

# SAINT PAUL SCHOOL ATHLETICS 2017-2018

## Philosophy

The athletic programs strive to teach the values of teamwork, mutual respect, enjoyment, development of talents, a healthy sense of competition, self-discipline, honesty and positive name recognition in the community in a religious/academic environment that remains the primary focus.

## Booster Club

The Booster Club is made up of the parents/guardians of those children who are participating in the sports programs at Saint Paul School. A booster club is necessary to provide financial and volunteer support to enable student athletes to participate in the Deanery sports programs. Children are able to participate on a school team, where spirituality, school spirit and support for one another are encouraged and developed. From the moment your child makes the decision to participate on one of the sport teams you are automatically a member.

Our goal is to communicate with everyone as efficiently and effectively as possible. We have found that email tends to work best in getting information out and questions answered. You will receive emails from the Booster Club, your coach(es), the administration team of SPS and the Athletic Director. Please use these email addresses to communicate any questions you may have throughout the season. Your email will also be included in a group email listing for your child's team.

### \*\*\*\*\* Membership/Parental Responsibilities \*\*\*\*\*

#### As a member of the Booster Club you are required to:

- work during home basketball games for a minimum of 2 shifts
- participate in Booster Club related fundraising.

#### Work assignments for home basketball games consist of:

- running the concession stand
- collecting admission fees
- running the scoreboard/clock
- keeping the scorebook
- cleanin up the concession stand and/or bleacher area after the games

#### Additional assignments include:

- Assisting with gym set-up on game days
- Assisting with basketball tournaments held at Saint Paul School (these shifts would be in addition to those mentioned above)
- Assisting with the distribution and collection of uniforms
- Assisting with Booster Club fundraisers and activities
- Assisting SPS Athletics where needed.

Please note: You may or may not be assigned to work at your own child's games. The scheduler reserves the right to assign Booster Club members to events where workers are needed in order for all events to be covered. ALL of the work assignments must be filled for each home game in order for the event to occur. We appreciate your flexibility.

## Hosting Games

There must be a large base of volunteers who are willing to work positions during games or help with overall league management. Hosting is not only a potential source of additional revenue; it also helps to establish a sense of community for our participants and others.

All parents/guardians whose children are participants in the SPS sports program are expected to support the sports programs by working at a minimum of two home basketball games. An online Sign Up page will be created and you will be asked to sign up to work shifts that are convenient for you. In the event that some shifts are not filled as an event date approaches, you may be assigned to a shift. Please understand that we are trying to work with everyone and make sure that the events are successful for all of our children. Every attempt will be made to coordinate the volunteer schedule with your family schedule. If you are unable to attend any assigned shift for any reason, it is your responsibility to get a substitute to work for you. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, games scheduled on that day will also be cancelled and your work schedule will be transferred to the make-up date. If you are unable to work the make-up date please find a substitute to work for you. As a last resort, if you cannot find a substitute, please email the Booster Club Volunteer Coordinator. We appreciate your patience and thank you in advance for your support.

Other assignments and/or fund raising events may be announced during the year. We will ask your help at those events and will give you ample opportunity to coordinate it with your schedule.

Those whose children are not participants in the sports program but who are interested in helping SPS Athletics to raise money are also encouraged and welcome to help out with our sports leagues.

## Academics and Eligibility

The Principal may choose to suspend a player from the team due to lack of effort, failure to complete assigned work, failing grades, or another just cause.

Parents and administrators can declare an athlete ineligible at any time throughout the school year because of poor academic performance or other circumstances, i.e. discipline.

Athletes are responsible for obtaining and completing homework assignments on time. Athletic competition is not a reason to miss homework or to be absent from school.

Eligibility to participate in Saint Paul School (SPS) Athletics will vary for different sports. The following eligibility rules are in effect for the 2017-2018 season, and any changes to these rules will be provided prior to the beginning of each season:

- Basketball - Grade 2 through Grade 8
- Soccer - Grade 3 through Grade 8
- Cheer - Grade 1 through Grade 8
- Cross Country - Grade 6 through 8 (Grade 5 may be included at the discretion of the coach.)

Due to academic and physical demands placed on the athlete during the season, we recommend that athletes refrain from participation in any other organized athletic team outside of Saint Paul School during the season that they are participating in one of our programs.

## **Nondiscriminatory Policy**

SPS Athletics admits any students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students within the association. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletics programs.

