

XII. FALCON PASS

Families may purchase a Falcon Pass which allows your family unlimited admission to all home games. Admission fees are collected at volleyball and basketball games (no admission for football, cross country, track & field events). A pass may be purchased at time of registration or may also be purchased at any time during the school year at the door or by sending a separate check labeled "Falcon Pass" to the school office to the attention of "Athletics." Once game schedules have been finalized, a listing of the home games per grade/sport will be published to help individual families better determine their need for the pass. *No actual pass is issued to families—a list of participating families is kept at the door.*

XIII. SFX ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

The SFX Athletic Committee is headed by an Athletic Director and comprised of Sport Coordinators for each sport offering as well as sub-committee members. The Committee aids the Athletic Director by making recommendations concerning all activities, as well as the future direction of the Program. The Athletic Director appoints the committee positions. Any parish member may apply for any vacant Committee position.

SFX ATHLETIC COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Athletic Director: Tammy Bauer (708) 305-9324
Boys' Basketball Coordinator: Tim Murphy
Girls' Basketball Coordinator: Jim McNicholas
Volleyball Coordinator: Donna Skonning
Football Coordinator: Tom Kiley
Cheerleading Coordinator: Becky Hayes
Cross Country/Track & Field Coordinator: Wayne Johnson
Treasurer: Grace Kefer
Secretary: Sharon Rodewald

SFX ATHLETIC SUB-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Special Events Coordinator: OPEN
Spirit Wear Coordinator: Liz VanTassel
Concession Stand Coordinator(s): Dianne & Bill Kelly
/ Mary Kay & Mike Palmer / Kate Corrigan
Picture Coordinator: Anne Metzger
Purchasing Agent: Marty Henehan

Athletic Committee meetings are generally held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Rectory Courtyard Room during the school year. Meetings are open to the public.

St. Francis Xavier Athletic Program Student-Athlete & Parent Handbook

**SFX Athletic Director:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT & PROGRAM OBJECTIVES1

II. SFX ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION1

III. SFX ATHLETICS SPORTS BY SEASON1

IV. LEAGUE AFFILATION/RULES OF PLAY1

A. Leagues 1

B. Rules of Play 2

V. PLAYER EVALUATIONS/ TEAM LEVELS (A & B)/ NUMBER & SIZES OF TEAMS.....2

A. Player Evaluations 2

1) Volleyball & Basketball2

2) Football.....2

3) Cross Country/ Track and Field/ Cheerleading2

B. Team Levels 2

1) Volleyball & Basketball2

2) Football.....2

3) Cross Country/ Track and Field2

4) Cheerleading2

C. Number and Sizes of Teams 3

1) Volleyball & Basketball3

2) Football/Cheerleading/Cross Country/Track & Field.....3

VI. STUDENT ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIRMENTS AND REGULATIONS3

A. Academic Eligibility 3

B. Disciplinary Eligibility 3

C. Health Eligibility 3

1) School Absences3

2) Injuries.....4

3) Yearly Physical Exam Requirements4

XI. GRIEVANCE & DECORUM POLICY

A. Grievance

If a situation arises that needs to be addressed between an athlete and coach, it is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. Understand and follow this sequence in resolving player/parent/staff issues:

- First: Player with Coach
- Second: Parents with Coach
- Third: Parents with Coordinator
- Fourth: Parents with Athletic Director
- Fifth: Parents with Principal or Pastor

When a conference between coach and parent is necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution of the issue:

WAIT 24 HOURS. *Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game or practice.* These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution. After 24 hours have passed, call or email the coach to set up a meeting. If the meeting with the coach does not provide a satisfactory resolution, contact the Sport Coordinator to discuss the situation.

B. Decorum

Disruptive or inappropriate behavior at practice will be handled as follows:

- 1st offense ô Warning from one of the coaches
- 2nd offense ô Participant will be held out of practice while parent is called
- 3rd offense ô Participant will be suspended for one game
- 4th offense ô Dismissal from the team

Any coach or player who is disqualified from an athletic contest will serve a one-game suspension. The suspension will be served in that team's next game.

