

# Saint Anne Catholic School

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## Parent/Athlete Handbook

2009-2010

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## **Saint Anne Catholic School Mission Statement**

Saint Anne Catholic School Community is committed to the fundamental obligation to teach and live the Gospel message as well as preparing students to be productive, responsible and effective members of the world community. We prepare students for life-time service to God and the quest for knowledge.

***“The mission becomes the ‘decision maker.’ It tells the community what is important and the order of importance.”*** Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA. Ph.D.

### **Saint Anne Catholic School Philosophy of Athletics**

Saint Anne Catholic School encourages the participation of all students who are interested in competing on a school sponsored athletic team. It is our belief that this participation will provide these students with the opportunity to learn new athletic skills and develop an appreciation of the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-discipline in an environment promoting religious, educational, and athletic values. It is our intent that these skills will provide each participating student with an understanding of the value teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-discipline have in everyday life both now and in the child's future.

### **Saint Anne Catholic School Sports Objectives**

The purpose of the athletics is to foster human and Christian development through exercise, example, and athletic competition. The objectives are as follows:

1. to instill sportsmanship in the life-styles of the participants;
2. to teach the participants the proper attitude toward winning, losing, and competing with dignity;
3. to develop school spirit, team spirit, and personal acceptance;
4. to develop acceptance and appreciation of others;
5. to train and instruct in athletic rules;
6. to develop the students' physical abilities and coordination;
7. to develop good health habits;
8. to provide a proper atmosphere and outlet for youthful energy;
9. to teach the positive value of athletic participation;
10. to show the necessity of practice, hard work and proper use of time.

## **A Message From the Principal**

Dear Athlete,

At Saint Anne Catholic School, athletics are an important part of the total educational process. Athletes are expected to develop athletic skills, respect their teammates, respect the rules, their coaches and officials, and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

You are representing Saint Anne Catholic School, yourself, and your family. All Saint Anne students must conduct themselves appropriately at all times so as to maintain self-respect and the esteem of those who are watching. We, at Saint Anne Catholic School, take pride in our school teams and respect our teams as they represent us with pride by displaying their hard work, athletic skills, fair play, and hospitality of visiting schools.

Remember to work hard, do the best you are able to do, and always remember to win gratefully and lose graciously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. Machinski, EdD." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. James C. Machinski  
Principal

## **Athletic Teams Sponsored By Saint Anne Catholic School**

The following sports will be offered during this school year:

Swim Meet

Junior Varsity Soccer

Varsity Soccer

Cross Country

Junior Varsity Table Tennis

Varsity Table Tennis

Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball

Girls' Varsity Basketball

Volleyball

Track

Junior Varsity Softball

Varsity Softball

(Golf)

(Tennis)

## **Participation on Athletic Teams**

All students are eligible to participate on athletic teams sponsored by Saint Anne Catholic School. Varsity teams are composed primarily of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Junior Varsity teams are generally composed of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Specific guidelines are as follows and may be adjusted as league rules change:

1. If a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student is capable, an exception will be made on an individual basis, as to his/her participation on a varsity team. Fifth graders are not eligible to participate on varsity teams.
2. Junior Varsity teams are composed of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Fourth graders are not eligible to participate on a junior varsity team at Saint Anne Catholic School.

## **Catholic Schools Sports League**

All teams sponsored by Saint Anne Catholic School play under the guidelines of the Catholic Schools Sports League sponsored by the Diocese of Las Vegas. In order to participate in the league, Saint Anne Catholic School must abide by the rules and guidelines expressed by the league.

## **Pre-Season Meeting for Parents and Athletes**

Prior to the beginning of each season, there will be a mandatory meeting held for parents and athletes who are participating on a team during that season. Parents and athletes will receive information from their coach regarding the season, his/her expectations, practices, and games.

## **Cut vs. No Cut Policy**

If necessary, varsity teams may be cut if there are too many students wishing to participate. If a coach is finding it necessary to cut, he/she will contact the Athletic Director prior to announcing the "cuts." Cutting a team should not be taken lightly and should only be done when no other alternative can be found.

## **Conduct of Players During Games and Practices**

Athletes are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all games and practices. It is the responsibility of the coach to insure that all players are aware of the type of behavior that is expected and what "appropriate behavior" is. Athletes are expected to represent Saint Anne Catholic School in a manner that exemplifies pride and respect. If an athlete is displaying inappropriate behavior either at practice or at a game, it is the responsibility of the coaching staff to intervene. If the coaching staff does not intervene, the Athletic Director, Principal, or any staff member of the school that is present will make the intervention.

