

ST. PIUS V CATHOLIC SCHOOL

812 Main Street
PASADENA, TEXAS
77506



2014-2015 **Athletic Handbook**

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ST. PIUS V CATHOLIC SCHOOL ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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PURPOSE

The purpose of the St. Pius V Catholic School Athletic Handbook is to provide an understanding and appreciation of the athletic program among the coaches, faculty, student- athletes, administration, parents and spectators.

INTRODUCTION

St. Pius V Catholic School is a member of the Greater Houston Catholic Athletic Association (G.H.C.A.A.) and provides competitive extracurricular sport opportunities in soccer, volleyball, football, basketball, softball, baseball, track, and cheerleading for all students in 3rd to 8th grades. Participating in sports is a privilege and can be an integral part of a student's educational experience. Students participate in athletics through hard work, dedication, desire, self-discipline, positive Christian attitude, respect, responsibility, safety, and good sportsmanship that will develop their character, skills, sportsmanship, and success. Our student-athletes and coaches shall be committed and dedicated to each sport he or she is participating. Students may participate in only one sport during each of the three seasons. In order for a student to practice or participate in any sport at St. Pius V Catholic School, he or she must pass all subjects, maintain good conduct, have a current and valid Medical History Form, a signed Athletic Participation Permission Agreement form, a signed Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form, and a paid fee for each sport. Student-athletes are bound by the same rules that are in the St. Pius V Student Handbook before, during and after games and practices. The time line for a student to participate in a sport is one week after the season begins.

St. Pius V Catholic School offers three levels of teams in most sports: "C" teams, Junior Varsity teams and Varsity teams. "C" teams normally consist of students in 6th grade and under. Junior Varsity teams normally consist of students in grades 7th and under. Varsity teams normally consist of students in 8th grade and under. Students in grades 3rd thru 6th may play on JV or Varsity level only with permission from their parents, the Athletic Director and the Principal, if they have the appropriate skills, and if there is available space.

MISSION STATEMENT

The community of St. Pius V Catholic School exists to treasure and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to educate each student in a spirit of faith and academic excellence according to Roman Catholic principles.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The athletic department of Saint Pius V Catholic School exists to develop each student's physical abilities through participation in our sports programs, exercise, and a healthy lifestyle in a positive Catholic environment.

PHILOSOPHY

St. Pius V Catholic School is a pastoral and educational instrument of St. Pius V Catholic Church. As an educational ministry in the parish, the school has the obligation to fulfill the educational mission of the Catholic Church, and has as its primary goal the continuous formation of a Christian person.

We, at St. Pius V Catholic School, acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost educators of their children, and are charged with the challenging task of creating a family atmosphere animated with love and reverence for God and all people. We are privileged to assist parents in the task of educating their children.

The focus of St. Pius Catholic School is on the person's spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, cultural, and physical development. It is the joint responsibility of students, teachers and parents to make St. Pius V Catholic School a faith-filled community where the primary purpose of education, helping students reach their full potential, is enlivened by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

To provide the opportunity for all of our students to participate in sports and emphasize team and school spirit. Our program will have the best possible facilities and equipment, and will be operated in a safe and first class manner. We want to strive for a winning attitude, teach and maintain self-control and good sportsmanship.

Each student will benefit from a lifetime experience that will make him or her a better person by being involved in St. Pius V Catholic School athletics.

G.H.C.A.A. PRINCIPLES OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The G.H.C.A.A. is dedicated to fostering human development, within the framework of a Christian environment, encouraging a positive vision in our young men and women through exercise, positive athletic competition, and fully recognizing the dignity of each student in Christ's image. The following is a list of their goals:

- To build a community which strives to image Christ
- To develop Christian spirit, school spirit, team spirit and personal acceptance

- To instill Christian sportsmanship in the life-styles of the participants
- To teach the participants the proper attitude towards winning, losing and competing with dignity
- To develop an acceptance and appreciation of others
- To train and instruct in athletic rules
- To develop the students physical abilities and coordination
- To help form well-rounded students by fostering good health habits
- To provide a Christian environment and outlet for youthful energy
- To teach the positive value of athletic participation
- To show the necessity of practice, work and management of time

