

**ST. PATRICK'S
ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**



SPORTS HANDBOOK

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I. Introduction:

Welcome to St. Patrick's Sports! This handbook should familiarize all student-athletes, coaches and parents with the goals, guidelines, and policies of the St. Patrick's Athletic Committee.

The St. Patrick's Athletic Committee "Committee" was created by the Parish to promote the health and well-being of the parish. The Committee of volunteers provides athletic programs for children of the Parish and all ages. The Committee reports to the Parish Council. The Committee receives no funding assistance from the School or Parish.

Who: Any member of the Parish who has reached the age of nineteen can become a member.

What: The Committee administers all parish athletic programs, cares for the athletic fields, and sports equipment. The Committee provides funding for equipment and services related to sports and physical education.

When: The Committee meets at 7:00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month except June, July & December.

II. Mission Statement:

To advance the teachings of Jesus Christ and His church through the development of the whole person – spiritual, mental and physical. SPPAC is committed to Christian competition which is an extension and an expression of the values upon which our religious beliefs are based. Through love of God and love of neighbor, our intention is to provide programs and direction that allow all members and participants to maximize the talents which God has bestowed.

III. An Athlete's Prayer:

It is suggested that St. Patrick's athletic teams say the following prayer before games:

God, let me play well but fairly.

Let competition make me strong, but never hostile.

Forbid me to rejoice in the adversity of others.

See me not when I am cheered, but when I bend to help my opponent up.

If I know victory, allow me to be happy.

If I am denied keep me from envy.

Remind me that sports are just games.

Help me to learn something that matters once the game is over.

And if through athletics I set an example, let it be a good one.

IV. Administration:

The current officers and chairpersons of the Committee are:

Officers (2018/2019 school year)		
Athletic Director	Ryan Shanle	rshanle@stpatsetkhorn.org
President	Todd Beran	tberan@evolvebenefitsne.com
Vice President	Kevin Ortmeier	Kevin.ortmeier@bcdtravel.com
Treasurer	Rich Kumke	rkumke@darstcpa.com
Secretary	Adam DeMuth	Adam.DeMuth@siriuscom.com
Committee Chairs (2012/2013 school year)		
Activity	Chair	
Baseball	Brett Suing	bsue23@hotmail.com
Basketball - PAL	Andy Simpson	Andy@farnhamandsimpsonlaw.com
Cheerleading	Katie Frazell	ktfrazell@gmail.com
PAL Tackle Football	Todd Beran	tberan@evolvebenefitsne.com
Flag Football	Travis Schwartz	teschwartz1@yahoo.com
CYSL Soccer	Troy Nick	troy.nick@hpe.com
Soccer - Micro	Carrie Sova	Kizerck1@gmail.com
Softball	Johann Fry	bojifys@msn.com
T-Ball	Todd Beran	tberan@evolvebenefitsne.com
PAL Track	Brian Drueke	Brian.drueke@kiewit.com
Basketball - Micro	Dan McLaughlin	Dan626mcl@yahoo.com
PAL Volleyball	Candace Thompson	CThompson@stpatsetkhorn.org

See SPAC ByLaws for more information on duties and responsibilities.

V. Communications & Information

All information pertaining to the Committee and its programs can be found on the St. Patrick's website (www.stpatsetkhorn.org), including the following:

- By-Laws and Guidelines-Governing documents of the Committee

- Sports Handbook-General information and policies of the Committee
- On-Line Registration Link-Register for all Committee sponsored activities
- Committee Summary-Links to Committee meeting minutes and Angels logo
- Sports Information Summary-List of all current sponsored and recommended local sports
 - Includes links to individual sport guidelines, registration fees, schedules, parent notes, coaches notes, and resources

VI. Sports Overview

The following is a brief overview of our sponsored programs. For more detailed information on these programs and local non-sponsored sports, consult the website.

Micro Soccer- is an in-house (intramural) program designed to teach Preschool through Kindergarten children the basics of soccer in a fun and friendly environment. Micro Soccer is played in the fall and spring on Saturday mornings. Players purchases a jersey to wear during an approximate 6 week season which can be used for flag football, t- ball and micro soccer.