## **Procedure for Registration**

SPS students wishing to participate in a sport must fill out an online registration form. Registration forms must be completed and related fees must be submitted on or before the designated due date.

## **Fees and Other Costs**

All sports offered through SPS Athletics have different fees required for participation. These fees are designed to cover most, if not all, of the operating costs related to that sport. The fee structure for all sports is available on the Sports Registration form on the school website, including all discounts for multiple sports, siblings, etc. ***Registrations will not be accepted without full payment of registration fees.***

Fees cover the costs for league fees, tournament entry fees, referee costs, field charges, uniform & equipment purchases, awards to graduating SPS student-athletes, facility improvements, and other costs associated with running an athletic program.

Other costs:

- Cheerleading, basketball and softball uniforms are provided for each player with the exception of footwear, which should be individually purchased at the location of your choice. Uniforms are only worn for games and must be returned at the end of the season. If you fail to return a uniform in good condition you will be assessed a replacement fee. In some instances, students may be asked to purchase a ‘practice shirt’ and this shirt will become the property of the student at the end of the season.
- There is an admission fee for games which is paid at the door at each event by all spectators. Members of the Booster Club who are working a shift at an event are not required to pay an admission fee for that particular event. Booster Club members who are not working are expected to pay the admission fee.
- The concession stand is available at each event. Food & beverage purchases will support the activities of the Booster Club and the school.
- Personal equipment necessary for any sport is the responsibility of individual participants.

## Refund Policy

Anyone who is unable to participate in a sport and wishes to receive a refund must contact the Principal (AD?). Fees will be refunded according to the following schedule:

- Prior to registration deadline: *100%*
- After official roster is prepared and submitted (approximately one week prior to the first game): *50%*
- After first official game or contest: *No refund*

## Gymnasium

The Saint Paul School gymnasium is where all indoor practices are held. Any basketball games that are listed as “home games” will be played at this facility. An adult must accompany all children who use the gymnasium before or after regularly scheduled practices. No student should be in the gymnasium without an adult present. Students are not permitted to go into the equipment room or concession stand areas without direct permission from the coach or assistant coach.. This is solely for reason of safety and wellbeing of the children.

## After School Care Policy

If a sports team has practice after school (*after 3:15 PM and until 4:00 PM*), students have the following options:

- They may go home, change for practice and return for the scheduled practice time. Upon return for practice, a parent must accompany the student into the gym and wait until the coach arrives. *No student may be without supervision in the gym.*
- Students may attend aftercare for the standard fee. They must adhere to the rules set by the aftercare staff and remain under their supervision until they are dismissed to attend practice.

## Coaches' Creed

All Saint Paul School coaches will follow the Saint Paul School Athletics Creed:

I BELIEVE sports have an important place in the general educational scheme and pledge myself to cooperate with others in the field of coaching to provide better opportunities for all participants.

I BELIEVE the other coaches of sports are earnest in their desire to keep the SPS program on the plane of citizenship training and I shall do all that I can to further their efforts.

I SHALL ABIDE by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.

I BELIEVE in the exercise of all the patience, tolerance and diplomacy at my command in my relations with all players, coworkers, parents, game officials and spectators.

I BELIEVE proper administration of all sports offers effective laboratory methods of development of high ideals of sportsmanship, qualities of cooperation, courage, unselfishness and self-control desires for clean, healthful living and respect for wise discipline and authority.

I BELIEVE these admirable characteristics, properly instilled by me through teaching and demonstration, will have a long carry-over and will aid each one connected with the sport to become a better citizen and Christian.

I BELIEVE in and will support all reasonable moves to improve athletic conditions, to provide for adequate equipment, and to promote the welfare of an increased number of participants.

## **Coaching Expectations and Requirements**

The Administration of Saint Paul School is committed to securing the best-qualified coaches for its sports teams. These qualifications include, but are not limited to:

1. Acceptance, integration, implementation and a clear understanding of Saint Paul School's Mission and goals
2. Ability to constructively teach all participants, regardless of skill level
3. Ability to organize, run and control practices
4. Positive attitude and coaching style
5. Good communication skills
6. Coaching ability to effectively teach the sport
7. Adequate knowledge of the sport
8. Ability to provide a safe physical environment for all

**All coaches must be Virtus trained and have an up-to-date criminal background check.**

Coaches are required to have and attend practices, games and meetings related to their team. Coaches are responsible for securing a substitute or notifying participants of a cancellation when they are unable to attend a practice. ALL COACHES, SUBSTITUTES, ASSISTANTS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUS TRAINING AND SUBMIT A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION TO THE PRINCIPAL.

