



**JOHN PAUL II
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

Revised August 2015

Athletic Philosophy

At John Paul II, we feel that interscholastic athletics play an integral role in our educational program. We strive to instill faith in Jesus Christ through advancement in fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, and healthy competition.

It is our mission as an athletic department to provide each student at John Paul II with multiple opportunities for athletic participation. In addition, we strongly encourage students to participate in multiple sports whenever possible, and discourage specialization. Through this, we hope to provide all of our student-athletes with a wholesome and well-rounded experience that will aid in their lifetime character development.

Warning of Inherent Risk/Dangers of Athletic Competition

Participation in athletics includes the risk of injury, which may range in severity from minor to disabling to possible death. Although serious injuries are not common in supervised programs, it is impossible to eliminate the risk. Participants can and do have a responsibility to help.

Participation

John Paul II provides every student the opportunity to participate on an athletic team. Certain teams may require limited participation because of limited facilities, staffing or the nature of the sport.

Academic Eligibility

John Paul II follows the SCISA eligibility standards that state a student must pass 4 core (non-elective) courses or 5 one-credit courses each quarter and each semester to be eligible for the next quarter or semester. For example, if a student does not pass 4 core courses or 5 one-credit courses in the first quarter, they are deemed ineligible for the entire second quarter. They are eligible for athletic reinstatement in the third quarter. If a student did not pass 4 core or 5 one-unit courses in the first semester, he or she would be ineligible for the remainder of the school year. An ineligible player cannot take part in practice or games.

With that said, the school, coaches, or parents reserve the right to withhold a player from practice or competition for academic or behavioral purposes at any time. Communication between faculty members, students, parents, coaches, and the Athletic Director is essential. Temporary withdrawal from a team may be used as a tool to refocus a student on a case-by-case basis.

John Paul II Athletic Teams

Fall Season

Middle School Cross-Country
Varsity Girls/Boys Cross-Country
Varsity Football
Middle School Volleyball
Junior Varsity Volleyball
Varsity Volleyball
Varsity Swimming

Eligible Students

Student in grades 7-8
Students in grades 7-11
Students in grades 8-11
Students in grades 7-8
Students in grades 7-10
Students in grades 8-11
Students in grades 7-11

Winter Season

Middle School Girls Basketball
Middle School Boys Basketball
Junior Varsity Girls Basketball
Varsity Boys Basketball
Varsity Archery

Students in grades 7-8
Students in grades 7-8
Students in grades 7-10
Students in grades 8-11
Students in grades 7-11

Spring Season

Middle School Baseball
Varsity Baseball
Middle School Girls Soccer
Middle School Boys Soccer
Varsity Girls Soccer
Varsity Boys Soccer
Junior Varsity Softball

Students in grades 7-8
Students in grades 8-11
Students in grades 7-8
Students in grades 7-8
Students in grades 8-11
Students in grades 8-11
Students in grades 7-11

*Eligible students in grades 5-6 attending St. Gregory the Great, St. Peter's, or St. Francis are able to participate with John Paul II athletics if those schools do not offer the same opportunity.

Head of Programs Directory

Athletic Director

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Swimming

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Girls Basketball

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Boys Basketball

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Archery

Girls Soccer

Larry Floyd larry.floyd@installed.net

Boys Soccer

Matt Dakolios matt.dakolios@johnpaul2school.org

Softball

Deacon John Crapanzano deacon.john@johnpaul2school.org

Baseball

Pete Birmingham bsitco@aol.com

Athletic Department Information and Policies

1. John Paul II offers a competitive interscholastic athletic program within the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA).
2. Student-athletes who wish to play two sports in the same season must appeal to the athletic director. They must declare and primary and secondary sport for that season, and a structure must be agreed to by the Athletic Director, both coaches, the student, and parents in order for a student-athlete to participate in both sports. The student also must be in good academic standing with the school.
3. Coaches need to be flexible and meet the needs of the team and their players.