CYSL Soccer- is open to all children in grades 1-8. Team placement is by grade, as allowed by the Catholic Youth Soccer League (CYSL). This is a recreational soccer program that plays games against other area Catholic school teams. There are both fall and spring seasons. Parents should expect at least one practice and one game per week, with some in-city travel required. Focus of the coaching will be on fun and individual skills development. Parents are required to purchase a uniform.

Flag Football- is open to all children in grades K-3rd. This is an in-house (intramural) program designed to teach kids the basics of football in an informal fun setting. The season is 6 weeks long and there is one practice during the week and games are held on Sunday afternoons in the fall. A one time, multi-purpose jerseys must be purchased but are used for T-Ball and Micro Soccer as well.

PAL Tackle Football- is open to all 7th & 8th grade boys. The season begins in August. Players are required to provide their own mouth guards, chinstraps, shoes and gloves. The team practices at St. Patrick's, and plays in the Parochial Athletic League (PAL). Parents should expect

3-4 practices right after school at St. Patrick's and one game per week, with some travel required.

PAL Volleyball- is open to all girls in 3rd - 8th grades. 3rd- 5th grade is recreational, upper grades can be competitive. Tryouts for team placement will be required for any grade able to field more than one team which take place in May. Practices are usually held 1-2 times a week. Most games are on Saturdays, but some weeknights should be anticipated. Some in-city travel will be necessary.

PAL Basketball- is open to boys and girls in the 5th-8th grades. Play begins in November. 5th grade is recreational, upper grades can be competitive. Tryouts for team placement will be required for any grade able to field more than one team. Parents should expect 1-2 practices per week, with games against other schools played on Saturdays or weeknights.

PAL Track & Field- is open to boys and girls in the 6th-8th grades depending upon interest. This is a spring sport with practices starting in March. There are usually 5 meets running April through early May. Practices are held 2-3 times per week, and meets are on Saturdays.

T-Ball- is open to boys and girls in PreS - Kindergarten. This is a spring sport with play starting in April. The in-house (intramural) play is coed and recreational. Games are held on Saturdays after micro soccer and there are no separate nights for practices. The same one time purchased jersey is used for micro soccer, flag football and t-ball.

Baseball and Softball – is open to boys and girls in the 1st – 8th grades. Registration is from around December through February and league play and registration is done through Elkhorn Athletic Association. Depending on the age level practices per week, games per week, and fees vary.

Annual Sports Banquet- is an event to recognize the participation and accomplishments of our 6th-8th grade student-athletes. Held in late April, athletes will receive pins in recognition of sports participation as well as many special awards.

VII. Competitive & Teaming Philosophy:

4th Grade and younger: The activities offered at these ages are recreational and instructive in nature. Focus remains on having fun and learning the basic fundamentals of the activity. Coaches at this level should be more concerned with sportsmanship than the win-loss record.

Coaches must strive to create equal playing time at this age. Team formation will be largely at random.

5th & 6th Grades: Fun, instruction and sportsmanship should still play a larger role than winning. Playing time is still to be equal during the regular season. It is acceptable to use more competitive strategies when playing in a tournament setting. Team formation may be based on skill level.

7th & 8th Grades: Athletes should start to show interest in the competitive nature of the activity. Instruction, enjoyment and sportsmanship do not become less important. At this level our philosophy is to be “competitive”, meaning we will strive to win the competition. Each member of a team at this level should be prepared to accept the role the coach assigns them. Players who receive less playing time are expected to show good sportsmanship and support the coach and team. Team formation will be largely based on skill level.

VIII. Parent Code of Ethics:

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Code of Ethics:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and fans; at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire for achievement.
- I will insist that my child participate in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide the support for coaches and officials working with my child, to create a positive, enjoyable experience for all, this includes not coaching my child from the sideline.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free sports environment; and agree to refrain from their use during youth sports events.
- I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will require my child to treat all players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
- I promise to help my child enjoy youth sports by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation, or whatever else I am capable of doing.
- I understand that signing up my child is a commitment to a St. Patrick’s team. Therefore, playing time could be affected if several practices are missed due to other commitments.
- I will respect all facilities by keeping them clean, parking in designated areas, and controlling my other children when in attendance at events or practice.

