



ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2023-2024

Saint Peter Catholic School

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Welcome to Saint Peter Catholic School! In choosing to attend Saint Peter Catholic School you have elected a Christ-centered Catholic education and academic excellence. Many wonderful opportunities await you!

As a school community, we all must consider the appropriate role of athletics here at Saint Peter. A core characteristic of Catholic Christianity and Catholic schools is the concept of relationship and community and the conviction that humankind is “made for each other” (*Educating for Life*, Thomas Groome, p.60). Our prayer is stronger in the community. Academic achievement is greater in a community with a similar mission and goals. Our athletic program adds another dimension to our school community. Pope John Paul II says that “*As manifestations of the communal body of Christ, athletics serve to unify all individuals, including coaches, student-athletes, and families in a spirit of peace.*”

This handbook outlines the philosophy and reflects the policies of the Saint Peter Catholic School Athletic Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Please read this document carefully and sign the electronic agreement before the first game of the season. The agreement states that you intend to abide by the policies of the Saint Peter Catholic School Athletic Program during the 2023-2024 school year.

Saint Peter Athletics extends the work of Saint Peter Catholic School by offering another environment in which high human and spiritual ideals can be fostered to help children grow towards a deeper understanding of themselves and their roles in God’s great world. Thank you for doing your part to help positively affect and develop the lives of all children by building a peaceful environment within our school, our parish, and in our larger community.

Just as those who create a document such as this are a work in progress, so is this Athletic Handbook.

Saint Peter Catholic School Athletics

Mission Statement of Saint Peter Catholic School:

As a center of evangelization, Saint Peter Catholic School builds the leaders of tomorrow upon the foundation of Jesus Christ by preparing students in spirituality, academics, stewardship, and service.

Mission of Saint Peter Catholic School Athletics:

The Saint Peter Catholic School Athletic Program dedicates itself to the pursuit of excellence in athletics within the framework of a Catholic community and in accordance with its primary role as an educator and spiritual guide. The athletics program is committed to providing opportunities for each individual

student-athlete to reach his/her highest potential while developing the qualities and spirit of a Catholic Christian.

Philosophy:

Participation on a team is a privilege. With this privilege comes responsibilities in the areas of preparation, attitude, sportsmanship, and academics. These responsibilities exist both in and out of school, both in athletic and non-athletic settings. We recognize the need for God's support and guidance in meeting these responsibilities. The Athletic Program enhances the mission of St. Peter Catholic School by providing a platform from which students are able to develop to their highest potential by

- Identifying God given talents and abilities
- Growing personally through educational and athletic opportunities;
- Learning independently through individual and team practice and competition experiences
- Challenging themselves intellectually, emotionally, and physically
- Embracing diversity in a highly competitive environment
- Adhering to the principles of fair play and sportsmanship.
- Embracing both successes and failures as an integral part of the physical, emotional, and spiritual learning and growth process
- Learning habits which teach, promote, and help maintain a healthy lifestyle

Conference Affiliation:

Saint Peter Catholic School participates in two different athletic organizations. The Eastern Independent Conference (EIC), a conference composed of Catholic schools in the area and the Inner Banks Athletic Conference (IBAC), composed of mostly public schools from Beaufort County. In addition to playing conference games, Saint Peter teams often play other schools in the area. Thus, Saint Peter athletes play students from diverse backgrounds and skill levels.

Registration Information

Nondiscriminatory Policy

Saint Peter Athletics admits 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 of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic programs.

Procedure for Registration

A student can become a full, participating member of a Saint Peter athletic team once the following requirements are met:

1. Student and parent/guardian have completed, signed and uploaded the John Paul II Catholic High School Waiver to their Dragonfly profile.
2. Student and parent/guardian have uploaded the Physical form to their Dragonfly profile.
3. Student and parent/guardian have read the Saint Peter Athletic Handbook and signed the electronic Athletic Contract in their Dragonfly profile.

Athletic Contract/agreement

Saint Peter students wishing to participate in a sport must sign the contract. This agreement is accessible in your Dragonfly parents/athletes profile under the eligibility and requirements tab. Contract must be signed on or before the first game date. Any student who decides to participate on a team after the deadline should see the Athletic Director before attending practice. Deadlines are not intended to prevent a student from participating on a sports team, but they are necessary to make sure that team sizes do not become too large to allow for proper instruction of participants. A contract/agreement need only be completed one time during the school year.