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

- Serve as positive Christian role models for all parents, student-athletes, spectators and participants at athletic events
- Demonstrate a positive Christian attitude at all times
- Must be trained in VIRTUS
- Design and implement activities that improve the knowledge and skills of all student athletes
- Be aware of the physical abilities of the student-athletes and do your best to keep them safe and provide encouragement so they will reach new levels of achievement
- Possess and maintain necessary skills to teach sports and provide appropriate first aid when injured
- Emphasize the importance of academics for each student-athlete and continuously check on their academic progress
- Design and implement activities that benefit the student-athlete's educational development needs, safety and health
- Respect and treat other coaches, parents, spectators, faculty, student athletes, and game officials the way you want to be treated
- Provide open communication with athletes, parents, guardians, faculty and other coaches
- Schedule games and practices to avoid unnecessary loss of study or class time
- Refrain from any sort of solicitation to modify a student's grade for athletic eligibility
- Avoid using inappropriate language
- Always be aware, discourage and prohibit the use of performance enhancing drugs by student-athletes and inform the Principal immediately of any drug use
- Respect opponent's property and equipment
- Enjoy the game

STUDENT-ATHLETES CODE OF CONDUCT:

- Demonstrate a positive Christian behavior at all times
- Maintain passing grades
- Always be responsible
- Be courteous and respect opposing teams and spectators

- Attend all practices and games
- Understand, respect and follow the rules of the game
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Never cheat or use inappropriate language
- Retain composure at all times and never leave the bench or enter the field or court to engage in any confrontation
- Be modest when successful and gracious in defeat
- Play for the enjoyment of the games
- Set high standards of personal conduct
- Respect the authority of officials and accept their decisions without question
- Respect the facilities and equipment of host schools
- Follow the standards of good sportsmanship established by the school administration
- Always play your best

PARENT AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and enjoy the competition of the game
- Recognize good sportsmanship applauding good team play, individual skill, and fair play exhibited by either team
- Promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the players
- Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them
- Respect the other team's equipment and property
- Show respect for the opposing student-athletes, coaches, officials and spectators
- Be a positive role model
- Avoid any type of negative or confrontational behavior with the opposing team and spectators
- Ensure the safety of children by supervising them throughout the game

SPORTSMANSHIP

At St. Pius V Catholic School, teams and individual competition contribute significantly to the development of character and school spirit. Safety, sportsmanship and fair play are important parts of this experience. We expect our coaches, student-athletes, faculty, students, parents and guardians to represent St. Pius V Catholic School in a safe manner that is respectful of others on and off the fields and courts of competition. It is our desire and goal to develop and practice the highest standards of Christian behavior, safety, courtesy, discipline, respect, responsibility, good sportsmanship and the ability to act as good hosts and guests all the time. We encourage enthusiastic support at all games within the boundaries of accepted good sportsmanship and safety.

Student-athletes who may not display proper behavior, good sportsmanship, good conduct, proper dress for practices and games, public or private actions and comments, or poor sportsmanship that discredits St. Pius V Catholic School and Church, staff, students, or coaches, before, during and after an athletic contest or practice may be disciplined and potentially barred

from further participation at the discretion of the Athletic Director and the Principal. Penalties such as removal from practices or games, probation, suspension or dismissal from the team or ineligibility for awards may be enforced.

Coaches, faculty, parents, guardians, and spectators (students or adults) who display poor sportsmanship or improper behavior before, during or after an athletic contest may be asked to leave the field or gym. Based on the circumstances, they may be barred from attending any games for the remainder of the season.

SAFETY

The Athletic Department strives to provide student-athletes a safe and enjoyable environment in which to participate. Consequently, all coaches and administrative personnel have a

responsibility to reduce and/or eliminate all potential safety hazards. It is vital to understand that participation in athletics involves inherent risks. Coaches and administrative personnel are obligated to act in a prudent manner in order to prevent foreseeable accidents and injuries. They should respond to unexpected circumstances according to guidelines set forth in this Handbook.

INSURANCE, ATHLETIC PHYSICALS, CONSENT AND PERMISSION AGREEMENT FORMS

- Adequate insurance coverage for an athlete is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.
- No student may begin any phase of the athletic program (try-outs, practices, or other activities) without completing the Parent/Guardian Consent Form, the Medical History Form, the Physical Examination Form, the Athletic Participation Permission Agreement Form, and the Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form. Physicals must be completed after June 1st for each upcoming school year. A new athletic physical must be completed each year. The Athletic Physical Form will be filed in the administration office. The student or parent may obtain a copy if requested.
- Blank copies of the forms may be obtained from the main office or can be downloaded from the sports website under “Downloadable Documents”.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Student-athletes are expected to follow the policies and rules set by St. Pius V Catholic School and the coaches.

