



**St. Gregory Catholic School**  
**ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**  
**2023-2024**



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<https://www.stgphx.org/>

## St. Gregory Catholic School Sports Philosophy

St. Gregory Catholic School's athletic program is an integral part of the education curriculum, and, as such, it provides opportunities for instruction, participation, and growth. Our athletic program strives to promote a Catholic atmosphere where our athletes promote the ideals of good character: teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, hard work, self-discipline, responsibility, and respect.

Our goals are to challenge our student athletes to accentuate their Catholic values which are essential for the formation into responsible young adults and to strive to be the best they can be on and off the field and court. Students are encouraged to strive to compete at the highest level of their ability. St. Gregory will do its best to provide appropriate levels of competition for each athlete.

As a community, we meet the challenges of our athletic philosophy through the cultivation of the following values:

- A commitment to reinforcing Catholic values that recognize the importance of God and Church and the need for community and the value of service to others
- A commitment to achieving individual and team goals
- A commitment to diligent preparation, fair play, and self-discipline
- A commitment to exercise and competition which contributes to the development of an athlete's mental, emotional, and physical well being
- A commitment to age and skill appropriate coaching and competition at every level.

Athletic activities are a significant and valuable community effort. These activities foster loyalty, promote school spirit and student participation, and develop healthy competition and sportsmanship.

**Students selected to represent St. Gregory Catholic School on an athletic team must realize that the school team requirements come first; league and club teams, for which the student may be a member, come second.**

## **5th & 6th Grade Philosophy**

This program is available to all students in the 5th & 6th grade. At the 5th & 6th grade level, the focus is on learning the athletic skill and game rules, fundamentals of team play, emotional growth, and healthy competition. Participation is a key component for our 5th & 6th grade student athletes.

When there are large numbers of students participating in a sport, there may be multiple teams, at which point we would divide the team by grade level.

## **7th & 8th Grade Philosophy**

This program is available to all students in the 7th & 8th grades. At the 7th & 8th grade level there is a continued focus on emotional development, game knowledge, and rules. At this level, there is an **increased emphasis placed on physical conditioning, refinement of fundamental skills, elements and strategies of team play.**

When there are large numbers of students participating in a sport, there may be multiple teams, at which point we would divide the team by grade level.

Ultimately, the number of teams and size of the squad in a sport will be determined by the availability of:

- 1) Qualified and certified coaches
- 2) Suitable facilities
- 3) A safe environment

## Absentee Policy

On a school day, if any athlete misses school because of illness or an injury, he/she will be **automatically excused** from practice or game for that day. The coach must approve absences in advance for any other reason, in order to be deemed an excused absence for the practice or game. One unexcused absence from a game or practice may result in a one game suspension. An athlete suspended from the team three times may be removed from the team. Any combination of three unexcused absences from either a practice or game may result in removal from the team. Parents must communicate via email with Nazareth Felix, [nfelix@stgphx.org](mailto:nfelix@stgphx.org), the Athletic Director.

## Accident/Injury

It is important that all coaches know how to care for their athletes in case of injury or accident. Coaches must have a basic knowledge of first aid and C.P.R. skills. It is also important that the coach knows what procedure to follow reporting an accident or injury.

- 1) If necessary, call 911.
- 2) Check the scene for safety.
- 3) Care for the athlete by administering first aid.
- 4) Give comfort to the athlete.
- 5) Contact the parents.
- 6) Contact the Athletic Director by leaving a message at St. Gregory Catholic School.
- 7) Contact the Athletic Director immediately in case of a serious injury.
- 8) Fill out the necessary accident/injury report and turn in the report to the Athletic Director within 24 hours.

## Athlete Code of Conduct

Since athletes are representing St. Gregory Catholic School, they must follow a Code of Conduct at all times. The Code of Conduct is as follows:

- 1) Seriously accept the responsibility and privilege of representing the school and community of St. Gregory Catholic School.
- 2) Make a commitment to the team over other athletic activities.
- 3) Cooperate with the coach and fellow athletes in trying to promote sportsmanship.
- 4) Never criticize or disrespect the coach.
- 5) Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach.

- 6) Treat opponents with respect that is due to them as guests and fellow competitors.
- 7) Exercise self-control at all times, accepting decisions, and abiding by them.
- 8) Respect the judgment of the officials and their interpretation of the rules.
- 9) Never argue or make gestures indicating dislike with an official's decision.
- 10) Never be boastful or bitter, accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion.
- 11) Congratulate the opponents in a sincere manner following either a victory or defeat.
- 12) Never taunt an opponent or celebrate an accomplishment in such a way as to "show up" the opponent or demonstrate a lack of respect or to provoke another team or its spectators.

