



Knights Athletics Philosophy and Guidelines



As outlined in the Diocesan Board of Education Regulation regarding extra-curricular athletics for elementary schools in the Diocese of Green Bay (D/B Code 6145.21), the primary purpose of Catholic education is to educate and develop mind, spirit and body. It affirms the importance of providing physical education instruction within the school day as well as wholesome athletic experiences for all students as integral aspects of a total school program. To this end, it is the goal of Knights Athletics to outline the philosophy, athlete and parent codes of conduct, and participation guidelines.

Philosophy of the Knights Athletic Association

Participation in athletics and cheerleading is considered an honor and a privilege. In the interest of saving space from here on in this document, when reference is made to athletics, it also includes cheerleading.

All students in grades 5-8 shall have the opportunity to participate in athletics as long as they are academically eligible (see Board of Education regulations and school handbooks) and display a positive attitude and appropriate effort in school and at school functions. 4th Grade students may be invited to join 5th gr. teams if there are not enough 5th grade players to field a team.

A “no cut” policy is in effect, meaning all students wanting to participate will have a place on a sports team or cheerleading squad as long as they remain eligible as outlined in these guidelines.

If enough students participate to warrant more than one team (see bylaw regulation with regard to numbers per team) in a particular sports, coaches will attempt to divide athletes according to ability so that each team has equal talent. Every effort shall be made to avoid “stacking” a team with all strong players.

Teams will not be chosen based on car pools, friends, or parent work schedules. Every effort will be made to expose athletes to different coaches each season, i.e. athletes will not necessarily stay on the same team each year (siblings are an exception).

No athletes or parents, unless coaching, are to be present during team selections.

There will be a min./max. of two coaches per team. If there are other parents interested in working with student athletes in a coaching capacity, they are welcome to join their son or daughters team AFTER teams have been divided.

Parent Meeting and Information

A mandatory meeting for all athletes and at least one parent shall be implemented prior to each fall, winter and spring sport season. This meeting will outline program expectations, provide parents an opportunity to meet coaches and vice versa, allow for questions and answers, provide a forum for all participants and parents to learn about the program philosophy and expectations with regard to practices, attendance, commitment to working gate and concession, etc. If a parent is unable to attend, an individual meeting must be scheduled with the athletic director in order for the student to be allowed to participate.

Playing Time

Quality playing time is defined as:

1. Not 30 seconds at the end of a quarter.
2. Not waiting until the game is decided.
3. Not playing your least gifted athletes at the same time.
4. Making sure all players are involved in all aspects of the game.

All students in 5th-8th grades shall receive equal playing time in league matches and games. (4th grade athletes will not be guaranteed equal playing time. Expectations and specific guidelines will be given by coach). For volleyball, each player will start one of the three games of a match. For softball, each player will play a minimum of two innings per game and everyone will bat. Where volleyball tournaments are concerned, if three games are played, players should play the equivalent of one game. If two games are played, players should play the equivalent of a half of a game. For basketball tournaments, all players should play approximately 4 minutes per game when teams have up to 12 players. If a team has more than 12 players, all players should play approximately 3 minutes per game.

Eligibility

Regular attendance is essential to a student's success in school and is priority over inter-scholastic athletics and/or cheerleading. Students must be in attendance for the entire school day to participate in practices and/or contests held that day. Dr., dentist, or prearranged appointments are excused.

All students must meet the academic performance standards in order to be eligible for inter-scholastic athletics and/or cheerleading.

Student athletes are expected to maintain at least a "C" average with a passing grade in all courses. Student athletes are expected to display appropriate effort and attitude in school and at school functions as outlined in the school parent handbook. An offense occurs if the student is not meeting the academic performance standard beginning 2 weeks after school is in session or a new quarter begins.

First Offense:	The student is suspended from playing three games/meets. The student must practice and attend games/meets, but cannot suit up.
Second Offense:	The student is suspended from playing in any games/meets until the next evaluation point. The student must practice and attend games/meets, but cannot suit up.
Third Offense:	The student is ineligible to compete in Knights athletics for remainder of the school year.
Detention/Suspension:	When a detention/suspension is received, the athlete is ineligible to compete in the next scheduled game. The principal will notify the athletic director who, in turn, will notify the coach.

Absence from Practice or Game

In order for a player to receive an excused absence from a practice or a game, the coach or athletic director must get a signed note or a phone call from the parent prior to the practice or game. Unexcused absence will result in less playing time.

