

St. Wenceslaus School



Athletic Handbook

Contact Info:

St. Wenceslaus School
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Philosophy Statement

In an effort to build community spirit, self-esteem, lifetime fitness and athletic skills, we support a variety of athletic extra curricular opportunities for our St Wenceslaus students. We encourage participation regardless of ability or experience. Our goals are to:

1. Present opportunities for students to participate on a sports team regardless of skill level or prior knowledge of the sport.
2. Develop and promote good sportsmanship as well as respect of teammates and opponents.
3. Have students learn responsibility and develop self-discipline while competing on a team.
4. To teach the fundamentals, techniques and strategies for each sport in a progressive and planned sequence that is appropriate to the student's grade level.
5. To realize the lifelong health and social benefits of athletics.
6. Build character and self-esteem through hard work and dedication.
7. Have students experience the relationship between practice and improvement and how that transfers to other areas of life.
8. To develop and maintain good relationships between teams, faculty and our community.
9. Have fun!

Code of Ethics

Athletics provide more than exercise and competition. Sports, at their best, teach courage, grace, persistence, discipline and greatness of spirit. At St. Wenceslaus, we believe athletics are intrinsic to the spiritual and physical well being of young people. Sports are a vehicle in which young people can learn to work together toward a common goal, respect others, build confidence, and develop sound values that will remain with them the rest of their lives. Athletic competition is guided by the following ideas:

Participants:

- Play hard within the rules of the game
- Win with humility, lose graciously
- Respect opponents and officials
- Respect all property and athletic facilities
- Are positive and supportive of teammates and coaches

Coaches:

- Serve as positive role models for their players
- Show restraint and respect when dealing with officials
- Hold players accountable for inappropriate behavior
- Reinforce good sportsmanship
- Are positive and supportive of other school programs, coaches and staff
- Act in a professional manner at all times

Spectators:

- Appreciate and commend good effort and skill no matter which individual or team exhibits it
- Treat officials, cheerleaders, players, coaches and fans with respect and courtesy
- Are good ambassadors for our school
- Keep winning and losing in proper perspective

The success of our athletic programs is not measured just by the final score, but rather by the efforts of all individuals striving to achieve team goals. The sense of purpose, commitment, and self-discipline has much more lasting value than the outcome of any competition. Accordingly, any participant in the St. Wenceslaus program whose conduct is in any way unsportsmanlike on or off the field of play, is subject to probation or suspension after meeting with the coach and athletic director. Use of alcohol, tobacco, or any other illegal substance, will result in the automatic suspension of the offending player. In addition, regular school policy will be enforced. The coach and the principal will determine the length of the suspension.

Team Selection

We want all student-athletes to develop their skills and gain team experience. Team size may be limited so it is workable for practice and games. Additional coaches will be solicited if demand requires additional teams. The selection of players for the various teams may be based on ability, attitude, and commitment level. This selection process shall be at the discretion of the coaches to maximize the student's potential to develop athletic and social skills.

Playing Time

The athlete must understand that game time is directly related to practice experiences, and that performance in practice will be rewarded by game playing time. Each coach should communicate to all athletes what each player's individual abilities are, so as to adequately address measures to improve. Any coach must reserve the right to use key players in key situations.

Job Descriptions

Athletic Director

- Has overall responsibility for extra curricular athletic coaches, teams, facilities, and programs
- Works in cooperation with the academic programs, the Principal's Office, and the maintenance staff to make arrangements and improvements in the overall athletic programs.
- Is knowledgeable of and helps with the annual budget for athletics
- Approves all financial charges to the athletic department and keeps track of budgetary expenses.
- Actively assists in filling available coaching positions.
- Studies athletic equipment needs each year and orders equipment and uniforms.
- Works closely with the Tri-County Conference League and attends league meetings.
- Sets up and make arrangements for all athletic events (includes securing officials).
- Is an active participant with the Athletic Advisory Council.