A coach is expected to be at practice before any student arrives and must make sure that all children have left before he/she leaves practice, or must designate another adult who agrees to take on those responsibilities. Coaches also must not tolerate any abuse or mistreatment of players, parents or others by any member of a team. This means a zero tolerance policy for "poking fun" at people or verbally and/or physically abusing others.

Coaches should attend every game and arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the start of the game to prepare their team for the contest. It is important, and required, that coaches report any problems with equipment, players, parents, or others to the Athletic Director within 24 hours of a problem. This will ensure the safety of all participants and allow for appropriate action to be taken.

Coaches should be patient and tolerant of all children, and understand the level of maturity at which they coach. They must be cautious not to have unrealistic expectations, but be willing to challenge each participant to reach potential goals. Coaches must have the understanding that their impact on the lives of many of these children is of incredible importance and thus must display good moral and ethical behaviors.

*Coaches are the backbone of any sports program. All parents and students participating in SPS Athletics should make sure to thank them and offer any means of support to help them be the best coach to all the participants.*

### Coaches Selection Process

Selection, recommendations and evaluations of the coaches are primarily the responsibilities of school administrators.

### Evaluation of Coaches

There will be ongoing observation and supervision of coaches by the Principal and Athletic Director.

## **Communication**

Any communication with the media, press release, mailings or similar communications, shall be coordinated by the administration and the publicity committee of the School Board. All releases of information are subject to privacy policies and must be approved by Saint Paul School.

Coaches will conduct and parents are expected to attend a pre-season meeting during which coaches will communicate team and student athlete expectation, the code of conduct, scheduling of practices and other important issues.

## **Conduct – Parent, Coach and Student Expectations**

### Parents’/Guardians’ Code of Conduct

1. I will become familiar with the rules of the sport in which my child is participating.
2. I will teach, as well as demonstrate, good sportsmanship.
3. I will treat all coaches, players, parents/guardians, officials, referees and spectators with dignity and respect and will avoid any verbal or physical abuse of these people during games and/or practices.
4. I will support the coach in his/her efforts to teach skills, teamwork and good sportsmanship to the players.
5. I will refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines of a practice, scrimmage or game. I will direct any concerns that may arise with the coach privately afterwards.
6. In public, I will support all coaches’ and referees’ decisions regarding my child and his/her teammates during a game or practice. I will direct any concerns that may arise with the coach privately afterwards.
7. I will be sure that my child arrives on time to all practices, scrimmages and games. I will inform the coach in advance if my child cannot attend a practice, scrimmage or game.
8. I will abide by the by-laws, standing rules and regulations with respect to sports programs as set forth by the Archdiocese of Hartford, Saint Paul Parish and School, and Saint Paul School Athletics.
9. I will help the team whenever possible by providing my services as requested by the Booster Club or coach.

The Principal reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of any action if any doubt arises.

### Student Expectations

Items such as, but not limited to, questionable publications (books and pictures), knives, matches, cigarettes, radios, toys, pagers, laser lights, or anything that will detract from a learning situation or in any way endanger anyone are not allowed at practices or events. Cell phones must be turned off and left in gym bags during practice.

Athletes should follow the guidelines in the *Student/Parent Handbook* with regard to appearance in school and at athletic contests.

### Team Conduct

During practices all ordinary discipline matters are the responsibility of the coach. The following procedures help set an atmosphere necessary for learning:

- At the beginning of the school year, coaches outline expectations for student conduct, practice and game attendance.
- Coaches set practice rules and give a copy to all players and parents.
- Well-planned practices that keep students on task decrease the time available for misconduct.

Behaviors which are not conducive to good discipline include:

- Repeated screaming done by a coach or assistant. This is professionally unacceptable.
- Threats of unrealistic punishments
- Repeated warnings with no follow-up
- Inconsistent adherence to rules
- Inappropriate language

If misconduct occurs, any or all of the following may be helpful (punishment should be for behavior and not for academic performance):

- Private discussion with the student
- Loss of privileges for the athlete
- Running punishments of reasonable length
- Time-out in the gym. Students should not be placed outside of the gym for time-out. Students should be notified that the Athletic Director will speak with them about their behavior. The coach may need to set up a conference with the parents to alert them and discuss possible strategies for improvement.