Any coach, player, or spectator ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct, the following shall occur:

- 1st ejection ô one game suspension
- 2nd ejection ô two game suspension with a hearing

*Any type of physical contact with a referee shall result in an immediate suspension of indefinite length until a hearing can take place.

B. Uniform Return

All items issued to the student athlete must be returned on the date and location specified by the Sport Coordinator. Uniforms should be cleaned and then placed in a Ziploc bag. The bag should be labeled with the following information: athlete's name, grade, team color and uniform size. (EX. John Smith, 5th grade Gold, YL)

C. Lost or Damaged Uniforms

Each student athlete is responsible for the loss or damage of uniforms/equipment beyond the normal expected wear. A charge will be assessed for any lost or damaged uniforms/equipment. Failure to return issued uniforms or equipment will result in the student being ineligible to participate in upcoming sports seasons and 8th grade students will forfeit participation in graduation activities.

D. Jewelry Prohibited

The wearing of any jewelry, including earrings and hard barrettes is prohibited during games and practices. If you are considering ear piercing, please realize that the earrings must be removed before playing. Taping the ears is not allowed. **Exception:** Medical alert necklaces and bracelets. These must be taped to the athlete to prevent injuries.

E. Logos

The Principal approves all logos used to represent SFX on all uniforms and Spiritwear items.

X. FACILITIES

SFX coaches and parents are responsible for student athlete behavior at gym and field locations for both home and away games and practices. All water bottles should be removed from the gym after games/practices; all facilities should be left clean.

A. Home Games/Practices

Parents should expect to be assigned to volunteer at the admissions table or concession stand during games hosted in the SFX gym (You may be scheduled during contests in which SFX teams are not playing). Schedules will be distributed via email as well as posted on the door to the concession stand. Parents may also be scheduled to serve as a back-up parent at practices to ensure that two non-related adults are present for the duration of all practices.

B. Outside Facilities

Any use of outside facilities must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Director; as always, coaches and staff will take all due care. Parents/guardians are giving SFX implicit permission by allowing athletes to play/practice at away locations; therefore in the event of injury, SFX assumes no liability.

D. Registration Forms and Fees 4
E. League Rules of Eligibility 4

VII. SPORTSMANSHIP.....4

A. Athlete's Code of Conduct 4
B. Parent/Guardian/Spectator Code of Conduct 5

VIII. PRACTICES/GAMES.....5

A. Schedules 5
B. Cancellations/Forfeits/Reschedule 5
C. Trading Players 5
D. Number of Weekly Gatherings 5
E. Length of Practices and End Times 6
F. Length of Seasons/Number of Games 6
G. Absences 6
 1) Excused Absences6
 2) Unexcused Absences6
H. Student Drop Off/Pick Up 6
I. Younger Siblings at Games 6

IX. UNIFORMS6

A. Care of Uniforms 6
B. Uniform Return 7
C. Lost or Damaged Uniforms 7
D. Jewelry Prohibited 7
E. Logos 7

X. FACILITIES7

A. Home Games/Practices 7
B. Outside Facilities 7

XI. GRIEVANCE & DECORUM POLICY8

A. Grievance 8
B. Decorum 8

XII. FALCON PASS9

XIII. SFX ATHLETIC COMMITTEE.....9

I. ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT & PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The St. Francis Xavier Team Sports Program provides both an instructional and competitive program as an extension of the St. Francis Xavier school academic program. In addition to the fundamentals of each sport, it is the goal of the SFX Athletic program to teach athletes a sense of sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play and for SFX sports to be a positive experience for all. Sportsmanship includes showing respect towards coaches, opponents, officials, teammates and oneself. While during team play, the athlete is expected to conduct him/herself in a way that brings honor to their school and to their teammates.

II. SFX ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION

The SFX Athletics Program is administered by volunteer committee members under the direction of the SFX Athletic Director and Principal. All final decisions regarding the SFX Athletics Program are subject to the approval of the Athletic Director and School Principal. Duties of the Athletic Director are outlined in the Chicago Diocese Guidelines for Interscholastic Sports.

III. SFX ATHLETICS SPORTS BY SEASON

SFX Athletics offers a no-cut program for all students in grades 5 through 8.