4. If a student-athlete is dismissed from a team or voluntarily leaves a team before the end of a season, he/she will not compete or practice with another team during that season, nor will be allowed to practice with an upcoming season's team before the current season has ended, unless both coaches and the Athletic Director agree to allow the athlete to participate.
5. *Transportation:* Athletes will travel to and from away competitions in the vehicles provided by the Athletic Department unless prior approval is obtained from the coach. On some occasions, for near away games, parents may be asked to carpool student-athletes. When leaving an away game, students may travel with their parents, if they confirm with the head coach either verbally or in written form. Student-athletes may travel with another family home, if they turn in a written note from their parents giving permission to ride with a specific family.
6. A student must be enrolled at the John Paul II before she/he may practice with a team. All forms provided by the coach must be completed and signed by the athlete and parents before participation takes place. The forms include physical Agreement for Participation, Health Assessment, Transportation Waiver and Warning of Inherent Risk. Eligible students in grades 5-6 attending St. Gregory the Great, St. Peter's, or St. Francis are able to participate with John Paul II athletics if those schools do not offer the same opportunity.
7. *Game Ejection:* The SCISA rules and guidelines stipulate that if a school athlete is ejected from a contest, he/she will be ineligible to compete in the next game. If the basic rules of sportsmanship are followed, a John Paul II student-athlete should never be ejected from a contest. In addition, the Athletic Director will review, with the student-athlete or coach, the circumstances surrounding the ejection, and determine the appropriate school response before they are permitted to return to the practice field. Coaches will not permit an ejected player to resume practice until he/she meets with the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director is to be notified by the coach of any ejection immediately after the contest. Any ejection is a serious matter; however, physical violence outside of the rules will be dealt with more severely than most offenses.
8. *Lightning and Thunder Policy:* The lightning policy is in accordance with National Athletic Trainers Association and Beaufort County. We use a thunderbolt detection unit to detect lightning strikes up to 75 miles away. It detects the ETA of a storm and if it is heading in our direction. When lightning is within 30 miles the coaches will be informed that lightning is in the area and they should prepare to come off the field. When lightning is within 12 miles, everyone must take cover indoors or in a vehicle immediately. We will not return to the field until 30 minutes after the last hit on the thunderbolt detection unit within the 12 mile range.
9. Student-athletes participating in an in-season sport may not practice or train with another coach from a different season. Student-athletes also may not practice or train with a John Paul II coach on Sunday, unless permission has been granted by the Athletic Director.

Expectations of John Paul II Coaches

1. Coaches must reflect and practice Catholic and Christian values during practice, games, and off the field of play.
2. Coaches at John Paul II must prioritize the values and needs of the student-athletes and the athletic department as a whole over the needs of their team. As a reflection of this, coaches at JP2 will encourage student-athletes to participate in multiple sports, as opposed to specializing, and will not recruit students against other JP2 programs. They are expected to support the athletic department as a whole, with the model that a rising tide lifts all boats.
3. Coaches will not practice or play on Sunday, unless approval has been granted by the Principal or Athletic Director.
4. Coaches must be positive role models in terms of sportsmanship and fair play and set a flawless example regarding the use of harmful substances.
5. Coaches must be fair and unprejudiced with players, considering their individual differences, needs, interests, temperaments and aptitudes.
6. Personal appearance, dress and physical condition must be exemplary and project professionalism.
7. Coaches are responsible for all aspects of team discipline. They should address issues promptly and firmly.
8. The following behaviors are unprofessional and will not be tolerated:
 - [Profanity: a coach must refrain from the use of profanity and insist that student-athletes do likewise.
 - [Physical or verbal abuse of the student-athletes.
 - [Use of tobacco products on the field or any other time they are in the presence of the team or team members.
 - [Use of alcohol prior to or during practices, games or other athletic team functions.
9. Coaches are expected to maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions by officials maturely and professionally. Student athletes must learn to accept responsibility for their actions. Blaming officials takes the focus off of individual responsibility and places blame elsewhere.
10. Coaches must refuse to disparage an opponent, an official or others associated with sports activities, and discourage gossip and the spreading of rumors.
11. Coaches are responsible for the conduct and care of their team from the beginning to the end of the game or away trips. This includes the job of making sure that bench areas, dressing rooms and the team vehicles are left clean and in good condition.
12. Coaches are expected to win or lose with dignity and humility.
13. Coaches are to use sound, acceptable and current teaching and coaching techniques and always pre-plan practices and game strategies.

14. Head coaches are required to receive CPR certification.

15. Coaches are required to complete concussion test on-line.

16. Coaches will make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all student-athletes. The judgment and authority of the coach to make decisions regarding playing time must be respected. It is not appropriate for a parent to question or challenge a coach's decision regarding play calling or team strategy. It is never appropriate for a parent to discuss with a coach the status of another student athlete. (If a parent has a concern and would like to discuss it, he or she should schedule an appointment with the coach. Please do not attempt to contact a coach directly before, during or after a practice or game.)