

**ST. EUGENE STUDENT & PARENT
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**



BASEBALL  **BASKETBALL**  **CROSS COUNTRY**  **SOCCER**
SOFTBALL  **TRACK AND FIELD**  **VOLLEYBALL**

Statement of Philosophy

We, the Athletic Committee of St. Eugene believe in the following philosophy:

We believe that the athletic program should be integrated in the Catholic-Christian tradition of our school.

We believe the student participants act in a way that encourages the positive performance of their teammates rather than react to the misfortunes of their opponents.

We believe in a selection process and guidelines for the coaching staff that promotes and encourages their professionalism and good sportsmanship.

We believe in assisting the spectators in acquiring a perspective of the place of the athletic program in an elementary school and the emphasis on the need for them to set a good example.

We believe that the athletic program complements the academic program.

We believe in cooperating with the school principal in developing a system to decide eligibility of a student based on academic progress and Christian behavior.

We believe in team competition that recognizes and rewards outstanding performance, however, never at the expense of any of either team's student athletes.

We believe that the school administration and this committee have the right and responsibility to make decisions that will contribute to the well-being and safety of the students in our athletic program.

We believe in recommending and implementing policies that support the total development of the child.

Organization

Athletic Committee Members

The Athletic Committee shall consist of seven (7) members as follows:

- The Athletic Director
- Six Parents who have children attending St. Eugene School.

Athletic Programs Offered (if Adequate Coaches and Players are Available)

<u>Sport/Activity</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Grades</u>
Baseball-Boys	Spring	6-8
Basketball-Instructional	Fall/Winter	4-5
Basketball-Boys and Girls	Fall/Winter	6-8
Cross Country-Boys and Girls	Fall	4-8
Soccer	Fall	5-8
Softball-Girls	Spring	6-8
Track-Boys and Girls	Spring	4-8
Volleyball-Boys and Girls	Winter	5-8

The St. Eugene Athletic Program provides a wide spectrum of competitive sports so that our students can develop strong, healthy, and disciplined bodies and minds.

With enrollment in the program the student will learn the fundamentals of each sport, practice sportsmanship, and through teamwork, develop a sense of responsibility to their teammates and respect for their opponents.

The program is an extension of the St. Eugene academic curriculum and our Catholic principles will govern all participation in it. Participants will strive to make this an enriching learning experience for all involved.

Athletic Eligibility

The following criteria are established for student participation in interscholastic athletics. In addition to meeting these criteria, all student-athletes must adhere to the rules and meet eligibility requirements of the City Suburban Catholic Conference:

- 1) Student-athletes must have submitted their permission/insurance forms and appropriate fees by the established fall, winter, and spring cutoff dates. This is necessary to administer the various sport seasons in an orderly fashion. Failure to submit the required paperwork and fees by the deadline will disqualify a student from participating in that sport's season. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED!**
- 2) A student-athlete must be in good academic standing. Student-athletes who have two grades below a C will be subject to academic suspension. Academic progress will be reviewed by the Principal. The decision to suspend a student for academic reasons will be made at the sole discretion of the Principal.
- 3) Any disciplinary action taken by the school authorities against a student-athlete extends to athletic endeavors and may be cause for suspension or removal from the team. A detention given to a student in school will cause that student to be ineligible to play or practice the day they receive the detention.
- 4) All students will be considered eligible to participate in athletics unless the Principal and/or parents declare the student ineligible due to academic/disciplinary reasons.
- 5) For disciplinary reasons or lack of dedication to a program (e.g. excessive absences, unsportsmanlike conduct), a student may be placed on probation, suspended for a period of time or excluded from the team.
- 6) No student-athlete may participate in an athletic activity on a day that the student did not attend regularly scheduled classes.
- 7) Except for a case involving academic, administrative or disciplinary action, there will be a no-cut policy employed for all teams.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

GRADES

A student-athlete is expected to maintain a good academic standing. Student-athletes who have two grades that are below a C will be subject to academic suspension or dismissal from the team. The student-athlete is expected to keep up with all homework and class assignments and to avoid disciplinary actions (detentions).

CONDUCT

Since the student-athlete is representing St. Eugene School and Parish at all times, he/she must act in a manner that will reflect favorably upon the school, the athlete, and his/her family. This not only means on the sports field or court, but also wherever the athlete may be; at home, on the street, in the halls, in class, or at other schools.

Losing self control or using foul or abusive language or other signs of disrespect are reasons for disciplinary action, reduced playing time or even suspension or expulsion from the team.

A dedicated student-athlete respects his/her team, coach, opponents, and officials of the sport. Athletes will conduct themselves in a Christian manner reflecting Catholic values. School policy will govern in all cases and be enforced by the school administration and faculty.

DRESS

Suitable attire is expected to be worn for all home and away games. The athlete is responsible for their athletic uniform. If it is lost, stolen or damaged, you and your parents are responsible for replacing the uniform.

PRACTICES

Students are expected to be present and on time for all practice sessions. Not attending practices affects the entire team and the sense of teamwork that the coaches are teaching. Missing practices will mean reduced playing time (if any) at subsequent games. Excessive absences may lead to suspension or expulsion from the team. Athletes should be responsible for contacting their coaches if they are unable to attend practice or a game.

PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents play an important part in the student-athlete's success and also that of their team. Parents are not only expected to encourage and support their child's efforts, but they are also expected to contribute their time and services in support of the program. A volunteer program needs everyone's support and help to maintain a high level of quality.

- Parents are expected to support the coach(es). Additional coaching from the sidelines may be confusing to the child and is discouraged.
- Parents are expected to model Catholic values, when expressing concerns, and when dealing with game related situations.
- Parents are expected to provide transportation for their child to and from practices and games. If a ride is needed, please arrange with another player's parent. The student athlete is to be brought to practices and games at the time designated by the coaches. When picking up the athlete please be prompt.
- Parents are not to leave siblings with the student-athlete at practices. Also, parents who are not assistant coaches should not stay at practices unless requested by the Head Coach.
- Parents are encouraged to attend their children's games, and are responsible for other children that may accompany them to the game.

If a parent has a question or concern about playing time or any aspect of the coaching staff's policies or practices, the parent is encouraged to first speak with the coach about the situation. If the issues remain unresolved the parent should bring the matter to the attention of the Athletic Committee through the Athletic Director.

Parents are an integral part of the St. Eugene Athletic Program. Their contributions and cooperation reflect in the program's success. Parents can assist the athletic program by volunteering as a coach, providing gate coverage and concessions for all home games and any other special events throughout the year.

COACHES DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches are appointed by the Athletic Director. They must be 21 years of age or older, have completed and submitted a volunteer form, a Criminal Background Check Form, be knowledgeable in the sport they are coaching and be able to conduct practices and coach in a knowledgeable manner.

Coaches are responsible for their team, its welfare and safety, the team's equipment issued to them and for coordinating and running practices and games. There is to be no team activity without an adult present.

Coaches have the responsibility to:

1. Teach and create an understanding of the rules of the sport.
2. Develop each player's skills within the framework of a team concept.
3. Develop self-confidence, discipline, sportsmanship and leadership in the players.
4. Make this a rewarding learning experience for all involved.
5. Always act in a manner reflecting Christian values.
6. Use common sense and maturity in resolving problems and conflicts.
7. Adhere to the rules, directives and policies of school authorities and the Athletic Committee.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines and carry out these responsibilities will result in a warning and a meeting with the Athletic Committee to discuss the matter. Repeated warnings will result in further action as deemed appropriate by the Athletic Committee.

CONDUCT AT GAMES AND PRACTICES

All St. Eugene team participants and spectators are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship while attending any St. Eugene practice or contest. All are reminded that they are ambassadors of St. Eugene and their behavior reflects not only on themselves but upon the entire St. Eugene community. Players, coaches, and spectators are encouraged to be gracious in defeat and humble in victory and to treat coaches, referees, opponents, and fans with respect. Any individual who has difficulty complying with these principles may be subject to disciplinary action by St. Eugene, including being barred from athletic events.

MANDATORY RULES & REGULATIONS

The following rules must be followed:

- A) There is a **no-cut** policy. However, each player's portion of playing time must reflect their abilities, efforts, grade level, and dedication to the team and attendance at practices. Except for academic or disciplinary reasons these playing time rules will be enforced;
 - 1. Basketball-At the 4th and 5th grade levels, every player must have equal playing time and must play in each game.
 - 2. At the 6th grade level all players are to play six minutes in every game.
 - 3. At the 7th and 8th grade levels, playing time is situational and role related. Coaches are instructed to provide playing time for all players, in each game, consistent with the player's dedication and commitment.
- B) Missing practice shall be cause for reduced playing time.
- C) A player designated by the faculty and principal as being ineligible will remain ineligible until reinstated by the principal.
- D) Losing self-control or conduct unbecoming a Christian athlete will be cause for disciplinary action. The athlete will be advised of the reasons for disciplinary action and what may be done to correct the situation.
- E) Any change of schedule or location for practices or games is the coach's responsibility to communicate to players and parents. Coaches should not assume that players get the message home.
- F) The head coach is responsible for making sure that officials are compensated.
- G) Concerns regarding playing time should be addressed to the Athletic Director or Committee Members.
- H) All injuries, no matter how minor in nature, should be reported to the team's coach immediately. This will prevent minor injuries from getting worse. If an athlete must see a physician for an injury, the athlete will not be allowed to resume practicing or competing without the physician's consent. The A.D. or a Committee member is to be notified by the coach of all injuries requiring medical attention. This should be done within twenty-four (24) hours following the injury.

Closing Statement

The St. Eugene Athletic Committee adheres to guidelines presented in the Archdiocesan Athletics in the Elementary School Handbook, the St. Eugene Family Handbook, this Athletic Handbook, and all rules of the City Suburban Catholic Conference.

St. Eugene School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national or ethnic origin in its admission or hiring policies, educational programs, loan or scholarship programs, athletics or any other school-administered program.

St. Eugene Athletic Handbook Agreement Form

Please sign and return the Agreement Form found on the last page of this handbook to the school office. (One form per athlete per school year.)

St. Eugene Athletic Handbook Agreement Form

Please sign and return this form (one per athlete) to the school office.

I, _____ (please print student's name), have read the St. Eugene Athletic Handbook and agree that to the best of my abilities I will abide by the rules stated in this handbook.

_____ **Student Signature**

_____ **Parent Signature**

_____ **Date**