

ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL

PreK – 7th Grade ATHLETIC MANUAL



**WEST HOUSTON CHRISTIAN
SPORTS ASSOCIATION
(WHCSA)
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

Athletic Director: Deanne Gordon

For our elementary students, St. John Paul II Catholic School is a member of the West Houston Christian Sports Association. We offer a variety of sports for students in grades PreK-7. All elementary students that are in good standing may participate. A fee is charged which includes the cost of league fees, referees, fields, uniforms (which the child may keep), medals, and pictures. Parent participation is a must since the Sports Association and teams run entirely on volunteers.

PURPOSE: The purpose of St. John Paul II’s affiliation with West Houston Christian Sports Association is to allow our children an opportunity to enjoy fellowship and community in a less-competitive, skill-building environment. Sports can allow our children the opportunity to learn about teamwork, take instruction, exercise, and set both team and individual goals.

It is our hope that bringing sports to the elementary level will also build school community, as parents and children come together outside the classroom and get to know one another.

EXPECTATIONS: In this manual, you will find the Parent’s Code of Ethics that each participant of West Houston Christian Sports Association will be expected to sign. The school and the league expect all participants to adhere to all aspects of the codes.

Volunteer parent coaches are expected to go through Virtus training, provide information for a criminal background check, and sign a code of ethics prior to coaching. Coaches must attend the pre-season coaches’ meeting led by the Athletic Director.

Coaches are required to stay with kids if parents are running late. If you have parents who are typically late, contact your AD on help with this matter.

TEAM FORMATION: It is our goal in the process of forming teams to do our best to allow all children who wish to play a sport the opportunity to do so. It is also our goal to adhere to all league rules. **Teams are formed on a first come, first served basis until full.** If there is more than one team for a grade level, teams will be chosen on a random basis or, if the sport warrants, a combination of player rank and random selection by the athletic director to ensure even teams. **No refunds will be given after the coaches have received rosters unless a medical release is provided to the Athletic Director.**

AVAILABLE SPORTS:

Grades	PreK-6	Soccer	Late August-Late November
Grades	1-6	Basketball	Mid-December-Mid March
Grades	4-7	Girls Volleyball	Mid-March-Mid May
Grades	PreK-6	Baseball/Softball	Mid-March-Mid May

WHCSA online registration will begin a few weeks prior to the start of each season. As teams are formed on a first come first served basis, it is important to turn in registration forms as soon as possible.

USE OF FACILITIES: WHCSA will have access to appropriate facilities for each sport, pending no school function is in need of facilities. School functions and Middle School sports will ALWAYS take precedence over any scheduling conflict with WHCSA. When the school is on holiday or officially closed, facilities for practice and/or games will not be available for use. Parents are responsible for supervising siblings at games and practices and adhering to rules established for the facility.

Thunder and Lightning Policy:

Prior to the start of play, the athletic director and coaches will review St. John Paul II's thunder and lightning policy with the officiating squad and opposing team. At the first sound of thunder or the first sound of lightning, the officials (umpires and referees) shall suspend the game and clear the field. All coaches, players, referees, and spectators are to withdraw from the field and seek proper shelter. If a building is not available, everyone should take shelter in vehicles. Avoid convertibles and cars without metal roofs.

Games will not resume for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or the last sound of lightning flash. After 30 minutes without thunder or lightning, an "all clear" signal will be given and games may resume. If thunder is heard or lightning is seen again within that 30 minute time frame all activities will be cancelled for that time frame.

Any new activities that follow shall have to repeat this same policy before starting.

WHCSA PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS

I will at all times during my child's sports related activities make his or her spiritual, emotional and physical well-being my number one priority.

I will lead by example in demonstrating Christian Love, fair play and sportsmanship to all players fans, officials, parents and coaches.

I will only address officials, opposing teams players, parents and coaches in a positive, respectful and encouraging manner in the spirit of the game.

I will stand behind the coach and support his or her decisions at all times. I will not place the coach in a position to have to be concerned with my behavior rather than the game being played.

I will in no way disrupt the game that I am attending. I will express concerns regarding any rules or call only to the proper league officials through the proper channels, once the game has concluded.

I will remember that the game is for the children and not for adults.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

This league has adopted a Zero Tolerance position towards any coach or spectator who is removed from a game or gym by a referee. A coach or spectator who is removed from a game for any reason shall be suspended for the rest of the season. They will not be allowed to coach or attend games. There will be no appeal from the suspended parties whatsoever. The league will hold discussions with both coaches, referees and other responsible parties to confirm that the referee in question acted in a professional manner. The league will not entertain any type of appeal regarding the suspension.

I have read and signed the Parents Code of Ethics and agree to share this information with any and all person's who will be with me in attendance at my child's sporting events during the course of the season. I agree to abide by these codes as well as the rules, regulations, guidelines and interpretations of the WHCSA. I understand that any violation of these by myself or anyone in attendance with me is subject to review by the WHCSA and/or the administration.

Signature _____ Date _____