



**Athletics Department  
Guidelines and Policies**

**&**

**Student-Athlete Registration Packet**

## 2021-2022 Athletics Department Guidelines and Policies & Student-Athlete Registration Packet

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the St. Joan of Arc Catholic School Athletic Department!

The St. Joan of Arc Catholic School Athletic Department and Administration would like to thank you for all your support and sacrifice during our athletic seasons. We are very grateful for the time and effort your child puts into our sports, and the time and effort you put in with the various duties of being a “sports parent”. We all wish to see the students strive and succeed while simultaneously keeping them out of harm’s way. All of us at SJA wish to thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and we acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices you make for your child every day.

We are all deeply vested in our children’s athletic endeavors. As parents, we know you want to see them do well and excel. At this age level, we are trying to teach these young athletes and lay the foundation for them to perhaps play competitively at the high school level. Throughout the athletic season, we want the athletes to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically while improving upon their skills in their chosen sport. We want the athletes to have fun, forge team bonds, and learn real-world skills that help with communication, group dynamics, leadership, and service. Parents/guardians should not let their desires, emotions, or dreams interfere with the experience for their child(ren).

As a school and Athletic Department, SJA strives to create the most favorable environment for our athletes and parents. We also uphold the rules and guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Palm Beach. It is our hope and full intention that the policies contained herein will benefit all parties involved, especially our student-athletes.

We sincerely hope we can all give our athletes, your children, a truly positive learning, and spiritual experience that will last them for years to come.

Yours in Christ,

**Coach Sullivan, Athletic Director**

## St. Joan of Arc Athletic Department: Uniform Return Policy

Each athlete competing in any sport(s) is issued a regulation St. Joan of Arc athletic uniform. The uniform is an "INVENTORY ITEM," and is the property of SJA Athletic Department. Uniforms are very expensive; we try to get several seasons of use from them.

- Therefore, uniforms will be handed out/assigned to athletes for ONE season's competitions.
- The uniform MUST be returned at the end of that season.
- Coaches reserve the right to collect uniforms at the end of each game as well.
- Some uniform items are considered "personal attire" and are purchased individually by the athlete (knee pads, arm sleeves, braces, etc...). These items are the personal property of the athlete.
- Other items may be gifted to the athletes by the Athletic Director or Coaches, and the athletes will be allowed to keep these (headbands, t-shirts, wristbands, etc...).
- The Athletic Director and/or Coaches will provide detailed instructions on the washing and drying procedures for uniforms (some uniforms can NOT be put in the dryer), or each uniform package will contain instructions on proper care and maintenance of the garment.
- The Athletic Director and/or Coaches will provide detailed instructions on how the uniform is to be returned at the end of the season.

The return of uniforms is crucial and will allow us to guarantee the maximum participation in each sport.

- Athletes and their families who have failed to return their uniform will be notified by the Athletic Department.
- Athletes will return the uniform to the SJA Athletic Director or designated Coach(es) at the end of the season unless otherwise noted.
- Athletes who do not return the uniform within the designated time will be charged for the uniform.
- The athlete will have a "flag" placed on his or her file/transcript until the uniform is returned or the item has been paid for. This means transcripts and other school documentation may be withheld. The student may not be able to participate in any school event(s) or participate on any SJA Athletic Team(s).
- Future participation will require a uniform deposit.

Enforcement of this policy will begin the moment your child joins a sports team for SJA and will continue for his or her time at SJA. If your child has any uniform belonging to SJA from the most recent seasons or any past seasons, please return them immediately. Thank you for your cooperation, continued support, and the sacrifices you make every day for your child/children.

## St. Joan of Arc Athletics Department: Concussion Course for Students

Considering recent concerns and issues centering on concussions, we all need to be informed on this subject. All student-athletes at SJA may be asked to take the very informative "Concussion Course for Students" provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The course only takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and will be done with Sullivan.

## St. Joan of Arc Athletics Department: Sports Fees & Equipment

1. The fee to participate in any sport is \$75 per sport. Payment of the \$75 per sport fee is a requirement for your son and/or daughter to play sports here at SJA. Your child/children will not be allowed to participate in the sport he or she signed up for if the fee is not paid in a timely fashion, or an agreement has been discussed between you and Coach Sullivan.
2. Please purchase any necessary equipment in a timely fashion. A week or more before needed is recommended.

## SPORTS PROGRAM: Student Guidelines & Policies

SJA provides a sports program for students in grades 5–8, which are designed to meet the needs of, and to develop the talents of our students, and are provided for student enrichment.

### Sports Offered:

Sport	Level	Gender	Grades
Basketball	Varsity	Girls	7 – 8
	Varsity	Boys	7-8
	JV	Boys	5-7
Cheerleading and spirit squad	Primary & JV	Girls	2 – 5
Flag Football	Varsity & JV	Boys	5&6 7&8
Soccer	Varsity	Boys & Girls	6-8
	JV	Boys & Girls	6-7
Baseball	Varsity	Boys	6-8
Softball	Varsity	Girls	6-8
Volleyball	Varsity	Girls	5– 8
Volleyball	JV	Girls	5-7
Tennis	Varsity	Boys&Girls	5-8
Golf	Varsity	Boys	5-8

Parents acknowledge that participation in these sports, activities, or clubs may be inherently dangerous, and the school cannot ensure the safety of all students involved in its activities and programs.