IX. Athlete Code of Ethics:

I understand that playing for St. Patrick's is a privilege and an honor. My actions reflect upon my teammates, my parish and myself. Therefore, I promise to conduct myself in accordance with the following:

- I will do my best to maintain appropriate academic and behavioral expectations as outlined in the St. Patrick's Family Handbook.
- All athletes are expected to be at all practices and games. I will notify my coach in advance if I am unable to attend a practice or game.
- I will not practice or play in a game if I missed school that day.
- I understand that my playing time could be affected by my failure to attend practice.
- I understand that if I am suspended a half to full day, my practice and next game will be affected by the following; a half day suspension renders a loss of one practice and a half of the next game and a full day suspension renders a loss of practice and a full game following suspension.
- I will treat every player, coach, official, parent and administrator with respect and dignity.
- I will respect the equipment and facilities of St. Patrick's, each opposing team, and any facility used for practices or games.
- I will refrain from derogatory comments about my teammates, opposing players, and officials; and will act to encourage my teammates through positive comments and actions.
- I will do my best to learn the fundamental rules and skills of the sports in which I participate.
- I understand that my primary commitment should be to my St. Patrick's team. I will not allow my participation on any other team to interfere with, nor take priority over my St. Patrick's team practices and games.
- I have read the Sports Handbook and will comply with all of the policies and guidelines stated.

X. St. Patrick's Athletic Committee Policies:

Fee Assistance- The Committee will not deny any parishioner the right to participate in a sponsored sport for financial reasons. Contact the Committee President to request a confidential fee waiver.

Student-Athlete Eligibility- St. Patrick's sports are open to all parishioners and St. Patrick's Catholic School students that maintain the standards set forth in the St. Patrick's Family Handbook and in the Athlete's Code of Ethics in the Sports Handbook.

Registration Refund Policy- Refunds of registration fees will not be given once teams have been formed for that sport. Prior to team formation, a \$5 administration fee will be deducted from any registration refund. If a child cannot be accommodated, a full refund will be given.

Safe Environment- All coaches, as volunteers that have regular contact with children, are required to complete the Archdiocese of Omaha Safe Environment training course and renew this certification when necessary.

Coaching Requirements- All coaches must complete the Archdiocese of Omaha Safe

Environment Training- All CYSL soccer coaches must also complete the Nebraska State Soccer Associations Kidsafe documentation. Additional training is at the discretion of the sports chairperson and may confer additional benefits (see “Coaching Benefits”).

Coaching Benefits- Full-time St. Patrick teaching staff who are head coach and/or act as chairperson of a committee sponsored 7th or 8th grade sport may be compensated \$750 to \$2000. The amount of the compensation will be approved by the committee chairperson for that sport.

Removal/Replacement of a Coach- After the start of a season if a sport chair wishes to remove a coach for any reason, the removal must be approved by simple majority of the SPAC officers.

Teaming Guidelines- No child below the 6th grade will be “cut” from a St. Patrick’s sponsored athletic program due to skill level. Each sport may have individualized teaming guidelines to comply with the rules of the league in which play is conducted. In general, prior to 5th grade, an effort will be made to keep multiple teams in an age group at an equal level. This will be done by randomly assigning players to teams, no tryouts will be held. In older grades, tryouts may be conducted to assign players to teams at various levels (AAA, A, B, etc.). In the event that we cannot field enough teams to allow all registrants to play, registrants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Maintaining appropriate teaming and tryout guidelines will be the responsibility of each sports’ respective committee.

League Affiliations- 3rd -8th graders in football, volleyball, basketball and track will compete in the Parochial Athletic League (PAL). 1st-8th graders in soccer will play in the Catholic Youth Soccer League. 1st – 8th grades in softball and baseball will play in the Elkhorn Athletic Association League, 2nd graders in volleyball and basketball will play in leagues at the Twin Rivers YMCA in Valley, NE. All other programs are in-house intramural leagues.

Affiliated Teams- Only players registered through the St. Patrick’s Registration Committee will be eligible to participate under the St. Patrick’s name and/or logo. Teams formed outside of this procedure will not be eligible for any funding from the Athletic Committee, or be permitted to use St. Patrick’s facilities or equipment.