### **Behavior**

As an athlete, the student is considered a leader and a role model for fellow students of St. Gregory Catholic School. They must conduct themselves with respect and consideration for others. They must abide by the behavior guidelines of St. Gregory Catholic School.

### **Coaches Code of Conduct**

Since coaches are representing St. Gregory Catholic School, they must follow a code of conduct at all times. The following the code of conduct:

- 1) I hereby pledge to live up to my responsibilities as a coach at St. Gregory Catholic School.
- 2) I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of myself.
- 3) I will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- 4) I will play each player up to or beyond the standards set forth by the C.Y.A.A.
- 5) I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
- 6) I promise to review and practice the necessary first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
- 7) I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to my players.
- 8) I will use coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills I teach.
- 9) I will ensure that I am knowledgeable in the rules of the sport that I am coaching, and I will teach these rules to my players.
- 10) I will be sensitive to the score and the game conditions so as not to embarrass or belittle an opponent.
- 11) I will respect the judgment of the officials and their interpretation of the rules.
- 12) I will put sportsmanship over winning.
- 13) I will model ethical behavior and sportsmanship.
- 14) I will remember that I am a youth coach, and that the game is for the athletes and not the adults.

## Commitment Agreement

We value your child's participation in our sports program. We understand there are other opportunities for your child that may come up during the season, however, we also consider your decision to participate on one of our teams as a binding agreement for the duration of the season. A typical season lasts about 6-8 weeks. Please take into consideration your commitment level prior to your child trying out for a team. Missing practices, games, and/or tournaments can be a source of frustration to the coaches, teammates, and other parents of your team. If your child has other activities that interfere with their participation prior notification in writing must be given to the coach and athletic director. Failure to properly notify may result in suspension from the team or from trying out for other teams in the future. In addition, if a player decides to quit a team after team selection, is tardy to practices and/or games, or does not regularly abide by the Athlete Code of Conduct; such behavior may be taken into consideration when placing that student on a future team. The Sports fee is non-refundable.

## Eligibility

The after-school sports program is optional for students, both boys and girls, in the 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The sports available are:

- Boys: Flag Football (Fall), Basketball (Winter), and Baseball (Spring)
- Girls: Volleyball (Fall), Softball (Winter), and Basketball (Spring)
- Boys/Girls 7th & 8th Grade Only: Mini Soccer Season (Winter) – dependent on yearly Diocese of Phoenix guidelines
- Boys/Girls Cross Country Meet (Fall/Winter)– dependent on yearly Diocese of Phoenix guidelines

The ability to participate in the after-school sports program is a privilege and not a guaranteed right. Parents and participants must monitor the student's academic and behavior progress, with the appropriate teacher(s), to ensure the student's eligibility.

A **MAJOR** emphasis will be placed on the student's daily behavior. If a student continues to exhibit behavior unbecoming of a Spartan Athlete, his/her eligibility for participation will be reviewed by the schools administration. If it is determined that the student has not rectified his/her behavior, then the student can and will be expelled from participation in after school athletics.

**\*\*The administration reserves the right to treat each situation on a case by case basis.\*\***



## Emergency Numbers

In case of an emergency, the following telephone numbers should be used.

Principal:

Rachel Gatson (602) 266-9527 [rgatson@stgphx.org](mailto:rgatson@stgphx.org)

Assistant Principal:

Margaret Welfelt (602) 266-9527

Athletic Director:

Nazareth Felix (602) 266-9527 [nfelix@stgphx.org](mailto:nfelix@stgphx.org)

## Fees

Sports fees are necessary for the sports program to pay for officials and access new equipment and uniforms, please make sure all fees are paid to the school office as soon as possible. Once paid, you will receive a paid receipt and a pass for your student athlete to receive their jersey. Sports fees are \$75.00/sport and must be paid prior to the start of the season.

## Grievance Procedure

Please remember our coaches are volunteers. There are situations that may require a meeting between the coach and the parent. When these conferences are necessary, there are procedures that must be followed which will help promote a resolution of the concerned issue.