Prior to participation in any sport, each student must complete the Athletics Registration Packet, Parent Consent and Release of Liability form and a physician's certificate to the effect that the student is physically fit for participation in the sport. Participation includes pre-season conditioning, open gym, tryouts, and practice. **Parents, by executing this acknowledgement of receipt of this Handbook, HEREBY RELEASE the school, Diocese of Palm Beach, and their corporate members, officers, employees, and agents, from any claims or liabilities that allegedly arise from or are related to participation in any sports, leagues, clubs, or activities.**

The school is not responsible for student participation in any sports, leagues or clubs not identified above. Parents hereby acknowledge that students who participate in any such program or activity do so at their own risk. Parents further acknowledge that the school does not control or sanction any such program or activity and that it shall not be held liable for any injuries or damages sustained by students or others arising from participation in such program or activities.

### Tryouts

Student athletes must have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA on their current report card or Plus Portal Grades to try out. If a student is absent during a sports tryout, they will not be able to try out later unless it is an extreme emergency or illness, and the Athletic Director has been notified. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to notify the Athletic Director immediately. The Athletic Director and/or coach may allow a tryout at their discretion if the tryout is warranted.

Necessary medical forms must be on file with the Athletic Director before a student can try out or participate in a sport.

### General Information

Student athletes of SJA are representatives of the school and must maintain high standards of excellence. Extra-curricular activities, specifically, athletic activities are an essential part of a student's experience at school. There is an abundance of research indicating that participating in athletics promotes student achievement. Coaches, teachers, and the administration must work together to be certain that all athletes excel. We strongly believe that the daily academic work of the student must always remain the priority.

**For a student to be eligible to participate in a sport, the following criterion must be met:**

- Student athletes must have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA on their current report card or on FACTS to try out.
- Student athletes must have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA to participate in all sports. Student athletes may not participate in sports if GPA is below 2.0.
- Student athletes who receive any grade lower than a "C" may not be able to participate in sports. Student athletes having grades lower than a "C" will need to complete a progress report that will need to be filled out by each teacher of the student to be considered for participation in the sport.
- Any student athlete having 3 or more detentions during a sport season may be benched for 1 or more games. Student athletes may be benched at any time even if they have less than 3 detentions on a case-by-case basis.
- Student athletes may not have 9 or more demerits during the sports season. Any athlete having 9 or more demerits during a sport season may be benched for 1 or more games. Students may be benched at any time even if they have less than 9 demerits on a case-by-case basis.
- A student participating in athletics **must attend a full day of school on the day of the activity.**
- Missed practices and games need to have approval from the coach or Athletic Director or student will sit out a game for each practice missed.
- Any student athlete who is removed from a sports team due to disciplinary reason, or who quits a sports team anytime during the school year may not be permitted to try out for another sport during the remainder of the academic school year. If a student quits a sport, it will be up to the Athletic Director and coach of the sport if he or she can participate in another sport.

The Diocese of Palm Beach Athletic Consent and Release from Liability Certificates, SJA Registration Packet, and Athletic Pre-Participation physical evaluation forms will be sent home with students. These forms must be turned in to the Athletic Director the first weeks of school prior to any tryouts or participation. A student may be placed on academic or behavior probation at the discretion of teacher, coach, and/or administration. Students must be putting forth their best effort to remain on a school team. All sports/extracurricular activities have a faculty/staff moderator. A student may be removed from a team for just cause, which would include any infractions as outlined above or any unsportsmanship-like behavior or a D or F average (below 2.0 GPA). There is a fee per athlete per sport due at the beginning of each sport season once a student has been selected to be on the St. Joan of Arc team. This fee covers league registration fees, gym rental fees, referee fees, etc.

## St. Joan of Arc Athletics Department: Parent Code of Conduct

As we embark on a new athletic calendar year, we are looking forward to a year filled with excitement, enthusiasm, and energy. We want our athletes to engage in team sports in a competitive league with other teams who share the same religious views, values, ethics, and goals as we do.

The SJA Athletic Department strives to provide a positive youth sport experience by encouraging parents, coaches, officials, and other league players to demonstrate good sportsmanship at practices and games. All parents and their guests are to conduct themselves in an orderly and positive fashion towards all players, coaches, officials, and city staff. Failure to meet or abide by these rules may be cause for removal from the game/practice, field, or court at the discretion of the SJA Director, Coaching Staff and/or Administration.