## **Conduct of Parents and Fans**

It is the decision of the coaching staff as to whether practices are to remain "open" or whether practices are "closed." Coaches are responsible for insuring that parents and fans that are not on the coaching staff are letting the coaches do their job.

Parents who are demanding that their child listen to them during practices or games will put the athlete in an undesirable position. Your child will want to please both you and his/her coach. The coach is the leader of the team; therefore, athletes are expected to follow his/her directions during both practices and games. **Parents need to refrain from coaching unless**

**they have been asked to do so by the head coach.**

While we welcome and encourage parent support and enthusiasm, we ask you to remain as spectators during games. Any opinions and suggestions from you will be welcomed and considered by the coach; however, never on the playing field or gym while the coach is supervising students.

***“Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws.”***

Plato, Greek Philosopher

If coaches are aware of inappropriate behavior from any Saint Anne Catholic School supporter, it is their responsibility to ask them to discontinue their behavior. The Athletic Director, Principal, or any Saint Anne Catholic School staff member will speak with the parent/fan who is causing the difficulty, so as to allow the coach to continue doing his/her job without interruption. Anyone from Saint Anne Catholic School displaying inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct during a game may be asked to leave the site. Continual disruptions by parents during athletic events may affect the student’s future participation in athletics and/or enrollment at Saint Anne Catholic School.

### **Donations**

All donations to the athletic program must be presented to the Principal. Any monetary donation is tax deductible and may be made payable to Saint Anne Catholic School.

### **Player Eligibility**

For many students, sports are the only motivating force in their lives. Often times, those students having difficulty in school will do much better in their classes when they have the encouragement and support of their coaches and their teammates.

**It is important that we remember that students are at Saint Anne Catholic School to get a good education first. They are not at Saint Anne to play sports.** Coaches and parents sometimes forget this fact. Tuition payments are for the child’s education, and although sports are an important part of the child’s education, it is not the only part.

**“They are in school to be students first and athletes second. Student-athletes realize that they are committed Christians who function everyday in the school community. They realize that religion needs to be alive in them inside and outside of athletic competition.”**

Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.

1. Students participating in sports and/or spirit leading are required to have no grade lower than a 70% in more than one subject and no unsatisfactory grades in effort, conduct, or homework. If more than one academic grade falls below a 70% at any time, the student will be suspended from the sport or spirit leading until the aforementioned criteria is met. **The student will be ineligible for a minimum of five (5) school days beginning the day after the parent is notified. If the effort, conduct or homework grade is noted as unsatisfactory, the same rule applies.**

Teachers will be asked each week to include a “warning sign” if a student is close to being ineligible. The Athletic Director will bring this to the coach’s and the parents’ attention. Hopefully, both the parent and the coach will provide some assistance in this area.

It is imperative that coaches and parents support this policy and continually emphasize the importance of turning in homework assignments, studying for tests, and displaying appropriate behavior in the classroom. Athletes need to know from the beginning that their coaches and parents are supporting the policy, but are willing to help them in the process. It is important that athletes feel comfortable enough to tell their parents and coaches how they are doing or if they are worried about a particular class. The teacher will give further assistance to students having extreme difficulty in a subject area.

### **What To Do If a Player Becomes Ineligible**

The Athletic Director in consultation with the Principal and faculty makes eligibility determinations. If, after an initial warning, a player is deemed ineligible, the Athletic Director will notify the athlete, his/her parents, the Principal, and the coach. It is the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents to contact the teacher to determine what action(s) need to be taken to remove him/her from the ineligibility list. In general, a player will remain ineligible until his/her grades meet eligibility requirements.

### **Participation Following An Absence**

Players may not participate in a game or a practice on any day that they have been absent from school in whole or in part. The only exceptions are made for validated medical appointments. Parents should write a note to the coach following an absence to assure him/her that the student is well enough to participate.

### **Coaches**

**“Coaches should ask themselves whether or not anyone would identify them with Jesus Christ because of the way he coaches.”**

Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.

The Athletic Director interviews each coach, and based on the interview, recommendations, and previous experience, has recommends the coach to the Principal. Coaching positions are determined as early in the school year as possible if they have not been made during the summer prior to the new school year. Coaching changes/additions will only be made in the case of a coach’s inability to assume the coaching responsibility, either due to health or personal reasons.

**The Athletic Director is the key person in developing an athletic program which meets the school’s mission and provides opportunities for participation and excellence in the area of competition. . . . The A.D. must keep in mind that the top priorities of the school – the school’s religious mission and its academic program – always takes precedence over athletics.**

Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.

