

ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC SCHOOL
2630 Austin Parkway
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
281-980-0500 FAX 281-980-0026

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
2023-2024

This Athletic Handbook is provided to inform students and parents of the athletic procedures and policies of St. Laurence Catholic School. We ask parents to carefully read all sections of the handbook and review them with their child (ren).

St. Laurence Catholic School operates in accordance with the Archdiocesan Board of Education policy number 621 that reads:

“A school within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that will be known as a Catholic School shall follow the regulations as set forth by the Catholic School Office.”

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston guarantee all students the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to the general student body. Catholic schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, or national origin.

St. Laurence Catholic School adheres to the guidelines established by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and maintains full accreditation status. We currently hold membership in the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Our athletic association is governed under the Galveston-Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA) guidelines.

St. Laurence Catholic School and administration retain the right to amend the Athletic Handbook. By no means is this handbook considered all-inclusive. Administration and staff will exercise professional judgment and discretion to address situations fairly and consistently.

The enrollment of a child(ren) at St. Laurence Catholic School in athletics is considered to be an agreement on the part of the student and parents or guardians that they will comply with all school procedures, regulations, and policies including, but not limited to, such procedures, regulations, and policies in this Athletic Handbook.

After reviewing this Athletic Handbook with your child(ren), sign the acknowledgment form by checking the appropriate box on the online registration form.

***“Surely you know that your body is a temple where the
Holy Spirit lives. The Spirit is in you and is a gift from God.
You are no longer your own. God paid a great price for you.
So use your body to honor God.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20***

MISSION STATEMENT

As a pastoral instrument of the Church, St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of parent, child, and educator.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The philosophy of the athletic program at St. Laurence School is in accordance with the school's overall mission statement. The primary goal of St. Laurence Catholic School is centered on the development and formation of the whole Christian person. Education is based on spiritual formation of Christian values and teachings, strong academics, the development of social skills, and community service. St. Laurence Catholic School is committed to the trinity of parent, child, and educator working together to achieve this goal.

St. Laurence Catholic School recognizes that physical development is an important component of a student's well being and therefore seeks to aid in the total development of the individual student through organized, cooperative competition. In addition, it is important for students to develop socially as they learn to work in a team situation and to practice good sportsmanship. The goal of the athletic program is to produce young men and women of strong character, who can be successful in the competitive society in which we live. Additional goals of the athletic program include the development and cultivation of self-esteem, respect, and school spirit.

INTRODUCTION

St. Laurence Catholic School offers a variety of sports for both boys and girls in middle school, including: volleyball, soccer, cross country, football, tennis, basketball, softball, baseball, cheerleading, and track. Additional sports are periodically considered if there is sufficient interest on the part of students and parents. The athletic program falls under the jurisdiction of the School, and is administered by the Principal, the Athletic Director(s), full-and part-time coaches, and parent volunteers. The Booster Club is a parent organization that supports the athletic program. St. Laurence Catholic School is a member of the Galveston Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA), and is bound by all the rules of the league.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Participation in athletics is a privilege, requiring a commitment from both the student participant and his or her parents. Students earn the privilege of participating through maintaining a commitment to academics, effort, dedication, desire, and self-discipline.

Enrollment: Students must attend St. Laurence Catholic School.

Grade Level Requirements: Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are eligible to participate in athletics. Participation may be opened to 5th grade students in some sports.

Age Requirements: Students on the varsity or “A” team may not turn 15 before September 1. Students on the junior varsity or “B” team may not turn 14 before September 1. Students on the “C” team may not turn 13 before September 1.

Financial Obligations: Students must be in good standing on all financial obligations to the school, including: tuition, fees, etc. Students will be required to pay an athletic fee for each sport in which they participate. **Athletic fees are non-refundable and must be paid in full through FACTS** Students wanting to play sports that need financial assistance should contact the Athletic Directors.

Attendance: Students with an absence on the day of a game or practice may not participate in athletic activities that day. A minimum of half day attendance is required to participate in athletics.

Academics/Behavior: Students must be in good standing meeting the grade requirements outlined below in every subject area and maintain an “S” or better in conduct in all classes in order to fully participate on a St. Laurence sports team.

