from your team, or another St. Patricia team. If you find a St. Patricia team unattended, contact the coach or your Director immediately.
23. Any team wishing to invite another team or school for a practice game must notify their Director and have extra adults on hand to supervise.
24. Coaches are not allowed to contact league representatives or officials. All contact should be made through the Athletic Director.
25. If a coach would like his/her team's winning picture or other team info put in the bulletin or newspaper, you must contact your Athletic Director to do so. This rule applies to parents / players also.
26. Attend the season sports banquet, if held. No special awards are to be given out to players. If you would like to give out awards to everyone, consult your Director as well as the other team at your level.
27. The coach must turn in all signed handbook agreements to the director of the sport **BEFORE** the first game. No student can participate in a game until this agreement is returned to the Athletic Director.
28. All coaches will be asked to comply with the above noted responsibilities.

PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITY

1. Attend all practices and games unless excused by the coach. Players/parents should contact and notify the coach in advance as soon as possible whenever a player cannot attend a practice or game. Unexcused absences will affect playing time.
2. Assume responsibility for their uniform and equipment issued to the team.
3. Students who choose to participate in a sport are representing St. Patricia School and the parish at all times. They must act in a manner that reflects favorably upon themselves and the parish at all times. This expectation, is not just limited to the sports field or the court, but should be evident at school, in the community, at other schools as well as before, during and after all games.
4. Students will only wear the uniform that has been chosen by the Athletic Board. No makeup or jewelry will be allowed.
5. Follow principles and practices of good sportsmanship and respect at all times – toward officials, teammates, coaches, parents, members of opposing teams, and all spectators. This includes the scorekeepers hired by St. Patricia.
6. Players should maintain themselves in good physical condition. Any player found using alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, will be dismissed from the team and the program.
7. Respect the facilities of St. Patricia, other practice sites and game sites. Any player found committing acts of vandalism may be dismissed from the team and that program and will be responsible for restitution.
8. Students are expected to maintain an average grade while playing sports and never neglect schoolwork during the season.
9. Must read and sign the student athlete agreement before the first game in order to participate.
10. Players will follow team/league rules set forth.
11. All participants are required to properly care for all SPAA/school issued equipment. In the event equipment is lost/damaged, that particular player may be asked to reimburse the current replacement value of that item.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Read the handbook and review it with their child. Ensure the agreement is signed and returned. No student can participate in a game until this agreement is returned to the coach.
2. Provide transportation for the children to and from all practices and games.
3. Ensure that the coach is present at the practice facility and has gained access to the building. Do not just drop off your child. Practice schedules change, locked doors and conflicts do occur.
4. Drop off players at practices and games at times designated by coaches and pick up players promptly after practices and games. Do not send your child to a practice any earlier than 10 minutes prior to start time.
5. Players must be present by the start of practice. Repeated tardiness will result in disciplinary action.
6. Parents may not send siblings to practice.
7. Adhere to principles of good sportsmanship. As a representative of St. Patricia Parish, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a Christian manner at games and be respectful of all players, coaches and other parents, spectators and game officials.
8. Parents are encouraged to cheer their team on, but should make no attempt to instruct or direct the team or an athlete. They should not criticize the playing efforts of the team or any child on it.
9. The State Legislature passed a law in 2000 that allows referees to charge coaches and spectators for verbal assault. This is another reminder that situations should never get out of control.
10. Parents can be a model for putting losses into perspective and moving on. Criticizing or berating the coach is inappropriate behavior.
11. Work a concession assigned to them or find a replacement. Failure to do so will result in the forfeit of the concession fee.
12. Parents must attend the coach's pre-season meeting.
13. Parents must keep the uniform clean and in good condition.
14. Parents will not conduct any sale, or host any profit-making event without written permission of the Athletic Board.
15. Parents will not send any team pictures or team info to the parish bulletin or newspapers. That is the duty of the Athletic Director. If you would like something placed, contact your Athletic Director.
16. Parents will not address a problem with the coach before, during or immediately after a game. Please refer to "Working Out Concerns".
17. Parents may be banned from attending games if they do not follow these rules.
18. Parents may also be expected to contribute their time and service in support of the Athletic Program. Our program is dependent upon everyone's help and support to maintain a high level of quality and success.

ENFORCEMENT OF PLAYER RESPONSIBILITY

1. Coaches have the primary responsibility for enforcement of player conduct guidelines. Complaints received by the Athletic Director will be referred to coaches for action.
2. Coaches will notify in advance the player, parent and Athletic Director of any disciplinary action taken.
3. If an infraction occurs for which the penalty is more severe than a one game suspension, the coach must review the matter with the Athletic Director before any action.

ENFORCEMENT OF COACH / PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

1. The Athletic Association Board will review complaints regarding the conduct of parents or coaches. Written specifics or attendance at our monthly SPAA meetings, of any violations and complaints shall be required prior to any disciplinary action is considered.
2. If complaints are deemed valid, the individual will be reminded of his or her responsibilities as listed in the handbook.
3. If unacceptable conduct continues, a coach will be suspended for one game or the Board will request a parent, not to attend the next game. If a parent refuses to honor this request, his or her child will not play in that game.
4. If unacceptable conduct still continues, a coach will be dismissed or a parent will be asked not to attend games for the remainder of the season for that particular sport. If a parent refuses to honor this request, the family will be dropped from the athletic program for the remainder of the season.

WORKING OUT CONCERNS

If parents or participants have any concerns with any respect of the athletic program, they should first try to work them out by discussing the matter with the coach(es) involved. If the problem cannot be resolved in this manner, the Athletic Director should be contacted. If there is still no resolution to the problem, the matter may be brought before the Athletic Board. The Athletic Association President should be contacted to put the matter on the agenda for the next board meeting.

When a parent has a concern or problem they would like to discuss with the coach, please never approach a coach before, during or immediately following a game. It is best to call the coach to discuss the matter or arrange to meet before or after a practice.

AWARDS

Participation awards will be presented to all participants. 8th grade students will receive a commemorative, upgraded award for their participation. The style/type of awards to be issued will be SPAA approved and adhered to by all individual sports. Any deviation from the approved awards shall be approved by the board prior to any changes made. The method or means for distributing the awards will be presented for board approval and shall be consistent for all participants in that particular sport. SPAA funded award ceremonies for 8th grade or varsity teams will be discussed and approved, prior to the event. The SPAA reserves the right to with-hold an award if any rules/requirements have been violated.

The St. Patricia Athletic Association reserves the right to handle specific situations or conflicts not mentioned in this handbook as they deem necessary with the involvement of ex-officio members. These updates or changes will be posted monthly if a particular situation warrants notification.

(December 2006)

** Participants must adhere to the individual sport requirements set forth. These requirements may vary for each individual sport. Considerations for the continuation of a specific sports program may warrant change due to lack of participation, enrollment,etc. Contact the specific sporting director for details and information.*

(March 2007)



St. Patricia Athletic Association

CHILD AGREEMENT

I _____
Print Signature

have read the rules of the Athletic Association and I am aware of my responsibilities as a student athlete.

I agree to the rules and expectations set by the Athletic Association and will do my best to follow them.

Date _____

PARENT AGREEMENT

I _____, parent/guardian
of _____

have read the St. Patricia Athletic Association Handbook.

I am verifying that my child has also read the book.

I agree to the rules and expectations set forth by the St. Patricia Athletic Association.

Date _____