Grievance Procedure

Wait 24 hours before contacting a coach with a particular grievance.

The following grievance procedure shall be followed if a problem arises in athletics:

- I. Parent and Coach will meet to discuss the problem in private (this meeting can be requested by the parent or the coach).
- II. Parent, Coach, and Athletic Director will meet to discuss the problem.
- III. If the problem remains unresolved, a meeting will be held with the Parent, Coach, and Athletic Director
- IV. The Education Committee will make the final decision on the problem if it cannot be resolved as outlined in I-III above.

It is the goal of the Knights Athletics that all team participants have fun and learn the fundamental of their sport in an atmosphere of respect and encouragement.

CODE OF CONDUCT

PARENTS OF ATHLETES: The following are expectations of all parents as coaches, spectators, and volunteers of the Knights athletic program. The rules listed below are expected to be followed by all parents as role models to our students.

1. Do not force a child to participate. Reliving an athletic life through a child or creating an athletic career to replace the one you never had does not make a positive athlete or student.
2. Adults are role models for children. Good sportsmanship and respect for coaches, officials, athletes and other parents are positive role models.
3. Attendance at practices and games is essential to a successful team. If an athlete is unable to attend a game or practice, a phone call to the coach or an advance written notice must be given.
4. Money earned at athletic events helps sustain our athletic program. Parents are required to fulfill obligations working at the gate or concessions as assigned.
5. Attending mandatory sports meetings ensures a good understanding of our program philosophies and guidelines. This will ensure your child's participation.
6. It is mindful that doing one's best is more important than winning and we, as parents, need to be sure our son/daughter knows we love him, support him, and appreciate his efforts. Participation in athletics and/or cheerleading should be fun for your son and/or daughter.
7. We need to remember that coaches are volunteers. If a problem arises, commit to following the grievance procedure outlined in the Knights Athletic Philosophy and Guidelines. There is an appropriate time to discuss the issue with the coach, not in front of your athlete or other athletes and parents.

STUDENT ATHLETES: The following expectations will be imposed upon all student athletes participating in the Knights athletic program. Enforcement of these rules will be the responsibility of the principals in coordination with the athletic director and coaches. This signed document showing understanding and acceptance of these expectations will be kept on file by the athletic director for each athlete.

The rules listed below are expected to be followed by all athletes involved in the Knights Athletic Program:

1. Athletic Eligibility: All students must meet the academic performance standards in order to be eligible for the inter-scholastic athletics and/or cheerleading.
2. Drinking, smoking/tobacco, drugs, weapons, sexual misconduct or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated. This type of behavior does not make a good athlete. Automatic dismissal will be enforced if any athlete demonstrates this type of behavior and the local law enforcement will be notified.
3. A dress code will be enforced at all practices and ball games—home and away. As an athlete, you are representing your school and parish. The dress code for athletic events and practices (phy. ed. class appropriate) will comply with the daily school dress code. You are expected to dress accordingly.
4. Your language reflects your character. As representatives of the KAA, you will at all times exhibit Christian behavior toward the referee, coaches, players, student body, and parents participating in the event. The coach is the only person to discuss calls made by the referee. Infractions of sportsmanship will be dealt with on an individual basis by the athletic director.
5. All student athletes are expected to be at practice on time. If you must be late or absent, please contact your coach or let another teammate know your plans prior to practice.
6. Christian behavior is expected from all athletes and is a reflection of the values of common courtesy, safety, and respect for people and property. Locker rooms and showers are not play areas. Each athlete is responsible for their own behavior and reporting inappropriate behavior or vandalism to the coaching staff.
7. Each player is responsible for his/her own uniform. If any part of the uniform is lost or destroyed, the athlete will be expected to pay for the replacement cost. Inadequate washing of the uniforms can ruin the fabric or imprinting. Laundered uniforms are to be returned promptly at the end of the season.



Knights Agreement Form

Participation fees are \$40 per sport
with this form.

Please make checks payable to: Holy Spirit School
Memo: Athletics

As an athlete participating in Knights Athletics, I have received and read the Knights Athletics Philosophy and Guidelines and the Code of Conduct. It is my obligation to abide by the information in these documents in order to participate in athletic events.

Athlete's Signature

Date

As a parent, I have received and read the Knights Athletics Philosophy and Guidelines and the Code of Conduct. I agree to fulfill my commitments and help my child fulfill his/her commitment to Knights Athletics by following the information in these documents.

Parent's Signature

Date