If a student an/or parent is having difficulty with a coach, it is recommended that they communicate the problem directly to the coach as soon as possible. Discussing issues with other students and parents only stirs up future problems. If, after discussing the problem with

the coach, a resolution cannot be agreed upon, the student and/or parent may contact the Athletic Director. A meeting will be set up with all individuals involved in order to reach an agreement.

### **Practices/Games**

**“Every day in practice, the coach gathers the team and has something to say about that days’ goals. In these moments, the coach has the full attention of the athletes and has the opportunity to inject language about values and attitudes.”**

Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.

Practice times should not be over 1-1/2 – 2 hours in length. Students should not be participating in a sport more than 12 hours per week including games and practices. It is understood that on weekends when tournaments are involved, this time may need to be adjusted.

### **Uniforms**

Students will be dressed in their PE uniforms or their team uniform for practice and games. No student will be allowed to practice or play if not properly attired.

To prevent the loss of expensive uniforms, coaches are responsible for having students sign out the team uniform at the beginning of the season, and sign in the uniform at the conclusion of the season. Players are to return their uniform in good condition. All uniforms should be washed before being returned. If a player damages (normal wear and tear is acceptable and understood) or loses a uniform he/she will be expected to pay for it. Players may not begin practice for another sport until the uniform is accounted for from the previous sport.

### **Equipment**

Players must take responsibility for all athletic equipment. Any player found abusing the team equipment would be required to pay for it. Players should help coaches collect equipment and ensure that everything is accounted for following a practice or a game.

### **Emergency Forms**

All participants must have the **ATHLETICS /ACTIVITIES EMERGENCY FORM ADDENDUM** completed and turned in to the School Office so it will be in the possession of the coach prior to their first practice. **No athlete is allowed to participate until this form is completely filled out.**

### **Sports/Spirit Leader Contract and Sports/Spirit Leader Eligibility Check**

Before a student may try out for a sport, he/she and their parents must complete and sign the SPORTS/SPIRIT LEADER CONTRACT. In order to determine their eligibility they must have their teachers complete the SPORTS/SPIRIT LEADER ELIGIBILITY CHECK. Both documents must be turned in to the Athletic Director in time for the Principal review and approve student participation.

### **Athletic Fee**

There is a \$20.00 athletic fee for each sport. This fee will enable us to offset some of the expenses in purchasing new equipment and uniforms for the sport. Any waiver or

exception to the athletic fee must be cleared through the Principal. The athletic fee must be turned in prior to receiving a uniform.

Although the athletic fee is needed and has been included in the athletic budget, no student will be refused participation on a team due to financial reasons only. If a parent is unable to pay the fee, please contact the Principal. A waiver will be given on an as-needed basis.

### **Transportation**

Parents generally provide transportation for their children to and from practices, games, etc. **School personnel and coaches cannot and will not be able to arrange student transportation in private vehicles to or from games, practices, etc.** If a team does not have enough rides, then they must forfeit the game. All athletes should know how they are getting to a game prior to the day of the game.

### **Reporting Of Injuries And Special Limitations**

Players are to report all injuries to the coach as soon as possible. Parents should discuss with the coach any special limitations that the child may have. It is important that there be communication in this area so that coaches are not expecting an athlete to perform a skill that may cause harm to him/her.

### **Awards**

Athletes will be recognized at the Sports Awards Assembly held each may in conjunction with the Annual Sports Barbecue. The school will provide all the awards presented at the night of the ceremony. If individual coaches want to have an end of the season party, they may do so; however, any awards presented at this time must have been discussed with the Athletic Director and approved by him/her after consultation with the Principal. This will avoid conflict with those awards given at the Sports Awards Assembly. Parents may not present awards to students without the knowledge and approval of the Athletic Director and Principal.

Reference: *Athletics and the Gospel Mission of the Catholic School*, Fr. Richard McGrath, OSA, Ph.D.

Parent/Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DISCLAIMER  
REGARDING THE SAINT ANNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
PARENT/ATHLETE HANDBOOK 2009-2010**

I/We have read the Saint Anne Catholic School Parent/Athlete Handbook 2009-2010. I/We agree to abide by the handbook as presented. I/we support and by these policies I/we will abide.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature Grade Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature Grade Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature Grade Date

This page must be signed and presented with the SPORTS/SPIRIT LEADER CONTRACT and SPORTS/SPIRIT LEADER ELIGIBILITY CHECK. This page needs to be signed only once during the school year before participation in the first sport.