



St. Agnes Athletic Handbook 2009-2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. St. Agnes Association Athletic Board
- II. Mission Statement
- III. Organization Structure
 - a. Authority
 - b. Athletic Board
 - c. Registration Fees/Fundraising Fees
Child Photo Usage Form/Minor Child Athletic Participation Form
 - d. Refunds
 - e. Uniforms
- IV. Student Guidelines
 - a. Rule #1
 - b. Academic Eligibility Policy
- V. Coaching Guidelines
 - a. Selection of Coaches
 - b. Protecting God's Children
 - c. Coaches' Conduct
 - d. Playing Time Policy
- VI. Parent Guidelines
 - a. Conduct at Practices and Games
 - b. Resolution of Issues
 - c. Volunteer
 - d. Team Parents
- VII. St. Agnes Athletic Banquet
 - a. Jemilo Award

St. Agnes Athletic Association
2009-2010 Athletic Board

PRESIDENT

Tony Renzetti
708-426-3690-Cell

VICE-PRESIDENT

John Dee
312-515-2810

SECRETARY

Sharon Renzetti
708-558-3825-Cell

TREASURER

Connie Lolli
708 235-1445

BASKETBALL COORDINATOR

Rob Benavides – 708-476-0867

FOOTBALL COORDINATOR

Tony Renzetti – 708-426-3690

CONCESSION STAND COORDINATORS

Geri & Kevin Keane - 753-6393/525-3429(cell)
Gayle & Ron Sellers-755-3596

CHEERLEADER COORDINATOR

Pam Pugh

SPIRITWEAR COORDINATOR

Bernie Friel - 312-590-1205

VOLLEYBALL COODINATOR

Frank DiGiovanni

St. Agnes Athletics email address: st.agnesathletics@sbcglobal.net

St. Agnes School/Athletics website: www.st.agnes-parish.org

St. Agnes Parish Center
Fr. John Siemianowski Court
2525 Halsted Blvd
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708-756-3625

II. MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Agnes Athletic Association is established to provide the children of St. Agnes Parish an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. The purpose of the athletic program is to promote physical health, self-esteem, self-discipline, teamwork and school pride, while emphasizing each student's Catholic character.

III. ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Authority

The St. Agnes Athletic Association is a volunteer organization established to coordinate participation in interscholastic athletics for the benefit of the children of St. Agnes Parish. The Athletic Association serves under the authority of the pastor and in coordination with the principal of St. Agnes School. The pastor and principal are considered permanent members of the Athletic Board.

The Athletic Association is entirely self-funded and must generate enough revenue through registration fees and fundraising efforts to supply uniforms and equipment for all teams and to pay league entry fees. All revenue generated through the Athletic Association is to be spent for the benefit of the children participating in the program.

Athletic Board

The St. Agnes Athletic Board consists of at least seven volunteers responsible for coordinating all activities. Board members are elected by the current board and approved by the pastor and the principal. Members are asked to serve a two-year term. The Athletic Board elects a president, secretary and treasurer each year. Other members are assigned specific responsibilities such as concession coordinator, fund-raising coordinator, awards and banquets coordinator, as determined by the Board.

Parents interested in being considered for positions on the Athletic Board should contact a board member for information or attend a monthly board meeting.

Registration Fees/Fundraising Fees/Child Photo Usage Form/Medical Insurance Form

Each athlete is required to have a registration form on file and pay the registration fee and the fundraising fee. If fees are not paid by the second game of the season, the athlete's parents will be contacted by a St. Agnes board member to set up a payment plan. It is the goal of the program that no St. Agnes student is prevented from participating in the program for financial reasons.

Pictures of St. Agnes athletes may be used on the St. Agnes web page, in the Agnes parish bulletin or in the school newsletter. In order for us to highlight our athletes, we must have your permission to use your child's photo. Each athlete must have a signed Parent Permission Slip/Child Photo Usage form on file.

All students participating in sports must have a signed Minor Child Athletic Participation Release Form on file.