- The rules may include passing academics, good conduct, wearing approved practice and game attire, practice attendance and participation, and proper behavior.
- All student-athletes shall be ACADEMICALLY eligible to participate in any sport with a grade of 70% or above and have satisfactory conduct.
- When a student-athlete does not meet the “NO PASS, NO PLAY” eligibility requirements in any subject or class during a grading period (progression or quarterly report), he or she will be ineligible to play for a one week period of time.

- Students that have an unsatisfactory or needs improvement conduct mark in any class or subject during a grading period may be suspended from sports for one week.
- Any student-athlete suspended from school may not be allowed to practice or participate in games for 1 week or for a period of time designated by the Principal.
- Students who are academically ineligible may practice with the team; however, may not participate in any games (home or away) until they are academically eligible.
- After the student-athlete's one week ineligibility from sports, the student's grades will be evaluated by a committee consisting of the Principal, Athletic Director, teachers and coaches to determine his or her athletic suspension status. If the student-athlete is academically eligible and/or has satisfactory conduct, he or she will be able to participate in games. If the student-athlete is not academically eligible and/or has satisfactory conduct, he or she may not participate in games for another 1 week and then undergo another evaluation. If a student-athlete is not academically eligible and/or has satisfactory conduct after the final quarterly grading period, the student-athlete will be eligible to participate in practices and not in games and evaluated in 1 week to determine athletic participation.
- Once student-athletes commit to a team, they are required to attend all practices, games and events unless excused by the coach. Attendance will be taken at all practices and games. Student-athletes who do not attend practices, games or events may be subject to disciplinary actions such as, lack of playing time and/or dismissal from the team. We do not want our student-athletes and coaches who are committed and dedicated to a particular sport to suffer from the lack of commitment or participation from a student-athlete.

PRE-SEASON COACHES AND PARENTS MEETING

The Athletic Director and the coaches will conduct a meeting with the student-athletes, parents and guardians at the beginning of each athletic season to discuss rules, regulations, goals, practices and events. The dates and times of these meetings will be listed in the school calendar or parents will receive notification from the coaches at least one week in advance. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-season meeting in order to meet the Athletic Director and coaches, establish necessary lines of communication with the coaches, and understand the teams goals, rules, and regulations.

CANCELLATION OF GAMES AND PRACTICES

Cancellation of games and/or practices due to inclement weather or other circumstance shall normally be made after 2:00 pm. Announcements concerning the status of athletic events will usually be updated on the St. Pius V Catholic School Dragons Sports Athletic Website <http://teacherweb.com/TX/StPiusVCatholicSchool/MrHill/>. Rescheduled dates, if known, will also be noted at the front office and will be updated on the St. Pius V Catholic School Athletic Web Page. Student-athletes should always come to school prepared to play or practice as game cancellations are not based on the weather in the morning. Decisions about cancellation after 3:00 pm may be made at the game or practice site. Practice and/or game cancellation notification changes may also be conducted by student-athletes calling their parents or guardians or via e-mail.

TRANSPORTATION

Student-athletes are required to provide their own transportation to and from practices and games. When a student-athlete does not have their own transportation, his or her parents or guardians must provide a signed letter or email to the coach that an adult designated by the parent may transport team member's to off site games. No parent or guardian should leave school without verifying which team members are traveling with them to the Athletic Director or Team Coach. Failure to do so may result in the unaccounted for team members forfeiting playing time in that day's game.

VIRTUS TRAINING

Parents and guardians who transport team members who are not under their designated direct care **must be VIRTUS trained**. Parents, guardians and/or volunteers (if over 15 years of age) who assist in practices or games must be VIRTUS trained. VIRTUS training information may be obtained through the internet at VIRTUS.org.

UNIFORMS

Athletic uniforms may not be worn to school without approval of the Athletic Director and the Principal. Uniforms shall be returned to the Athletic Director washed in satisfactory condition no later than one week after the final athletic contest of the season. Parents of athletes shall be responsible for uniforms not returned after the one week period unless specified by the Athletic Director or Principal. Any charges for uniforms lost or not returned shall be added to the student's account (\$100.00) and his or her parents notified. Report cards will be held until all uniforms are paid for or returned.

PRACTICE AND GAME ATTENDANCE

In order to practice or participate in an athletic contest, student-athletes must attend 4 hours of class that day. Funerals and religious holidays are examples of exceptions that are granted by the Athletic Director or Principal on an individual basis. The student-athlete, parent or guardian should request an exception as early as possible and notify coaches beforehand when at all possible, preferably at least one day in advance.