Opportunity to participate is determined by eligibility checks, which are held every two weeks after the midpoint of the first quarter. The first check of the second, third, and fourth quarters is a check of the final grades of the previous quarter. If a student is placed on probation or is ineligible to play as defined below in sections a) and b), the period begins on the Friday following when the grades are checked and continues through the two school weeks following until grades are reassessed. The student will have an opportunity to regain eligibility after one week, on the following Friday or later, if their grades meet the eligibility requirements and they submit the Self-Assessment Athletic Form and ask for grades to be rechecked by the Athletic Directors. The student may be reinstated the first Friday following the start of probation or at any point during that second week if the conditions are met. If they do not turn in the form the next grade check at the two week mark will determine their eligibility for the following two weeks. If a student athlete does not improve academically or behaviorally at the two week mark in the deficient class/classes, then he/she will remain ineligible to play until the deficiency is corrected and reinstatement has been approved by the Athletic Directors. The student must request an Academic Eligibility Form from the Athletic Directors to be reinstated early during the second two weeks of probation or wait for the next grade check.

The Athletic Director will notify the coaches, parents, and student athletes of their play status within 24 hours of the eligibility ruling. Situations that would affect a student athlete’s playing status are as follows:

- a) Students who have no more than two D's may continue to play and practice but should be aware of the situation. If a child has more than two D's at the first grade check, they may continue to practice with a parent note but may not participate in competitions or wear a team uniform. If at the recheck they still have more than two D's, they become ineligible to practice or compete. With an F, a student may continue to practice only with a parent note after the first eligibility check, but not participate in competition. A student with an F is ineligible to play, practice or represent the team in uniform if grades have not improved at the time that grades are rechecked. After the initial two-week probation if the student remains ineligible he or she will become eligible when the academic requirements are met. The student will be required to submit a form with the teacher's signature confirming the updated grade. A parent must also sign the form and it must be submitted to the athletic director. The student will be notified when eligibility is reinstated.
- b) In the event that a student athlete is suspended from school, the student athlete will be ineligible to play on a St. Laurence sports team for a period of two weeks. The two-week period will consist of days when school is in session and does not involve holidays or times when school is not in session. The period of ineligibility will begin on the day that written notice of suspension is given to the student/parent and will continue for ten school days. The student may attend practices with the exception of the actual day(s) of suspension. The student cannot participate in game play and cannot travel with the team during the ten-day period.
- c) Student athletes, who display inappropriate behaviors that lead to major referrals, may at the discretion of the principal/assistant principal, athletic directors or coach be subjected to the same policies that apply to student athletes who have been suspended. Verbal and/or written notice will be given to the student athlete/parent.

Sportsmanship: Any student athlete whose conduct, dress, or other display of behavior is unbecoming a St. Laurence student that may discredit the reputation of this school, can be declared ineligible for athletic competition. Such decisions are made by the Coach and Athletic Director in consultation with the Principal, and are final.

Parents similarly are expected to refrain from public criticism and/or private remarks which may adversely reflect on our school's participation in interscholastic sports. Parents may be barred from games if their behavior is deemed inappropriate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Team Selection: The head coach or sponsor in concurrence with the athletic directors is responsible for the team selection process for the individual sport/activity. Sixth grade and junior varsity teams provide an opportunity for all players to learn the finer points of teamwork and improve personal skills. Playing time is not guaranteed but is dependent upon the student fulfilling his/her commitment to the team. Absence from practice and lack of effort or commitment will affect play time. Tournament, play-off and championship game individual participation is at the coaches' discretion, meaning that not every team member is guaranteed playing time. Varsity teams are competitive and not all players may play every game.

Team Meeting: All coaches will hold pre-season meetings. Attendance of at least one parent is strongly encouraged. Students are provided with a copy of the Athletic Handbook (via the athletic website), fee requirements, practice schedules, game schedules, and game addresses will also be available. Parents are responsible for knowing all information presented at the meeting.

Practices: Students are expected to attend all practices, games, and meetings called by the coach. If a student misses a practice, game, or meeting, the coach must be notified immediately. Students who miss practices, games, or meetings may lose playing time in future games.