1. Talk to the coach first to discuss the issue.
2. Talk to the Athletic Director to discuss the issue. The Athletic Director will contact the coach to set up a meeting with all three parties.
3. Call and set up an appointment with the Principal if the matter cannot be resolved.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues **NOT** appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other student athletes

Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game/practice. These can be emotional times for both the coach and the parent. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote resolution.

## **Pre-Season Requirements**

Before an athlete can begin participating and competing on a 1st official day of practice for a particular activity, the following forms must be turned in to the Athletic Director via Google Forms:

1. AIA physical examination, signed by a physician and dated no earlier than June 1st of this year. *(You may find this form on the St. Gregory's website)*
2. Parent/Student Handbook Sign Off Form
3. Transportation Form; MUST BE NOTARIZED
4. Driver Information Form, If you intend on driving a student athlete other than your own
5. Fees paid to the front office. (\$75/sport)

## **Role of the Athlete**

All eligible athletes are encouraged to participate in the various C.Y.A.A. activities. Students who choose to participate in C.Y.A.A. activities must make a commitment to their team. Any player who chooses to play on a team must also make a commitment to his/her coach and teammates as well as himself/herself in order to remain on the team until the conclusion of the season.

1. Give a full effort of himself/herself during practices and games.
2. Make a commitment to the team over other activities.
3. Be accepting of his/her own mistakes.
4. Strive to achieve without placing undue pressure on self or teammates.
5. Recognize and respect the strengths and weaknesses of teammates.
6. Exhibit sportsmanship at all times.
7. Accept the guidance of coaches.
8. Respect the coaches and their decisions at all times.
9. Respect the decisions of officials at all times.
10. Never criticize coaches, officials, or fellow athletes.
11. Refrain from offensive or abusive language and actions.
12. Maintain a minimum standard of a "C" in all classes.
13. Follow the Athlete's Code of Conduct.
14. Sign the form that they have read the regulations and agree to abide by them.
15. Attend all practices and games.



## Role of the Athletic Director

The Athletic Director is responsible for the overall administration, supervision, and coordination of the interscholastic athletic program for St. Gregory Catholic School.

1. Submit completed coaching application to the administration.
2. Follow Diocesan and St. Gregory Catholic School guidelines when recommending coaches to the administration.
3. Notify coaching assignments to all coaches.
4. Explain the Diocesan and St. Gregory Catholic School policies in detail to all the coaches.
5. Review policies regarding fingerprinting, CPR Certification, and the Diocese of Phoenix Safe Environment Policy with all coaches.
6. Review all disciplinary policies regularly with coaches.
7. Review mandatory student participation time set forth by the C.Y.A.A. with coaches.
8. Interpret eligibility policies with students, parents, and staff with the cooperation of the administration.
9. Enforce eligibility standards and policies as set forth by the C.Y.A.A. and St. Gregory Catholic School.
10. Work with the administration for recruitment of coaches.
11. Keep an accurate account of all violations of policies and record the action taken in each case. Inform the administration of all actions taken prior to enforcement.
12. Provide written communication to coaches, parents, and athletes as needed.
13. Update master game schedule as needed.
14. Manage athletic contests.
15. Prepare and manage the athletic budget, requisition supplies and equipment, prepare all purchase orders, and maintain inventories for all athletic activities.
16. Complete all responsibilities associated with the program on a daily basis.
17. Keep record and if necessary offer training for C.P.R. for all coaches.
18. Submit all necessary documents to the C.Y.A.A. upon their due dates.
19. Keep the administration informed of any policy violation or sports concern.
20. Interact regularly with the principal on all aspects of our athletic program.
21. Collect all uniforms at the end of each season from the coaches/athletes.

## Role of the Coach

A coach has a strong influence on the children with whom he/she works. It is of utmost importance that a coach displays the qualities of good sportsmanship and Christian attitudes. A coach should be an instructor and disciplinarian to the team players. The coach must abide by the C.Y.A.A. Code of Conduct.