### Behavior and Sportsmanship

Athletes are responsible for their actions and behavior on and off the court or field. Administrators can declare an athlete ineligible at any time due to problem behavior either during or outside of school hours.

The administration and coach will determine the appropriate disciplinary action for each case of poor sportsmanship. An athlete who exhibits poor sportsmanship may be suspended or expelled from a team.

The administration and coach will determine the appropriate disciplinary action for athletes who receive multiple detentions. An athlete who receives multiple detentions may be suspended or expelled from a team.

An athlete who is suspended from the school will also be suspended from any sports team for the same period of time.

Coaches will determine any disciplinary action for athletes who are constantly late for practice.

## **Criminal Background Check**

Any person interested in coaching as either a head coach, assistant or volunteer must complete the **Virtus Training** program in addition to a **criminal background check**. This information will be kept on file in the Principal's office. Any persons with questionable background checks will be denied coaching opportunities with all SPS sports. The Principal will notify these individuals directly. ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

## **Disciplinary Policy**

In coaching any athletic team, it is critical that every member of the coaching staff know what constitutes acceptable measures of disciplining a child or handling other problems. This helps to prevent many problems that can result from a conflict between coaches and players.

1. All children are to be treated with respect and are not to be demeaned in any way, shape or form.
2. Any child acting outside of the guidelines established by the coach will be warned as to the consequences if the behavior is repeated. This warning should include specifics such as running two laps, sitting out the rest of the practice, suspension from a game, etc. Penalties appropriate to the age and maturity level of the children should be assigned. This warning will be communicated to the child's parents.
3. Should there be a time where an individual player has repeatedly become a problem, the parents and the Athletic Director should be notified before the next practice. A meeting with the parents and child to discuss the situation should be scheduled. At no time should a child be separated from other children to be spoken to by a coach.
4. At NO time should any person be berated, embarrassed or singled out as an "example".
5. The coach should initially handle any parent complaints and contact the Athletic Director of the situation. If the problem persists it may then be addressed by the Principal.
6. Physical punishment is not an acceptable form of disciplining any athlete and will be grounds for immediate termination of the coach.
7. Coaches must be consistent in their disciplining methods with all children. No athlete should ever be given special treatment regardless of their talent level. Coaches who are models of fairness help children to learn values of equity.
8. Coaches should contact the Principal or Athletic Coordinator regarding any issues or problems that are questionable in nature for further direction and/or actions to take regarding the situation.

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

Drinking alcohol, using other controlled substances, smoking or using other tobacco products will result in immediate suspension from school and the team.

## **Equipment**

SPS Athletics will provide most of the necessary equipment for sports teams. Athletes are responsible for the care and security of their uniforms and any equipment. Equipment and uniforms must be turned in, clean and in good condition, on the date designated by the coaches or the Booster Club. If your child's uniform or equipment is not turned in you will be responsible for the cost of replacement.

There are several places for storage of team equipment. No children are allowed, without approval from the coach, to be in these areas. This includes entry into these areas to get basketballs, etc. for practice. The coach will make sure that each team has the proper equipment for its sport. In order to keep the equipment on hand and in good condition, as well as keeping participants' safety as a prime focus, only select individuals will be given access to these areas.



## **Grievance Procedure**

An individual or team grievance may include any perceived or enacted unfair or prejudicial treatment of a player by a coach. A grievance should be handled in the following manner:

1. Set up a time to discuss the issue with the coach. If the situation is not remedied, then
2. Set up a time to discuss the issue with the Principal and Athletic Director. Decisions of the Principal are final.

## **Health/Physical Requirements**

Every player must have current physical (within the previous 12 months) on file in the nurse's office prior to the beginning of the season.

SPS sports teams require different degrees of physical activity. Participants must understand the requirements for each sport and make sure that they are in appropriate physical condition to safely play the sport. Unless there is a medical condition that prohibits a participant from doing a certain drill or activity, all participants will be expected to follow the drills and physical activity requirements requested by the coach(es). Please know that these drills are necessary to improve performance on the court/field and are part of the learning and growth on all sports teams. If there is a medical condition present that prevents participation in these activities you must notify the Principal, in writing, as to the nature and extent of the condition. Upon reviewing the information, the Principal reserves the right to deny such participants from participating if it seems to be in the best interest of the child and/or other participants.

