



HANDBOOK

FOR

THE DIOCESE OF

SAN JOSE

CATHOLIC ATHLETIC

LEAGUE

I. League Philosophy

Mission Statement

The after-school athletic program is an extension of the educational mission of a member school. As such, it enriches the life of the school community by providing for interscholastic athletic competition within a context of Gospel values.

The success of an after-school athletic program is dependent upon the active support of the administration, teachers, coaches, parents, spectators, and the student-athletes. It places its focus on developing an atmosphere in which children learn about and enjoy sports, rather than on developing winning teams. While every coach, player, and supporter wants his/her team to win, a program's philosophy keeps this goal of winning in perspective. Catholic elementary schools' sports are primarily recreational and they dedicate themselves to providing a positive athletic experience for children of all ability levels.

GOALS

An after-school athletic program has as its goals the following:

1. to develop an atmosphere in which children learn about and enjoy sports, rather than to develop winning teams;
2. to teach students the skills necessary to participate in and appreciate team sports;
3. to provide an opportunity for every eligible student to regularly participate in interscholastic competition;
4. to instill in the student-athlete a sense of responsibility by demanding consistently high standards of behavior and making the student-athlete aware and respectful of the needs of other;
5. to nurture unselfishness in the student-athlete by requiring that his/her actions on the playing field be consistent with the goals of the team as a whole and not be directed towards individual honors;
6. to generate in the student-athlete a willingness to sacrifice his/her time and energy towards the fulfillment of shared goals;
7. to provide for interscholastic competition that displays and fosters good sportsmanship.

II. WHAT IS SPORTSMANSHIP?

(SPORTS'MAN SHIP' (N))

THE PRACTICE OF PLAYING FAIR, OF TAKING LOSS OR DEFEAT WITHOUT COMPLAINT OR VICTORY WITHOUT GLOATING AND TREATING OPPONENTS WITH FAIRNESS, GENEROSITY, AND COURTESY.

The promotion of sportsmanship is integral to the functioning of the after-school athletic program. Sportsmanship demonstrated by all involved in athletics is perhaps the clearest sign of the understanding and commitment to treating athletic participation as integral to the common Catholic mission of member schools.

III. SPORTSMANSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

1. Everyone associated with an athletic event – coaches, athletes, officials, parents, spectators and school administration – plays an important role in seeing that standards of sportsmanship are upheld before, during, and after a contest is played.
2. Each person in attendance should strive to meet ideals of sportsmanship:
 - a. Show respect for the opponent. The opponent should be treated as a guest, greeted cordially on arriving, and treated respectfully at all times.
 - b. Show respect for the officials. The officials should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and who can be expected to do it to the best of their ability. Sportsmanship implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
 - c. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the contest. A familiarity with the current rules of the game and the recognition of their necessity for a fair contest are essential. Good sportsmanship suggests the importance of conforming to the spirit as well as to the letter of the rules.
 - d. Maintain self-control at all times. A prerequisite of sportsmanship requires one to understand his own bias or prejudice and the ability to

prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of athletic competition are to be realized. Sportsmanship is concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game.

- e. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of affiliation. Applause for a good performance of an opponent is a demonstration of generosity and good will. The ability to recognize quality in performance and the willingness to acknowledge it without regard to team membership are highly commendable gestures of sportsmanship.
3. Within the framework of these basic fundamentals are the specific responsibilities which each individual must bear.

B. THE COACH

The coach bears the greatest burden of responsibility for sportsmanship. The influence of the coach upon the attitudes and behavior of the players, the student body and the community is unequaled in order for sportsmanship to become a reality. It is essential that the coach subscribes to the values of sportsmanship and teaches its principles through words and action.

The coach should...

1. Always set a good example for others to follow.
2. Teach the values of honest effort in conforming to the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.
3. Instruct the players in their sportsmanship responsibilities.
4. Discipline those students who display unsportsmanlike behavior.
5. Be an accommodating host to opponents; treat them as guests.
6. At every opportunity, remind the student body that the opposing team is their guest; and that as hosts, they should be polite and courteous.
7. Respect the judgment of the officials and their interpretation of the rules. Public protests can only lead to similar behavior by the players and spectators.
8. Publicly shake hands with the officials and opposing coach before the contest. After the contest, sincerely congratulate opposing coach and team on a good effort.
9. Be sensitive to score and game conditions so as not to embarrass or belittle an opponent.

D. THE STUDENTS, THE PARENTS, AND OTHER SPECTATORS

Spectators share a significant responsibility for sportsmanship. Their habits and reactions determine the quality of sportsmanship, which reflects upon the reputation of the school they are supporting.

The students, the parents, and other spectators should...

1. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
2. Censure fellow spectators who display negative behavior.
3. Cooperate with school officials.
4. Show respect for an injured athlete when he/she is removed from the contest.
5. Never criticize the athletes, coaches or officials.
6. Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach.
7. Never use profane language and/or obnoxious behavior (including comments with racial or sexual overtones), which are contrary to sportsmanship.
8. Respect school property. Never engage in acts of vandalism.
9. Never participate in an unauthorized visit to another school.