Refunds

A partial refund of 50% will be given if an athlete chooses not to participate in the sports program before the first game of the season. Partial refunds are given for the registration fee only. Refunds will be mailed to the parents after all equipment has been turned in by the athlete.

No refunds are given after the first game of the season.

Uniforms

All athletes are expected to properly care for their uniforms and equipment. In the event the uniform and/or equipment is damaged, lost, stolen or not returned an appropriate replacement fee will be assessed. Coaches will organize a Uniform Return within 2 weeks after the sports season has ended. It is the responsibility of the parent and the athlete to return their complete uniform to St. Agnes School.

Parents will be given a copy of their child's Uniform Distribution Sheet. This sheet will list what uniform/equipment was given to their child along with the replacement cost of each item.

IV. STUDENT GUIDELINES

Rule #1

St. Agnes Student Athletes are expected to conduct themselves at all times, both on and off the playing field or court as a Catholic gentleman or lady and a responsible citizen.

Academic Eligibility Policy

Participating in Athletics at St. Agnes is a privilege. Athletes are required to meet certain academic standards recommended by the principal and teachers of St. Agnes School. Children that participate in the Athletic program based on their affiliation with the Religious Education Program (CCD) are required to attend the weekly classes.

For St. Agnes students, eligibility will be based on effort. Effort is turning in all assignments and participating in class.

- Should a teacher deem a child's effort unsatisfactory during the week, the child will be ineligible to play.
- Students will be evaluated on their academic achievement every Friday.
- A notice will be sent home to the parents the following Monday if a student is ineligible.
- The athletic director will be informed the following Monday by the principal and will notify coaches of ineligible students.
- Academic ineligibility begins the day the notice is sent home through any and all sports events on Sunday of the same week.
- A student may be removed from participating in sports at any time due to a serious discipline problem.
- Eligible students will not be notified.
- Effort and a strong desire to rectify a deficiency will always be considered when determining whether or not an ineligible student can become eligible for sports the following week.

V. COACHING GUIDELINES

Selection of Coaches

Coaches are selected by the Athletic Board from the list of volunteers expressing an interest in coaching each year. Parents and other adults interested in coaching can contact a board member or indicate their interest on the annual registration form completed by each student. Coaches can also be changed at anytime if determined by the Athletic Board to be in the best interest of the students. Participation in the athletic program should be a positive learning experience for the students and coaches must share this philosophy.

Protecting God's Children

The Archdiocese of Chicago has required training for all adults who work with the children of our parish and school. This not only applies to coaches but to those adults who occasionally assist the coaches at practices and games. All adults who volunteer as a coach must complete the four requirements below:

1. Each adult must complete an online criminal background check.
2. Each adult must sign a Code of Conduct form.
3. Each adult must sign a CANTS form.
4. Each adult must attend a VIRTUS training class.

Coaches' Conduct

Coaches have the greatest responsibility as well as the greatest opportunity to guide and influence the student athletes. They are role models and teachers of the teams they are assisting. For this reason, the conduct of coaches at all games and practices must reflect positively on St. Agnes and serve as an example of Catholic sportsmanship for their teams. Coaches must show respect for opponents and game officials at all times, as well as respecting the facilities and parents of other schools. The Athletic Board will evaluate all coaches' behavior throughout the season and will review all complaints or incidents reported to them regarding coaches. If necessary, coaches will be asked to discuss specific incidents directly with the Athletic Board and the Board will determine what penalty, if any, is to be result. The Athletic Board has complete authority to discipline coaches as necessary, up to and including dismissal from the Athletic program.

Playing Time Policy

The Athletic Association feels it is important to promote self-esteem, self-discipline, and teamwork through the Athletic program at St. Agnes. Playing a team sport is an important element in a child's education. The St. Agnes Staff and Athletic Association hopes to make this time both fun-filled and a positive learning experience for all boys and girls.

Participating in athletics at St. Agnes is a privilege. Being part of any team is not limited to playing the game. Athletes must first fulfill their academic responsibility (See Section III). Attendance and participation at weekly practices are mandatory. Behavior and respect for the coaches' authority must also be evident at all times. The overall philosophy on playing time is a progression from "instructional" to "competitive" as teams move from 4th through 8th grade. Parents are asked to follow the guidelines listed in Section V if a problem arises.