Students are expected to be picked up immediately after practice and at the conclusion of any competition with definite plans prearranged. A 5-minute grace period for athletes will be allowed prior to late fees of \$1.00 per minute being assessed. This procedure adheres to general school policy for late pick-ups.

Uniforms and Equipment: School-issued uniforms and equipment are to be used for all St. Laurence games, competitions, practices, and special activities. **Athletic uniforms may only be worn for athletic competitions. Uniforms may not be worn outside of school or on Spirit Day unless specific permission is given on special occasions. The wearing of team uniforms for PE classes is unacceptable.** Care must be taken to keep uniforms and equipment in good condition. **All school owned uniforms and equipment should be returned to the athletic department on the designated turn in day cleaned and in good condition. Students may not compete in another sport until uniform matters are resolved.** A student's report card may be withheld at the end of the quarter if uniforms have not been returned. Students who leave a team before the end of a season must return uniforms and equipment immediately. Students are responsible for furnishing some equipment and uniform items including their own socks, shoes, knee pads, and shin guards. These must meet team specifications for color, etc.

Facilities and Equipment: St. Laurence School is responsible for providing the facilities and equipment needed for practices and games. Students are responsible for personal equipment such as kneepads, safety glasses, shin guards, tennis rackets, and other designated items.

Transportation: Transportation **to away league** games may be provided through an area bus company if available. Only parents or pre-designated carpool arrangements will be allowed to pick-up players from "away" competitions. Students must be signed out by the parent or designated adult. In the event of scrimmages or a weekend competition/tournament, parents are responsible for

arranging transportation. Parents provide transportation to all playoff games. Parents must also provide transportation to off campus practice venues.

Injuries: St. Laurence Catholic School provides medical insurance for students participating in athletic activities through an approved insurance carrier. Coverage will be secondary to a family's existing policies or as a primary provider in cases where this is the only insurance available. Complete documentation of the injury and situation is to be recorded and submitted by the attending staff member.

Expectations: Students are expected to follow team rules set by the coach. These may include items such as dress, grooming, practice attendance, warm-ups, transportation, uniforms, etc. All students and parents agree to follow COVID protocols required by the school or schools we visit as a condition of participation.

Booster Club

Mission Statement

The Saints Booster Club was established to support, encourage, and advance the athletic programs of St. Laurence Catholic School through fundraising, community building, team work, and to promote the SLCS athletic program among students, parents, coaches, faculty, and the local community.

Purpose of the Saints Booster Club

The Saints Booster Club will provide support to the athletic programs at SLCS.

The Saints Booster Club will be the vehicle for community building within the athletic programs at SLCS.

The Saints Booster Club shall promote projects to improve school spirit, sportsmanship, and academic achievement within each athletic program at SLCS.

The Saints Booster Club shall contribute to the improvement of SLCS facilities and equipment.

REGISTRATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

1. Have your child's doctor complete the All Sports Physical Form and return it to the school office.

Physical form is available on the athletic website.

2. Complete registration online at stlaurenceathletics.org.

This registration includes parental consent for participation and travel as well as acknowledgement that the student and parent have read the Athletic Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and regulations in the handbook.

3. **Pay the designated fees which will be billed through FACTS.**

NOTE: Register at stlaurenceathletics.org

ST. LAURENCE ATHLETICS ATHLETIC TEAM REGISTRATION FEES

All students in grades 6-8 are eligible to participate in the Athletic Program. Fifth graders may be allowed to participate in some sports. The Athletic Handbook provides the framework for the operation of the program. Students must maintain eligibility to participate.

Students must complete online registration for each sport or activity. The athletic fee for the specific sport or activity must be paid through FACT. Fees are non-refundable.

Online registration and physical form must be submitted before an athlete can participate. The athletic fee will be billed to the family's FACTS account once tryouts are complete or practices have begun.

Co-ed Soccer (\$225)	Volleyball (\$225)	Co-ed Cross Country (\$175)
Basketball (\$225)	Baseball (\$225)	Softball (\$225)
Co-ed Cheer (\$200)	Co-ed Tennis Fall (\$200)	
Football (\$225)	Co-ed Track (\$200)	