## **League Participation/Affiliation**

The Principal or Athletic Director must approve all participation in tournaments by Saint Paul teams *prior to* signing up for them.

## **Lost and Found**

Any items found in the gymnasium or on playing fields should be turned in to the office or placed in the Lost and Found basket. Items placed in Lost and Found will remain for 30 days. After 30 days, items may be donated to charity.

## **Official Roster**

All SPS sports teams will have an official roster, which will list each participant, his/her grade level, and other relevant information. This roster must be sent to the league prior to the deadline. All participants must be on this official roster in order to be eligible for play.

## Playing Time

Playing time for all participants is left up to the discretion of each individual coach. However, there are some general guidelines that coaches follow in order to assist them in determining playing time for all participants. These are:

- Regular attendance at practices and games
- Positive attitude and interactions with others
- Respecting players, parents and coaches
- Obeying the rules set by the coaching staff
- WORKING HARD at practices and games
- BEING ON TIME FOR PRACTICES AND GAMES
- Being responsible to the team by notifying the coach in advance of missing a practice or game

It is important to know that players who do not listen to the coach, follow directions, hustle and/or those who display negative attitudes may not receive as much playing time as others who adhere to these guidelines. The coach will determine playing time for each team member. Please encourage your children to adhere to the above guidelines and consequently their playing time may reflect this effort.

## Playing Up

Playing up refers to a player who participates on a team that is one level above his/her own grade. The purpose of playing up is to fill a team with the necessary number of players for participation in games. These players will practice with the team on which they are “playing up”.

Players who are asked to play up on a team are selected by this method:

1. The coach of each team (on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams) may select players and recommend them for playing up if such a need arises, depending on the number of participants at the next level. The Principal and the Athletic Director will make the final decision as to whether a player should be eligible to do so.
2. The parents of the player will be contacted directly by the coach, and asked if they permit their child to play up. The parent must provide written permission for his/her child to play up. If not, their child will not be eligible to play up. An alternate *may* be chosen at this point.
3. Once final approval is received from the player’s parent, the child is added to the official roster of the team for which he/she is asked to play up.
4. The player is then given a copy of the team’s game schedule and given the information on when to arrive for games, what to wear, etc. All players who have the opportunity to play up are not guaranteed any amount of playing time. The coach will make an effort to give the player some court/field time, but this cannot be promised.

Playing up is normally only done when there are fewer than two substitutes (for most sports). No players will play up purely for a competitive advantage. All participants on teams should be given opportunities for game play and growth on their own teams.

If a player is asked to play up and meets all of the guidelines above, he/she must realize the practice limitations for his/her own grade level and adhere to these guidelines. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are limited to no more than two practices per week, each not to exceed 1½ hours in length. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade practices will not exceed 2 hours a day and no more than two practices during the week, and one on the weekend (3 total). 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

level practices can be no more than two hours in length, with three days during the week and one day on the weekend (4 total). These guidelines are the maximum allowable and do not mean that our teams will practice to this extent.

For tournament play, there will be players playing up who are on the roster in case there are not enough regular team participants to play. These players may not have played with the team in the regular season and can be allowed to practice with this team (with the permission of the Principal and their parents) as long as they do not exceed the amount of practice time for their grade level. All players who play up and have a game time conflict between their regular team and the team for which they are playing up will be obligated to play for their own grade level.

## **Practices/Games**

Practices for any SPS Athletic team will not exceed the practice limits mentioned in the previous section. All teams on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade level can expect to practice once per week. Fifth and 6<sup>th</sup> grade participants can expect to practice once or twice per week, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade players can expect to practice twice per week and occasionally on the weekend.

When registering for any sport, participants must make sure they are aware of the commitment they are making and should not sign up if they are unable to complete their homework and be a consistent, reliable contributor to their team. Parents should make sure that their children do not over-commit themselves by signing up for several sports.

All team members should arrive for their practice approximately five or ten minutes prior to their scheduled practice time. If there is no adult present, the player's parent or guardian must stay until another adult arrives and oversees the players. At no time should any child in any grade level be left unattended in the gym or on the playing field.

Anyone is welcome to watch a practice but is expected to be a silent spectator. Coaching from the sidelines is inappropriate and will not be allowed. Players receive mixed messages when trying to listen to their parents and coaches simultaneously. Please, let the coaches coach!