SELECTION OF TEAMS AND VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL

Team rosters will be posted in the Athletic Department. Student-athletes who are advanced in their performance skills may be moved to the Junior Varsity or Varsity team, if recommended by the coach, and approved by the parents and Athletic Director.

Our student-athletes will take a sense of responsibility when they agree to participate on athletic teams. St. Pius V Catholic School holds our student-athletes accountable for their commitment to their teammates, coaches, and school. Students have one week after the start of the sport season to join the team. *After this period, walk-ins will have to be approved by the Athletic*

Director. Once an athlete participates in a regular season practice and receives a uniform and/or equipment, they are considered to be a member of that particular team. If a student-athlete then decides to leave the team, that student may not be eligible to try-out for another sport during the same semester unless approved by the Athletic Director or Principal. For example, a student-athlete cannot quit the volleyball team and try-out for the soccer team. After teams are selected, parents are requested to ***not*** remove their son or daughter from the team without first having a conference with the coach and/or Athletic Director. The athletic department realizes that some circumstances arise that are beyond the student-athletes control and will be taken into account. However, the Athletic Director and the Principal will have the final approval for any such decision.

SPORT CONFLICTS

St. Pius V Catholic School expects student-athletes to play only for the school team. However, if playing for another team or participating in another activity creates a conflict with school practices or games, then the Athletic Director will recommend if student-athletes should participate in conflicting sports or other activities. Student-athletes should discuss with the Athletic Director and coach ***before*** participating for another team or activity to come to a mutual decision before the team roster is selected. The Athletic Director will recommend if the athletes would benefit to remain on the St. Pius V Catholic School team. This decision will be based largely on the coach's recommendation. Participation on more than one St. Pius V Catholic School team in the same season is allowed in unusual circumstances with prior approval from the Athletic Director, the Principal and the coaches involved. If other school events, such as field trips, classes, clubs, choir, band, or drama activities conflict with games or practices, the Athletic Director will resolve the conflict with the benefit of recommendations from the sponsoring faculty member. Student, parent and/or guardian requests shall also be considered.

PLAYING TIME

Playing time is a privilege, not a right, will be earned and is not guaranteed. Players are expected to attend **ALL** scheduled practices and games. **The coach should be notified at least 24 hours in advance when a student-athlete will miss practice(s) or game(s).** Playing time each player earns is at the discretion of the Coach. Coaches should follow these playing time guidelines:

- “C” team athletes will be given adequate playing time at the coach's discretion. This does NOT MEAN EQUAL playing time; however, coaches should play everyone. EXCEPTIONS: (1) failing grades and/or unsatisfactory conduct, (2) missing team practice or games, (3) attitude and effort at practice and games, and (4) violation of school and team rules.
- JV team: Coaches are encouraged to play all eligible players in each game during the regular season. EXCEPTIONS: (1) failing grades and/or unsatisfactory conduct, (2) missing team practice, (3) attitude and effort at practice and games, and (4) violation of school and team rules.
- Varsity team: Coaches should play as many eligible players as feasible. Playing time on the Varsity level is based on coaching decisions made during practices and games. EXCEPTIONS: (1) failing grades and/or unsatisfactory conduct, (2) missing team

practice, (3) attitude and effort at practice and games, and (4) violation of school and team rules.

COMMUNICATION

Coaches are encouraged to establish lines of communication with the parents during try-outs. When problems arise, the parent and/or student-athlete should talk to the coach first. Most areas of concern can be solved at this level. The coaches' phone numbers may be obtained from the Athletic Director. If a problem resolution does not occur when talking with the coach, parents and/or students should contact the Athletic Director if they feel additional communication is necessary. If the Athletic Director is unable to solve the problem, then a meeting with the Principal and the Athletic Director may be scheduled.

Our coaches are knowledgeable in their particular sport and should be treated accordingly. They interact with our student-athletes on a regular basis. Please respect the job that they are trying to do and accept the decisions that they make. Parents are not to approach coaches during or immediately after games to discuss any sensitive issue. We ask that all parents wait until the following day to discuss such issues with the coach.

SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES

A qualified adult must supervise all athletic areas in use. The areas include the gym and all athletic fields. Student-athletes may not participate in any unsupervised activity. Coaches have a duty to supervise the members of their team. This involves always being physically present at practice and/or events. In an emergency, if the coach needs to leave the gym or field, he or she should instruct the players to stop action until his or her return. All student-athletes must be properly supervised during practice, at games, and while traveling to and from an athletic event. For all-day tournaments, coaches should plan an itinerary that will ensure the proper supervision of the student-athletes at all times. Coaches shall remain with the players until all transportation needs are met after all practices and events. Student-athletes in extended day (paid) may be escorted to the gym after practice ends. Student-athlete parents or guardians shall pick up their children in the gym as soon as the practice or games end or when the games end at the location the event is hosted. Student-athletes not picked up at the time when practice or games end, his or her parent or guardian shall pay a fee of one dollar/minute (if practice ends at 5:15 PM, and the student-athlete is picked up at 5:25 PM, their parent or guardian shall pay a fee of \$10.00).

SCHEDULES

The athletic department shall post an athletic schedule for each athletic season. This schedule can be found on the St. Pius V Catholic School Dragons Sports Athletic Website: <http://teacherweb.com/TX/StPiusVCatholicSchool/CoachHill/>. The schedule will be posted as soon as it is released by G.H.C.A.A. Remember to check the calendar page daily for any changes in our schedule.

AWAY GAMES

Directions to all away games will be e-mailed to the parents or guardians within 24 hours of the start of the game.

SPORT SERVICE HOURS

In addition to St. Pius V Catholic School service hours, parents or guardians will work a minimum of 10 sport service hours, per family, during each athletic season their child is participating. Sports hours may be worked during any sport that St. Pius V is hosting.

- If the parent or guardian signs up to work during an event and did not participate, he or she shall pay \$15.00 per hour not worked.
- If the parent or guardian is not able to contribute 10 hours of their time during the particular athletic season, they shall pay \$25.00 for each hour not worked.
- Each of these hours worked must support the athletic program (concession stand, keeping score, working on field or gym, athletic events, attending Booster Club meetings, athletic fundraising events, etc.).

BOOSTER CLUB

The purpose of the St. Pius V Catholic School Dragons Booster Club is to support the St. Pius V Catholic School Athletic Program.

Members of the Booster Club assist in planning, implementing, and funding all expenses (i.e., trophies, equipment, uniforms, refreshments, concessions, etc....) for athletic events. The Booster Club is also responsible for planning and funding the Athletic Awards event at the end of the school year to recognize parents, guardians, teachers, coaching staffs, and student-athletes who have been selected for awards during the school year.

We encourage all families at St. Pius V Catholic School to join the Booster Club at the beginning of the school year. Your support can be felt throughout the year by attending athletic events, working in the concession stand, score keeping, participating in fund raising events, maintaining the athletic fields and gym, etc.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, shall carry out the management duties of the St. Pius V Catholic School Dragons Booster Club. Term of office shall be for a minimum of one (1) year. Responsibilities are:

- To direct, manage, document and report the business and financial affairs of the Booster Club organization

- To formulate and conform with the policies, rules, and regulations of the Booster Club
- To review any other matters arising from within or other activities sponsored by the Booster Club.

All members of the St. Pius V Catholic School Booster Club shall be qualified to vote, serve on committees, and hold office.

FUNDS

Funds will be raised by the St. Pius V Catholic School Booster Club through activities or special events. The funds raised and any other funds received by the Booster Club shall be administered and controlled by the St. Pius V Catholic School Booster Club working in close conjunction and cooperation with the St. Pius V Catholic School Athletic Director.

Athletic Handbook Acknowledgment Form

Dear Parents,

Thank you for reading the Athletic Handbook. The Handbook is posted on the school sports website. If you have any questions during the year, please refer back to the online Handbook.

Please sign, date, and return this acknowledgment form to Coach Hill. Your signature and that of your child/children indicate that you have carefully read this Handbook.

It is expected that you have discussed with your child/children the items from the Handbook, and that you and your child/children agree to abide by the school procedures, regulations, and policies discussed in this Handbook.

The topics addressed in this Handbook are not inclusive and are subject to discretionary interpretation by the Principal and the Athletic Director. St. Pius V Catholic School and/or the principal retain the right to amend this Handbook for just cause. Parents will be given prompt notification if changes are made.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Detach and Return

We have read and discussed the 2014-2015 St. Pius V Catholic Athletic Handbook. We agree to follow the school procedure, regulations, and policies covered in this Handbook.

Parent Name

Please Print

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Please circle the sport(s) the student-athlete is participating in:

Cheer Volleyball Soccer Football Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball Baseball Softball Track