Coach

- Instruct students in the fundamental skill, strategy and physical training necessary for them to realize a degree of team and individual success.
- Provide students instruction that will lead to the formation of the values of sportsmanship, pride of accomplishment, acceptable social behavior, self discipline and self-confidence.
- Keep athletic director informed of any problems that arise.
- Have knowledge of all athletic policies, our ethics, and existing school, state league and sport regulations and follow them consistently.
- Review the Handbook and your individual team rules with the student-athletes and parents at the beginning of the season.
- Plan, schedule and run a regular organized program of practice.
- Be present at all practices and games unless a responsible adult substitute is appointed. Inform the athletic director in advance.
- Supervise students in the practice areas and until parents pick them up.
- Make sure all athletes are out of the building and have left for home at the end of practice or games. Be sure all equipment is properly put away and secure the building.
- Maintain team records and statistics.
- Inform participants of the potential for injury while engaged in each particular sport. Take precautions to minimize that potential. Fill out proper injury form and inform the Athletic Director of any injuries while at practice or a game.
- Communicate with school office when events need to be cancelled.
- Give all athletes a chance to participate.
- Attend coaches meetings as necessary.
- Provide suggestions to athletic director on equipment needs.

If you are interested, or know of someone who would be a great coach for one of our teams, please contact the school principal or Athletic Director.

Athletic Advisory Council

The purpose of our Athletic Council is to have a forum for discussion of issues related to the success of our athletic programs. It is the responsibility of this council to advise the Athletic Director and Principal. Key topics to discuss include:

- Scheduling
- Facilities use and maintenance
- Athletic policies & the Athletic Handbook
- Fundraising for equipment and uniforms
- Coach recruitment and retention
- Other topics deemed appropriate by the Athletic Director

People on this council will serve a two-year term. The Athletic Council will meet on a monthly basis, or as deemed necessary by the Athletic Director.

General Information on Sports' Opportunities

The following is a list of activities currently being offered, or in the planning stages:

Fall Season – (Typically begins right after Labor day & ends mid- to late- October)

Boy's soccer – Grades 5-8

Girl's volleyball – Grades 5-6

Winter – (Typically begins right after Thanksgiving & ends the end of February)

Boy's and Girl's Basketball – Grades 5-8

Spring – (Typically begins mid- March to the end of May)

Girl's Softball – Grades 5-6

Boy's Baseball – Grades 5-6

- A participation fee is charged for each sport to keep our athletic programs self-supporting. The fee is \$55. This payment must be paid in full prior by the first day of practice for each sport. Refunds will be granted upon request per the following guidelines:
 - A student who quits a sport, for any reason, prior to the first game will receive a full refund (assuming all equipment, uniforms, etc. have been turned in).
 - After the first game, no refunds will be pro-rated at the discretion of the Athletic Director.
- Students who are unable to pay this fee will not be excluded from participation. Contact the school office for scholarship assistance. If you are able to sponsor an athlete in addition to your own child, please inform the Athletic Director or the Principal.
- All families are expected to take their turn in helping with the concession stand for home games and supporting any fundraising efforts. We may also have a yearly mandatory fundraiser to help pay for new uniforms and/or equipment.

Attendance & Behavior Standards

If a student is not in school for at least the second half of the day (after 11:00 a.m.) on the day of a game, or does not have a legitimate excuse, he/she will not be eligible to play later that day.

All players must be passing in all classes and have good disciplinary records. Participation is a privilege based on good behavior and respectable academic performance. Students with in-school or out-of-school suspensions may not practice or compete on days of suspension.

Transportation

Parent volunteers will be solicited to drive players to games held at other schools. A Driver Release form will need to be signed by all drivers at the beginning of the season and kept on file in the school office.

Background Checks

In order to ensure a safe environment, volunteer coaches will be required to submit to a criminal history background check and a reference check prior to acceptance for this position. Individuals who refuse to comply with this request will not be accepted as a coach. A signed consent for release of information must be obtained from the prospective volunteer prior to a request for a background check. The school will assume all fees related to this requirement.

Athlete / Parent Grievance Procedure

The method of communication which should be used when problems or issues arise should be as follows:

1. Player contacts the coach, then if further resolution is needed:
2. Parents contact the coach, then if further resolution is needed:
3. Parents contact the Athletic Director:
4. Parents contact the St. Wenceslaus School Principal:
5. Finally, parents contact the School Advisory Board