Fees

All sports offered at Saint Peter Catholic School have different costs required for operation. Student athletes and their families are required to pay an athletic fee through their Dragonfly account/profile. The fee is per athlete, per sport to cover part of the operating costs, uniforms costs, equipment costs, and tournament fees. Students and their families may be asked to provide their own personal equipment for certain sports.

Financial constraints should not inhibit any student from participating in student athletics. For financial assistance for Saint Peter athletics, please contact the principal.

General Information

Levels of Competition

Development of the skills fundamental to each sport receives primary emphasis on each athletic team offered at Saint Peter. Each team experience, however, may be slightly different depending on the level at which the team is competing.

LEVEL	Varsity Teams at this level strive to prepare students for high school athletics	Junior Varsity Teams at this level serve as transitions from the developmental level to varsity level teams.
COMMITMENT REQUIRED	<i>High</i> Students and families must commit to 5 events a week—practice, games, scrimmages, etc. *attendance at Saturday practices and practices during holiday breaks may be requested.	<i>Moderate</i> Students and families must commit to 4-5 events a week—practice, games, scrimmages, etc. *attendance at Saturday practices and practices during holiday breaks may be requested.
COMPETITION	Officiated games against other schools as well as occasional non-conference games.	Officiated games against other schools as well as occasional non-conference games.
PLAYING TIME	At discretion of teams' coaches.	Coaches will make every effort to play every team member in each game.
SKILLS EMPHASIZED	-Advancing game strategies -Leadership skills on and off the field/court -Individual fundamentals reinforced and extended	-Importance of team cohesion -Individual fundamentals introduced and reinforced -Formal game strategies introduced

Athletic Teams at Saint Peter

Saint Peter Catholic School offers the following sports to students in grades 6 - 8:

SEASON	GIRLS	BOYS
Fall	<i>Volleyball</i> Varsity – (7-8) Junior Varsity –(6th) <i>Cross-Country (6-8)</i>	<i>Cross-Country (6-8)</i> <i>Football (7-8)</i>
Winter	<i>Basketball</i> Varsity - (7-8) Junior Varsity - (6th) <i>Cheerleading</i>	<i>Basketball</i> Varsity – (7-8) Junior Varsity – (6th) <i>Cheerleading</i>

Spring	Softball (7-8) Golf (6-8) Co-ed Soccer (7-8)	Baseball (7-8) Golf (6-8) Co-ed Soccer (7-8)
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Transportation Policy

In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Raleigh, Saint Peter Catholic School does not provide any transportation to or from athletic events. All transportation is privately arranged by parents/guardians. Saint Peter and the Diocese of Raleigh assume no liability for accidents that may occur en route to any sporting practice or activity.

Transportation to and from practices and games is the sole responsibility of the parents. Please ensure that your student-athlete is picked up promptly at the end of each practice/game.

Student Expectations and Requirements

Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the Saint Peter community in a favorable way. By joining the school's athletic program, a student becomes a representative of his/her team and of Saint Peter Catholic School.

Student-Athlete Expectations

A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to all students as set forth in the Saint Peter Parent-Student Handbook. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others behaviors that reflect good sportsmanship. If behavior infractions occur, student-athletes may face both a school and an athletic consequence.

Attendance

All student-athletes must be marked as present in school on the day of practice or a game in order to participate. Please see the *Student-Parent Handbook* for what constitutes an absence.

All student-athletes must recognize the time commitment made to a team. One is expected to attend all practices and games. If one cannot attend a practice or game, please make sure the coach and/or athletic director has been notified *in advance*. Consequences for a missed practice or game will be informed by the team rules as outlined by the coach/team at the beginning of the season in addition to the natural consequences that result from missing practice instruction or game experience.

Dress Code/Uniforms

Student-Athletes are highly visible representatives of the school and, as such, are responsible for using good judgment in their overall appearance. All teams, regardless of level, have a responsibility to ensure that their game attire speaks volumes of their class and excellence. No player should make modifications to his or her uniform. Athletes are to wear a school issued uniform and treat their uniform with respect.

Uniforms should be returned in good condition at the end of each season. If a uniform is not returned, parents are responsible for the cost of replacing the uniform. Report cards may be withheld if uniforms are not returned.

Sportsmanship

Players

All student-athletes are expected to represent **Saint Peter Catholic School** in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both on and off the court or field. Student-athletes are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches for each sport along with input from the athletic director. This can range from sitting out at practice to a one-game suspension. In extreme cases when an athlete has been ejected from a game or has had multi-game suspensions, dismissal from the team may be appropriate. The athletic director and principal will make the final decision following a meeting with the athlete, coach, and parent.

