

St. Sebastian Youth Athletic Committee

Athletic Philosophy (taken from the Archdiocese Policy 6145.2)

Interscholastic athletics can be of value as a supportive element to the total education process. This process concerns the total person, the person's growth as an individual-spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially.

Athletics should provide:

1. A learning experience.
2. A positive base for Christian development.
3. An understanding of competition, emphasizing sportsmanship and teamwork.
4. An opportunity for all participants to develop and share knowledge and skills appropriate to their level.

It is our goal to install in our student athletes a proper "competitive spirit" and a "desire to" perform at full capacity – both as individual and as members of a team.

Sports Policies

Policies established by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Policy 6145.2(b & c):

1. A parish-based team is a team composed of children enrolled in the Catholic school or the religious education program. Participation on a parish-based team requires:
 - a. The parent(s)/guardian must be registered members of the parish/school;
 - b. The student must:
 - i. Attend the parish school; or
 - ii. Attend the parish religious education classes regularly.
2. Requirements for participation apply equally to students in the parish school and in the religious education program. Eligibility to compete will be determined by the students' academic record, effort, attendance and conduct in school (whether Catholic or public), and in religious education classes. Determination of such eligibility criteria will be made by parish and school administration after consultation with staff members and appropriate committees. Written criteria and process shall be published in the parent/student handbook and other forms of communication.
3. There is to be no practice or competition without competent adult supervision. An adult is a person who is 21 years of age.
4. No student may participate in any phase of a school/parish sponsored interscholastic athletic program without a physical examination by a licensed physician/Physician Assistant (PA) or Nurse Practitioner (ANP) every two years. No student may participate in any phase of a school/parish sponsored interscholastic athletic program without a physical examination by a licensed physician every two years.
5. Players must have health insurance; parishes, schools and the archdiocese do not provide such insurance.

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Policies established by St. Sebastian YAC:

1. The St. Sebastian Sports Program supports teams competing at the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade levels. Eligible participants are students in good standing in either the St. Sebastian Day School, or the school of their choice and regular participants in St. Sebastian's Religious Education Program. All eligible athletes will be allowed to participate.
2. Coaches, athletes, and parents will demonstrate good sportsmanship. The Athletic Board supports activities and behavior that reflect the values of our parish community.

Playing Time Guidelines

Playing time guidelines as adopted by the St Sebastian YAC Board include:

5th grade -All team members play **an equal amount** of time regardless of game situations or individual talent.

6th grade -All team members play a substantially equivalent time, **with minimum of 25% of each game/match.**

7th & 8th -Playing time is **up to the coach's discretion.** The YAC Board strongly recommends that each player on a team be allowed to participate to some extent in every game/match.

Playing time may be adjusted for players who have unexcused absents from games and practices or do not participate properly at games or practices.

Playing time guidelines DO NOT apply in tournaments

Tournaments

Volleyball - teams are allowed two tournaments plus the conference tournament at the end of the season.

Basketball – 5th & 6th grade are allowed to play in three tournaments.
7th & 8th grade are allowed to play in four tournaments. Not including the Padre Serra

If a team is given a free entry into a tournament they may play in an additional tournament according to the policies set by the Archdiocese.

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Uniform Policy

Volleyball – Each player will be given a volleyball shirt, which **may not** be altered in any fashion. This shirt must be worn during the season. At the end of the season the players keep these shirts. **BLACK** shorts must be worn with uniform. Players must wear appropriate shoes when on the court.

Basketball – Each player will be issued a jersey & shorts. These **may not** be altered in any fashion. At the end of the season players must return the full uniform that was given to them. These must be cleaned and turned in to the team parent. Players must wear appropriate shoes. Players are encouraged to wear designated court shoes which do not leave scuff marks on the court. These shoes should be used for games and practices, but not worn outdoors especially in inclement weather. Snow and salt tracked in to the gym create problems in the maintenance of the gym floor.

If a team chooses to buy a warm-up shirt this may be done provided that everyone on the team agrees to it. These may be worn before & after an official game but not during (while on the court). A coach may **NOT** purchase warm-ups for the team.

If at the end of the basketball season the uniform that is turned in shows excess of wear or is lost a player will be charged a replacement fee.

If a uniform is not returned or the replacement fee is not paid a student will not be allowed to play in the following season.

Registration Policy

Registration deadline for Volleyball -- June 1st
Registration deadline for Basketball -- October 1st

Registration forms and fees must be received by the YAC board by the established deadlines. Fees are non-refundable after the deadline has passed. Players must have health insurance. Medical forms may be submitted after the established deadlines but must be received by the YAC board before the first practice/tryout .

Registration forms received after the established deadline will be considered on a first come, first serve basis and under the following conditions:

If a team has less than 10 players, additional players can be added up to a 10 player limit.

Additional players will not be allowed regardless of the team size once rosters have been submitted to the league.

Parents' Responsibilities

1. Parents need to make sure that all forms and fees are turned in by the registration due date. Medical forms need to be received **before** the first practice/tryout.

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Players will not be allowed to participate/receive uniforms until YAC's Registration representative receives forms. Do **NOT** drop in the parish office; YAC does have a mailbox in the school office.

2. Parents must support the YAC policies. They are an essential component of a successful program. Therefore, they will be required to assist the YAC in volunteer and fund raising (when so decided) activities.
 - a. Parents will be **required** to work the snack stand/admission table once during each season. If multiple children are playing you may be asked to work a second time. Parents already engaged in service as a coach, assistant coach or YAC board member are deemed to have met this requirement.
3. Parents will conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to themselves, their children, and the St Sebastian parish community.
4. Parents are expected to provide transportation for their children to all practices and games, and to be on time for drop offs and pick ups. A parent should remain with players until a coach arrives.
 - a. Athletes are expected to report for practice 10 minutes early (no more)
 - b. Athletes must wait in the gym lobby until their designated practice time. You may not enter the gym early.
5. Parents are encouraged to attend games in which their child(ren) participate.
6. If an incident occurs that you don't agree with concerning your child and their coach, you must wait 24 hours before talking to the coach.

