

St. Alphonsus School

Athletic Handbook

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Diocesan Philosophy of School-Sponsored Athletics

The greatest strength of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge is the opportunity and responsibility of the administration of each school to consider and use this uniqueness of its circumstances to provide the best Catholic education possible for its students. Within this basic tenet, the first priority of such schools is the overall development and growth of each of its student athletes- spiritually, socially, mentally, emotionally, and physically. School sponsored athletic programs shall provide a medium by which student athletes can:

- Develop an awareness of their abilities.
- Learn and improve athletic skills.
- Acquire the true meaning of and practice sportsmanship.
- Be a part of a team effort.
- Enhance their self-esteem and feeling of belonging.
- Form foundations for a healthy adult lifestyle.

Such programs should emphasize the positive accomplishments of the individual through recognition, praise, and positive reinforcement. Athletes should be a component of and interact with the spiritual, social, and academic components of the overall school program. Administration, faculty, staff, coaches, parents, and fans are necessary components in nurturing a positive Catholic athletic experience.

I. Organization

- a. This Athletic Handbook has been written and adopted for all St. Alphonsus School student-athletes.
- b. The purpose of athletics at St. Alphonsus School is to:
 - Provide an opportunity for students to participate in an organized program that will help develop individual character, responsibility, and leadership in a Christian environment.
 - Enhance the educational experience of students by teaching self-discipline and good sportsmanship.
 - Foster cooperative attitudes and encourage honest effort and teamwork.
 - Develop and improve skills.
 - Create school spirit, pride, and loyalty.
 - Teach respect for self as well as others.

II. A Winning Philosophy

- a. We win when our student-athletes, by their participation in our athletic programs:
 - Develop pride in themselves and in their teammates, team, school, and church parish.
 - Develop respect for the rights and privileges of their teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials.
 - Succeed academically.
 - Develop a sense of responsibility to their team.
 - Communicate with their teammates and coaches respectfully.
 - Develop a desire to excel and be the best they can be.
 - Mature mentally, emotionally, physically, and socially.
 - Become willing to make personal sacrifices, putting team achievement ahead of personal achievement.
 - Become leaders on and off the field.

III. Guidelines

- a. **All coaches must attend the Child Protection seminar required by the Diocese as well as have a background check by the State Police.**
- b. All team members will receive equal instruction in the rules and strategies of the sport and shall be provided equal opportunity to develop basic skills.
- c. Coaches shall correct student-athletes in a dignified manner in a spirit of encouragement.
- d. Team members, coaches, nor fans shall publicly criticize or openly show displeasure toward game officials.
- e. Every effort will be made to allow students who desire to join a school-sponsored sport the opportunity to participate. However, due to league guidelines and practical restrictions, tryouts may be required.
- f. Tryouts will be closed unless otherwise stated by the Athletic Director.
- g. Coaches are encouraged to play team members an adequate amount of time to make them feel part of the team effort. Participation in games may be based on attendance and participation at practice, attendance at games, conduct, and attitude.
- h. Student-Athlete participation in other school activities is encouraged (Academic Clubs, the Arts, etc.). However, the student-athlete and parents must assume the responsibility of choosing other extracurricular activities that do not conflict with practices or games. The guidelines for game participation will still be enforced in these cases.
- i. Coaches shall discourage inappropriate comments to the opposing team and encourage respect and courtesy to other teams and visitors.
- j. Coaches and parents shall refrain from the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco at all youth sports events or practices.

IV. Student Eligibility

- a. Each member must have and maintain a 2.0 GPA on report cards for each nine-week grading period and not receive an “F” in conduct.
- b. St. Alphonsus School Principal reserves the right to suspend a student from the team for excessive detentions or excessive school behavior problems.
- c. Major discipline infractions may result in a suspension from or removal from an athletic team. Penalties will be at the discretion of the Principal and/or Athletic Director.
- d. No student may participate in an athletic event on the same day that the student is absent or suspended from school. The school administration reserves the right to remove any student from school-sponsored sports eligibility should a serious incident occur during the school day or at a sports-related activity.

V. Requirements for Participation

- a. A completed parent permission form and a copy of the student’s insurance card is to be turned in to the Athletic Director.
- b. All student-athletes must turn in a physical/doctor’s release prior to tryouts or practice.
- c. To qualify for the end of the year/season awards, pictures, or acknowledgements, a student must be an active team member on the last day of that team’s season.
- d. Each student-athlete must provide and arrange for their own transportation to and from events. (Coaches are not responsible for providing team members transportation.)
- e. Students who remain after school for practice or a game may not leave the school grounds and must be under the supervision of coaches or parents.
- f. Student-athletes must wear specific practice uniforms.
- g. Individual team policies must also be followed.
- h. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a mature fashion during practice sessions, games, or any event where they represent St. Alphonsus School.
- i. Each student-athlete must be sincere in promoting the objectives of the organization and promoting school spirit and unity.

St. Alphonsus School reserves the right to amend this handbook for just cause.