4th and 5th grade level. This is the learning phase. Athletes learn the basics of the game and create a foundation on which to build in the future. At this level, all athletes are to play a minimum amount based on the specific sport. In football, each athlete is to play in each game. In basketball and volleyball, each athlete is to play the equivalent of one period of his or her game. Failure to participate in weekly practices, failure to respect the coach or teammates and academic ineligibility may change this policy at any time.

6th grade level. This stage becomes a transition period, preparing the athletes for the more competitive nature of 7th and 8th grade. Each athlete plays in every game, with the playing time for each player at the discretion of the Head Coach. Failure to participate in weekly practices, failure to respect the coach or teammates and academic ineligibility may change this policy at any time.

7th and 8th grade level. This level is more competitive and is also the time when preparation for high school level sports begins. Skills become a more important part of the game at this level. Playing time is determined by the Head Coach. Failure to participate in weekly practices, failure to respect the coach or teammates and academic ineligibility may change this policy at any time.

VI. PARENT GUIDELINES

Conduct at Practices and Games

It is expected that all parents and fans will teach our children the value of good sportsmanship by example. Parents are not prohibited from attending practice sessions but are asked to respect the authority of the coaches at practices. Issues should be resolved as discussed below and not in the presence of the students.

Parents are encouraged to attend all games in support of their children. It is very important that the students receive the positive feedback of fans cheering at their games. The athletes are instructed to conduct themselves as Christian ladies and gentlemen at all times and display sportsmanship toward their opponents regardless of the outcome of the game. We ask parents to lead by example. Any parent that acts in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner may be asked to leave the game and may be prohibited from attending games in the future.

Resolution of Issues

In the event that issues arise with respect to the academic eligibility policy, parents are asked to contact the student's teachers and the principal. The principal and the coaches enforce the academic policy. Athletic Board members are not involved with the determination of eligibility. The Athletic Board President and head coaches are informed of academic eligibility each week but it is the parents' responsibility to see that the restrictions are enforced.

In the event that issues arise with respect to coaches, parents are asked to follow the following procedure.

- First discuss their concerns directly with the coach. If a parent is uncomfortable approaching the coach, please ask a member of the athletic board to join the meeting. This meeting should take place away from the students and in a private setting.
- If the coach's meeting does not resolve the issue, the parent may request a meeting with the Athletic Board where both the parents and the coach will be given an opportunity to discuss the issue.
- If this meeting does not resolve the issue, the parent may request a meeting with the principal and/or the pastor.

Volunteer

It is the goal of the Athletic Association to provide all students with the proper equipment and uniforms to allow for a safe and rewarding athletic experience. In an effort to keep registration fees at an affordable level, the Athletic Association generates additional revenues through fundraising efforts.

The primary fundraising effort of the Athletic program is the sale of concessions at all home basketball and football games. All parents are required to volunteer during the season to work at the concession stand. Additional fundraising efforts will be necessary from time to time. In the past, these efforts have included the sale of raffle tickets, the sale of advertisements to businesses for game program booklets, car washes, candy sales, etc.

Team Parents

Parents can indicate their interest in being a Team Parent on the annual registration form completed by each student. Teams may have more than one Team Parent. Team Parents will not be scheduled for concession stand duties (unless needed).

VII. ST. AGNES ATHLETIC BANQUET

The St. Agnes Athletic Banquet is held in the spring of each year to award all athletes and coaches.

Jemilo Award

The family of Judge Richard Jemilo has made significant contributions to the St. Agnes Athletic Association. In 1986, the family began supporting the program by recognizing an 8th grade athlete-student of St. Agnes Catholic School who best demonstrates the leadership and sportsmanship expected of all participants in our athletic programs. Each year, the head coach of each 8th grade team nominates one member of their team for this award. A winner is chosen by the Athletic Board, the pastor and the principal. The Jemilo Award winner is announced at the St. Agnes Athletic Banquet. A permanent plaque is on display at the St. Agnes Parish Center.

(Revised July 2009)