Preferred Activities- The Athletic Committee recognizes that some players may participate in a St. Patrick's activity and a non-sponsored activity at the same time. In this instance, the sponsored activity will be given priority as the "preferred activity". If St. Patrick's practice or game commitments are not met due to other activities, it is unfair to St. Patrick's teammates and coaches. In this instance, playing time may be mitigated, regardless of age or skill level.

Practice Schedules- Coaches are not to schedule any practices on Sundays prior to 2:00p.m., or on Wednesday evenings. Coaches should not use attendance at Sunday practices to determine playing time. No practices or games may be scheduled from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday.

Field Use Policy- Care and maintenance of the St. Patrick's field is the sole responsibility of the St. Patrick's Athletic Committee. All field use (both sport related and non-sport related) must be coordinated with prior notice and approval through the Athletic Committee Facilities Coordinator. No vehicles are permitted on the field. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the field or adjoining parking lot. Failure of users to properly care for the field and it's environment could result in forfeiture of use.

Uniform Deposits- All uniforms for PAL Football, PAL Basketball, PAL Volleyball, and Track; are the property of the Committee. Prior to issuance of a uniform, a deposit might be collected by the sport chair and held until return of the uniform in good condition at seasons end. Failure to return a uniform in good condition will result in forfeiture of the deposit.

Tournament Reimbursement- All St. Patrick's athletic teams are encouraged to participate in tournaments. The cost of participating is not included in the sports registration fees. The Athletic Committee will reimburse teams for one tournament per season, up to the amount of \$150. Additional cost is the responsibility of the parents of the players. Coaches must provide documentation to support the reimbursement request.

Admission Fees- There will be charge at any PAL Volleyball and PAL Basketball home games. The fee will be \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children and \$5.00 for a family. Collection and care of these fees will be the responsibility of the sports chairperson, and should be promptly delivered to the Treasurer.

Use of Logo- The St. Patrick's Angel logo was created by the Athletic Committee for the use of the parish and it's organizations. The Athletic Committee reserves the right to deny use to any individual or organization. Any user should only use an approved version of the logo which is available on the Athletic Committee page of the school website.

Liability- The St. Patrick's Athletic Committee and the Parish neither has nor accepts any liability for injury to players. Insurance of players is the responsibility of parents. Neither the Committee nor the Parish has any responsibility for any players' or parents' personal property.

Team Parties- Teams are encouraged to host a post-season party in order to facilitate the return of uniforms and to recognize athletes for achievements/give awards. Plans for these celebrations are made through individual teams or coaches and are not a Committee sponsored activity.

Grievances- If parents have some dissatisfaction with their child's athletic experience, they are advised to contact the appropriate coach to discuss the issue. If the issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the sports chairperson should be the next contact. Following this, the appropriate progression of contact will be: Athletic Director, voting members of the Athletic Committee (in a closed session).

Committee Spending- All Committee funds are the responsibility of the Treasurer. All spending of more than \$1000 must be approved by a majority vote of the full Committee. Spending, by a voting member of the Committee, of \$200-\$999 requires the prior approval of the Treasurer. Spending by non-Voting members and others, including coaches, is only permitted with prior approval of the Treasurer.

Funding Requests- Committee funds are to be used only for athletic and physical fitness programs/activities of the St. Patrick's Parish and/or School.

XI. The St. Patrick's Angel Scholarships

The SPAC Angel Scholarships are \$1000 awards given yearly to the 8th grade boy and girl student-athlete who best exemplify the leadership, sportsmanship, character, and athletic effort expected by the St. Patrick's Athletic Committee. This scholarship is awarded to further the Catholic education of the recipients. Criteria will include a review of athletic and academic achievements, as well as demonstrations of moral character.

Potential candidates must provide a transcript showing a G.P.A. of at least 3.0 for each of the first 3 quarters of 8th grade. The student-athlete must have participated in St. Patrick's athletics in both 7th grade and 8th grade. Candidates must complete a scholarship application, and provide a coach's recommendation, all of which will be used as part of the evaluation process. Recipients must attend a Catholic high school to receive this award.

Nominations by 8th grade coaches will take place in early April. Other 8th graders who wish to be considered must submit the required documents by the April deadline posted on the parish website. All the application documents and instructions are available on the Parish

website at: www.stpatselkhorn/athletics/angelscholarship/. The announcement of the scholarship winners will take place at the annual Sports Banquet.