Eligibility and Probation

We expect student-athletes to maintain academic and behavioral standards in keeping with the Saint Peter Catholic School Student-Parent Handbook and the teachings of the Catholic Church. These regulations and procedures apply while on school premises, during practices and competitions, and in the public arena.

Eligibility

To be considered *ELIGIBLE* to participate in interscholastic athletics at Saint Peter Catholic School, a student must be in good academic and behavioral standing at all times. Grade checks are performed approximately every 4 weeks.

At Risk

A student is considered “at risk” if they have a D average in one or more subjects or if they have had any disciplinary referrals. At risk students will be closely monitored by the administrative staff. Parents will be notified when a student is “at risk”.

Probation

A student-athlete will be considered *ON PROBATION* if his/her most recent academic report reflects any one or a combination of the following academic grades or conduct:

- ❖ One failing grade in any subject (F)
- ❖ D average in 2 or more subjects

A student-athlete will also be considered *ON PROBATION* should his/her behavior require:

- ❖ After school detention and/or three disciplinary referrals
- ❖ In school suspension

PROBATION is for a minimum of 1 week, and will end only when grades are back to a satisfactory level.

During a *PROBATION* period, a student-athlete's *time should be spent improving one's grades and conduct*. While on probation, student-athletes may not participate in games and practices and are encouraged to seek extra help from those teachers in courses where he/she is struggling. Saint Peter Catholic School faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and personal growth as young adults.

Ineligibility

A student-athlete will be considered *INELIGIBLE* for interscholastic sports at Saint Peter Catholic School if the academic or behavioral report reflects any one, or a combination of the following.

- ❖ Persisting failing grade in any subject at the 2nd grade check of the season
- ❖ Persisting D average in 2 or more subjects at the second grade check of the season.
- ❖ Persisting disciplinary infractions such as a second in-school-suspension or after school detention
- ❖ An out-of-school suspension during the season.

Ineligibility means that a student-athlete may NOT participate in interscholastic athletics at Saint Peter for the remainder of the season. This will result in the removal of the student from the team's roster.

Expectations of Parents and Stakeholders

Saint Peter Catholic School coaches and administrators respect the primacy of the parents as the first teachers of their student-athletes, and will partner with parents in the formation of student-athletes. Parents and other members of the community play a vital role in the holistic education of children including students' participation in school-sponsored athletics. Together, all stakeholders should actively work to ensure that the Catholic mission and identity of Saint Peter Catholic School permeates the athletic program.

Top Five Ways to Support your Student-Athlete

1. **Be present** – Show up to games, cheer, and support our teams!
2. **Be positive** – Children learn from modeling. When talking about the game, season, performances and decision-making, please share the gift of a positive outlook on life! Make sure that your child knows that win or lose, he/she is loved and supported.
3. **Encourage independence** – Encourage student-athletes to be responsible for the care of their athletic gear and to be prepared for practices and games. In addition, student-athletes should speak directly with their coach about any questions and/or concerns.
4. **Observe the “24 Hour Cushion”** – As do all good educators, Saint Peter coaches will naturally and deliberately reflect on game situations and decisions. Please allow coaches the time they need to process their decisions before approaching them with any questions. As stated above, coaches need not discuss playing time, coaching strategies and specific plays, or information pertaining to other athletes.
5. **Model Saint Peter’s behavior expectations for visiting spectators** – Take pride in our athletic program and model for visitors how we...
 - a. cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.
 - b. respect the integrity and authority of game officials.
 - c. allow coaches to coach without criticism from the spectators.
 - d. help clean up at the end of athletic events.

All parents of student athletes are expected to represent **Saint Peter Catholic School** in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both at practices and games. Parents of student athletes are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception.

Removal from Team – Parent Decision

The principal, athletic director and coaches will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his or her child from a team for any reason.

However, once the child is removed, he or she may not return to that team for the remainder of the sport season.

Revisions/Modifications to Policy

The Principal may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed, and has the final decision with regards to any policy. Changes will be made public in the weekly letter.

In extreme or unusual circumstances the school has the authority to remove a student, cancel a game, or cancel a season.

Electronic Signature noting that you have read and understand the policies in this handbook should be entered into your Dragonfly account on or before the first game of the season.