### Attendance

Participants on SPS sports teams do need to make every effort to attend all practices and games. Schoolwork is the first priority, however, and if a player has a large amount of homework or a major test, his/her parent should notify the coach as soon as possible if a practice or game may be missed. This is very important because many coaches plan their practice agendas with specific drills that require a certain number of players. Players who miss practice on a regular basis will not receive the same amount of playing time as those who attend regularly because of not having the opportunity to learn plays, skills, etc.

At the discretion of the coach, an unexcused absence from practice may result in suspension from competition in the next game. Multiple unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team. To be excused from practice, sufficient reason must be given to the coach at the earliest possible time.

On days when school is cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather or other reasons, practices and/or home games are cancelled as well.

Each athlete is responsible for attending all practices and games including those held during vacation periods and all post-season competition. If vacations are planned during a sport's season, the coach reserves the right to establish the consequences for the athlete's absence.

Absence from school means the athlete is ineligible to play in an athletic contest scheduled that day and is not allowed to report to practice. Exceptions to this rule (e.g., funeral of a family member, etc.) are at the discretion of the Principal.

If an athlete is unable to participate due to injury or illness, he/she is expected to attend games unless conditions prevent it, or he/she is excused by the coach.

### Scheduling Guidelines

Gym time for all teams will be coordinated through the Principal and Athletic Director. Practice times will be worked out based on the coach's availability but will not exceed a 9:00 PM ending time. It may be necessary in some practices to share the court with another team.

The following guidelines must be followed:

- All official practices for basketball are not to begin until October 15<sup>th</sup>. **Optional** practices may begin before this date.
- No practices or games may be scheduled during mid-term exams for middle school students in January.
- The school gym is used by the school community and the parish. To avoid conflict all events must be scheduled on the school calendar under the supervision of the school's business manager.
- No event is to be scheduled that will interfere with traffic flow during Saturday and Sunday masses. Events in the gym must end by 3:30 PM or begin after 5:15 PM on Saturdays. On Sundays, events are not to begin prior to 1:00 PM.
- Practices must end by 9:00 PM and the building must be secured and vacated by 9:45 PM.
- Please be mindful that the religious education program uses the building as well. The safety of all children and visitors in the parking lot is of the utmost concern.

## **Right to Amend**

SPS Athletics or the Principal reserves the right to amend this policy guide at any time.

## **Safety**

SPS Athletics provides a safe environment for all individuals. Verbal or written threats made against the physical or emotional well being of any individual will be taken seriously. Anyone making such threats (seriously or in jest) faces suspension and/or expulsion from SPS sports and possibly from school.

## **Service Opportunities**

Any student in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or any Saint Paul School alumni interested in earning service hours can do so through volunteering for activities within the SPS sports program. A variety of opportunities for service hours include volunteer coaching, working the admissions table and working the concession stand. Please contact the Booster Club representatives for more information.

## Sports Offered

Saint Paul School Athletics currently offers the following sports:

- Boys' and Girls' Basketball (grades 2-8)
- Cheerleading (grades 1-8)
- Soccer (grades 3-8)
- Cross Country

## Weather Policy

Any school cancellations will result in cancellation of regular practices and events. In the event of poor weather conditions on game days, coaches will email and/or text parents so that each team member knows a game has been cancelled. *Please make sure your child's coach has your correct contact information.*

For all outside sports, in the event of thunder, coaches should be actively looking for any signs of lightning. Play can continue if there is no sign of lightning and if other weather conditions permit. If there is any sighting of lightning, no matter how distant, playing must cease. Everyone must leave the field and take cover in a covered shelter. Coaches are responsible for issuing this directive in the event that the Athletic Director or an official is not present. In order for play to resume, there must have been no sign of any lightning for thirty minutes since the last sighting. [Please note that soccer games are typically *not* cancelled due to rain, unless thunder and/or lightning are present.]

In the event of rain during the regular school week, every effort will be made to make any cancellation decisions for practices by 12:00 PM. Participants will be notified on the P.A. system at school. For any clinics or practices taking place on weekends coaches will notify parents by text and/or email when necessary.

Please complete and return to the school office Attention: Athletic Director.

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## **Athletics Handbook Agreement**

We have read the Saint Paul School Athletics handbook and agree to follow its policies and procedures as stated. We also understand that participation in all athletic activities is a privilege, not a right.

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Parent/Guardian signature(s)

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Student signature

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Student signature (additional child in family)

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Student signature (additional child in family)

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Date