The following outlines the expectations of the SJA, Athletic Director, and Coaching Staff have put in place to guarantee a positive and fun environment for our parents and guests when attending an athletic event:

1. Parents, guardians, and their guests will be positive role models for their child(ren) and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or any other related event.
2. Parents, guardians, and their guests will not encourage any unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, such as booing and/or taunting, or using profane language or gestures. Parents and guardians will also allow the coaches from SJA to coach without interference and distraction to the SJA players and coaches.
3. Parents, guardians, and their guests will ensure that their child's playing environment is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at the sports event, including at or within the vicinity of the playing or practice fields and courts. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal by the proper authorities.
4. Parents, guardians, and their guests will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, court, etc. If needed, parents or guardians will request time to speak with coaches at an agreed-upon time and place. If parents/guardians find they are not satisfied after speaking with the coach, they understand they should then contact the SJA Director responsible for the program.
5. Parents, guardians, and their guests will ensure their child(ren) treats other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ability.
6. Parents, guardians, and their guests will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes and the team ahead of any personal desire they may have for their child and in the desire to win.
7. Parents, guardians, and their guests will emphasize practices and skill development and how they benefit their child by ensuring they arrive and are retrieved in a timely fashion at all scheduled practices and games.
8. Parents, guardians, and their guests will inform the SJA administrative office, its officials, and coach, of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child and/or the safety of others.
9. Parents, guardians, and their guests will teach their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts in a sportsmanlike manner.
10. Parents, guardians, and their guests will teach their child that doing one's best is most important, so that their child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or by his/her performance.

## St. Joan of Arc Athletics Department: Play Like A Champion Today Parent Training

All students who participate in athletics in the Diocese of Palm Beach must have a parent or guardian take the Play Like a Champion Today training course. This course originated at Notre Dame University. The course is designed to educate parents and guardians on how to exhibit sportsmanship, and how to incorporate religion, morals, and ethics into their experience as spectators of sports while setting a positive example for their children. The course will be offered each sports season. At least one parent or guardian is required to take the course for the student to be allowed to participate in sports in the DPB. The cost for the course is \$15. Information on the sessions will be distributed and available on our school's FACTS' site.

## St. Joan of Arc Athletics Department: Parent Participation Guidelines

The SJA guidelines for parent involvement with the Athletic Department, the athletes, and while attending sporting events:

- SJA athletes will be held in a designated area by Administration, the Athletic Director, or the head coach and/or assistant coaches. Parent or guardian access to this area and the athletes will be limited based on approval by the SJA Staff.
- If a parent wishes to speak to his or her child/children, the parent may take his or her child for a short period of time with St. Joan staff approval. This may be done so long as it does not disrupt what the representative from SJA (Administration, AD, or Coach) is doing with the team. Please be respectful and let the representative know you need to briefly speak with your child.
- Per the DPB rules, any parent or guardian wishing to coach (if hired/approved by SJA), be a "Team Mom or Dad," or be in close proximity of the student-athletes for an extended period of time must:
  1. Complete VIRTUS training. VIRTUS is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the United States with a "Protecting God's Children." VIRTUS is a Diocesan program focused on protecting our children. This program is required of any adult who wishes to volunteer his or her time in a Catholic school for all school-related activities.
  2. Pass an extensive Diocese of Palm Beach background screening.
  3. Sign a Diocesan Code of Conduct as well as a St. Joan Code of Conduct.

Those wishing to coach must also attend and pass a "Play Like a Champion Today" workshop. The "Play Like a Champion Today" Educational Workshop provides leadership in a worldwide effort to promote an inclusive, developmentally oriented youth sports culture. It does this by mainly educating ethically responsible sports leaders, coaches, parents, athletic administrators, and athletes. These people will in turn, reach millions of people. These workshops are held at various times throughout the year.

Note: Hiring of Coaches, assistant coaches, and parental or guardian involvement in the SJA athletic program is at the discretion of administration, the Athletic Director, and Coaches who may already be in place in the program.



## Athletics Department & Program Policy Receipt & Acknowledgement Form

I, as Parent or Legal Guardian, acknowledge that I have read the entire contents of the St. Joan Athletic Department Guidelines & Policies Packet and that of the St. Joan of Arc Catholic School Parent-Student Handbook and understand the consequences of any violations of the rules and policies of the school.

I agree to cooperate with the school in the interpretation and enforcement of the policies outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook and the SJA Department Guidelines & Policies Packet. I also understand that the school has the ultimate authority over the administration of the school and the interpretation of the school's rules and policies. Moreover, I further understand that all the school's policies whether written or verbal are only guidelines and are subject to change at the sole discretion of the school with or without notice.

I also hereby acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms of the RELEASES outlined in the school-Sponsored Events Policy, the Participation in School Athletics or Organizations Policy, and the Use of Photos Policy.

I, (parent/guardian printed name) \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge I have read the St. Joan Catholic School Athletics Registration Packet in its entirety. I will abide by its rules without issue or incident. Failure to comply may have consequences including up not limited: withholding of grades, dismissal from game/practice, removal from an athletic event, and/or denial of participation in any future SJA sporting events.

I, (student athlete printed name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read and been informed about the content, requirements, and expectations of the St. Joan of Arc Athletics Department Guidelines and Policies for St. Joan of Arc Catholic School. I have received a copy of the policy and agree to abide by the policy guidelines as a condition of my participation in the SJA Athletic Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Parent/Legal Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Student Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Grade)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)