1. Be committed to the philosophy of the C.Y.A.A. Program.
2. Be knowledgeable of the C.Y.A.A. rules and applicable AIA rules.
3. Be knowledgeable of the C.Y.A.A. Code of Conduct for all participants.
4. Make good use of practice time for instruction of all players in fundamentals and rules.
5. Have all necessary documents for all players in case of injury.
6. Guide team members in cooperating with one another and accepting the weaknesses and strengths of team members.
7. Ensure all players participate up to or beyond the C.Y.A.A. requirement.
8. Supervise the athletes at all times. This includes practices and before, during, and after the games. An adult must stay with the athletes until they have been picked up.
9. Coaches should be present before the team arrives for practices and games.
10. Ensure that an adult is present at all times who possesses basic first aid and CPR training and certification.
11. Oversee the safety and maintenance of athletic equipment. They should notify the Athletic Director of any faulty equipment.
12. Evidence of a positive attitude in relating to athletes.
13. Refrain from offensive language and tobacco products at all times in the presence of the players.
14. Respect the judgement of the officials and their interpretations of the rules.
15. Refrain from discussing publicly with spectators in an abusive manner an official's decision.
16. Refrain from physical or verbal abuse of a player at all times.
17. Be responsible for unruly actions or the misconduct of his/her spectators before, during, or after the game.
18. Never appear in an intoxicated condition, or have the presence of alcoholic beverages.
19. Insist his/her team shakes hands and be courteous at all times with the other teams/coaches.
20. Hold a pre-game prayer.
21. Scheduled games must be played. Advise the Athletic Director of any conflict A.S.A.P.
22. Follow the directives of the Athletic Director and Administration.



23. Attend or have on file evidence you attended the “Safe Environment Policy” training.
24. Be fingerprinted or have a DPS clearance card.
25. Ensure that everyone associated with the team conducts himself or herself in a Christian manner.

## **Role of the Parent**

Parents of St. Gregory Catholic School athletes participating in the C.Y.A.A. league should be aware of the philosophy and guidelines set forth by the C.Y.A.A.

1. Be a positive spectator when present for any practices or games.
2. Show cooperation and respect when relating to coaches and officials.
3. If you witness a coach’s behavior, which is not consistent with the C.Y.A.A. philosophy, alert the Athletic Director and administration in writing.
4. Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
5. Refrain from offensive language and actions. Taunting and/or swearing will not be tolerated at any time.
6. Help censure fellow spectators who display negative behavior.
7. Monitor the academic progress and school behavior of their child to ensure they maintain the minimum standard of St. Gregory Catholic School. The minimum standard at St. Gregory Catholic School is a grade of a “C” or better in **all courses/classes**.
8. Sign the form that they have read the C.Y.A.A. and St. Gregory Catholic School philosophy, rules, and regulations and agree to abide by them.

## **Suspension and Removal from the Team**

Players must follow certain guidelines while participating in the St. Gregory Catholic School Sports Program. An athlete who violates the rules listed below, could be suspended or removed from the team. A coach must notify the Athletic Director of any violation before taking any action to suspend or remove a player from a team. A player may be suspended or removed by the Athletic Director/School Administration once he/she has been notified of a violation under the following conditions.

### ***One Game Suspension***

1. Receiving any notices of concern that the administration determines is substantial enough to warrant disciplinary action, this includes detention and or In School Suspension(ISS).
2. 2 unexcused tardies from practices.
3. 1 unexcused tardy from a game.
4. 1 unexcused absence from practice.
5. 1 unexcused absence from a game.
6. Misconduct during practices or games that a coach feels is substantial enough to warrant action.
7. Violation of the Athlete's Code of Conduct.

### ***Removal from the Team***

1. Athlete is suspended from the team if three or more code of conduct infractions have been received.
2. Athlete receives three unexcused absences from practices and/or games.
3. Failure to bring grades up to a "C" in any course two weeks after a grade check.
4. If a parent is late three times to pick up their child from a game or practice, the athlete may be removed or suspended from the team.
5. Any action the administration determines is substantial enough to warrant disciplinary action.

### **Supervision**

1. Athletes must report to the coach or designated adult when they arrive at the practice or game site.
2. **Athletes will not leave a site without permission.**
3. Coaches or designated adults must be present before team members arrive for practices or games.
4. Coaches must supervise players until all have been picked up from a practice or a game. Parents must be on time to pick up athletes.

### **Tardy Policy**

An athlete is tardy when he/she arrives at a practice or a game after the designated starting time as determined by the coach. Any combination of 2 unexcused tardies to a practice or a game can result in a one game suspension. Any athlete suspended from the team three times may be removed from the team.

## **Team Schedules**

St. Gregory Catholic School teams are limited on the amount of time they may have for practices and games. Practices or games, except tournaments, are Monday-Thursday with some Friday and Saturday games/tournaments. Team and master schedules will be available in the school office and on the St. Gregory Catholic School website shortly after the season begins.