Athletes' Responsibilities

1. Attendance at all practices and games is expected. It is the athlete's responsibility to inform their coach of any absence prior to a practice or games.
2. Athletes will be responsible for equipment and uniforms issued to them. Uniforms are to be maintained in good order and cleaned after games. Uniforms are to be worn for official games only. The official school uniform must be worn; no other piece may be added or worn in place of.
3. Athletes will conduct themselves appropriately. Sportsmanship is one of the most important things when on a team.
4. Athletes will not use alcohol, tobacco or illegal substances.
5. A student who participates in a parish or school (either parochial, private or public) interscholastic athletic program is ineligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic program of another parish/school for ONE (1) calendar year for the date of registration with the new parish unless there is a change in the primary place of residence of that student's parents or guardian.
6. A student-athlete may participate with a non-archdiocesan team in the same sport during the season provided that the student's priority and commitment is with the parish/school team, and the student maintains the eligibility requirements established by the school administration and published locally. Schools playing in Archdiocesan leagues are considered Archdiocesan teams.

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A game is defined as competitive play between two teams of different schools during which time and score are kept.

A scrimmage is defined as play between two teams of different schools during which no time or score is kept and during which coaches may interrupt action to give coaching advice.

To compete/play is defined as participation in any practice, tryout, game or scrimmage under the supervision of a coach.

Tryouts and Scrimmages are considered a practice.

(This is taken from the Archdiocese Policy 6145.2(a))

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Coaches' Responsibilities

(A coach may be someone who does not have a child or sibling on the team that they intend to coach. The only exception to this is if all resources have been exhausted and there is still no coach available. We will then consider a parent or sibling, with the understanding that we will look for a coach for the following season.)

1. Coaches will see that athletes are given equal opportunity to participate in practice and shall agree to the Playing Time Guidelines stated above.
2. To the best of their ability, coaches are expected to provide coaching in the fundamentals of their respective sports, along with the basics of good sportsmanship and the benefits of team participation.
3. Coaches will conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit to themselves, their athletes and the St. Sebastian parish community.
4. Coaches are responsible for their team members during practices and games, and must have Medical/Emergency Forms in their possession.
5. Coaches are responsible for all equipment issued or used by their team.
6. Coaches will be responsible for getting an assistant coach, if they so desire. A parent may be used as an assistant coach, if the head coach agrees to it. The head coach has the final say on an assistant.
7. Practice times will be scheduled and strictly adhered to. Any changes must be communicated in advance to the athletes and parents.
1. All coaches shall be certified.
 - a. The training programs for certification shall include:
 - i. A basic or core preparation in the Catholic/ Christian philosophy of coaching, risk management, and the prevention and treatment of injuries. Two clock hours (minimum).
 - ii. Training in the specific sport to include rules, practice organization, skill development and coaching behavior. Three clock hours (minimum).
 - b. The basic or core preparation is required to assuming coaching duties. Completion of remaining requirements shall be accomplished within two years of the inception of coaching duties.
 - c. Certification extends for five years upon completion of the five hours minimum requirement. Renewal of certification is dependent upon completion of a minimum of three clock hours.
 - d. Archdiocesan policies related to criminal background checks are the responsibility of the pastor/principals. Starting July 1, 1999, in compliance with a new state law, all coaches and athletic personnel must have an initial criminal background check and a subsequent review every four years.

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Coordinators' Responsibilities

1. The Volleyball and Basketball coordinators will be responsible for making sure that each team gets registered on time.
2. The coordinators will also be responsible for making sure that each team has a coach and that the coach has the appropriate training, as stated above under Coaches Responsibilities. If all resources have been tapped and a suitable coach cannot be found, a parent may then be asked to take on that role, with the understanding that every attempt will be made to find a coach for that next season.
3. The coordinators will set-up practice times for each team, if the St. Sebastian's gym does not allow for all teams to practice there the coordinator will be responsible to find other facilities.
4. If more than one team exists at a specific age level, the coordinator for that sport, along with the current 6th grade coaches will determine which coach will take responsibility for the 'A' team in the seventh grade. If a decision cannot be agreed upon the coordinator will then bring this in front of the YAC Board for a decision.
5. The coordinator will attempt to resolve problems that occur between a player and coach, if the problem cannot be resolved by the coach and player.

Working Out Concerns

The YAC encourages open and direct communication. The following are the proper channels to contact if a problem arises.

1. If a problem does arise we ask that you first start with the coach. This will be done before or after a practice, not during. **Parents must wait 24 hours from the time of the incident before talking to the coach.**
2. If this problem is not resolved then contact the appropriate coordinator (Volleyball or Basketball).
3. If you are still not satisfied please feel free to contact the YAC Board in writing.

Summer Team/League (Policy established by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Policy 6145.2)

1. All practices and games (independent, league and tournament) must take place during the defined sport season. This prohibits all schools and parishes from providing coaches, equipment, school/parish names, liability insurance, and practice and/or game facilities to their school/parish based teams to continue play during the summer in leagues or tournaments in any sport regulated by the Archdiocese. This includes any organized activity such as practices, drills, scrimmages, games, etc.

For a full copy of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee policy 6145 go to
www.nddbbb.org/Athletics_PolicyManual.pdf