- Fall:** Football, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Girls' Volleyball (5th & 6th grade), Girls' Basketball (7th & 8th grade)
- Winter:** Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball (7th & 8th grade), Girls' Basketball (5th & 6th grade)
- Spring:** Track & field

IV. LEAGUE AFFILIATION/RULES OF PLAY

A. Leagues

The SFX Athletics Program is a member of the Suburban Parochial League (SPL) comprised of area Catholic grade schools. Sports schedules, directions and other information may be found on each sport's websites (noted below). (Cheerleading is a non-competitive sport.)

BASKETBALL/VOLLEYBALL:

Suburban Parochial League West (SPL) www.athletics2000.com/splw/

FOOTBALL:

Suburban Parochial Football League (SPFL) www.spfl.org

CROSS COUNTY/TRACK & FIELD:

Suburban Parochial League (SPL) www.s-p-l.org

E. Length of Practices and End Times

Practices should be no more than two hours in duration. All sport gatherings for 7th and 8th grades should end no later than 9:30pm on school nights and 10:00pm on nights when there is no school the next day. Gatherings for 5th and 6th graders should end by 8:30pm on school night and 9:00pm when there is no school the next day.

F. Length of Seasons/Number of Games

Length of season and number of games per sport is determined by the Chicago Archdiocese and is outlined in the SFX Athletics Constitution and By-laws posted on the SFX school Website.

G. Absences

Athletes are expected to be present and on time for all games and practices. Not attending practices and games affects the entire team and detracts from the sense of teamwork that the coaches are striving to achieve.

1) Excused Absences

Absences from school due to illness are considered an excused absence from a practice or game. Only illness, schoolwork or a significant event will be accepted as an excused absence from practice or game. The player or a family member must contact the coach prior to the game/practice to inform them of the absence.

2) Unexcused Absences

Any other reasons for absence than those outlined above may be considered an unexcused absence and may affect playing time. Three or more unexcused absences or late arrivals to games or practices will result in a one game suspension.

H. Student Drop Off/Pick Up

Parents should not drop off their child for practice any earlier than ten minutes prior to the scheduled practice time and must pick them up no more than five minutes after practice time is over. Practices should be finished no more than five minutes after the scheduled ending time.

I. Younger Siblings at Games

When younger siblings are brought to athletic contests, the parents/guardians are expected to supervise their behavior and keep them off the fields/courts at all times. Younger siblings should observe the games from the bleachers/stands.

IX. UNIFORMS

A. Care of Uniforms

All equipment and uniforms that are property of the SFX sports program and lent to St. Francis Xavier students must be cared for and kept clean.

B. Parent/Guardian/Spectator Code of Conduct

Parents play an important role in the success of the student-athlete and also in the success of the team. Positive cheering sets a great example to our student-athletes. Parents should support and encourage their child's efforts. Spectators are always reminded to act in a responsible manner and show good Christian sportsmanship. Spectators understand that their conduct at games is a reflection of our school and its values.

SPECTATORS:

- Should be a fan of everyone on the team
- Should respect other fans, players, and the decisions of the officials and coaches
- Should not attempt to direct the play of the team or an athlete
- Should not criticize the playing efforts of the team or an individual
- Should not criticize or berate the officials, coaches or any other gym personnel
- Parents should get involved in areas that can make the team become stronger and more unified

Parents/spectators should realize that they can and may be asked to leave a game or tournament if they are not able to maintain a standard of acceptable behavior. Anyone asked to leave a contest will serve a one-game suspension.

VIII. PRACTICES/GAMES

A. Schedules

All games (conference and non-conference), scrimmages and practice schedules are completed and approved by the Athletic Director and Sport Coordinators. The Athletic Director must approve any additionally proposed contests or gatherings that are not part of the original game/practice schedule. Any changes to the schedule will be forwarded to coaches and families as quickly as possible.

B. Cancellations/Forfeits/Reschedule

In the event that school is closed for inclement weather or due to some other problem, all home contests and practices will be canceled for the day. In the event of a forfeited game during a season, if the schedule allows, every effort will be made to reschedule the contest.

C. Trading Players

SFX coaches are not allowed to trade players from one team to another. This includes trading players from an A team to a B team and vice versa or trading B players from one B team to another. Special circumstances such as not having enough players to field a team may necessitate the movement of players and must be done by the sport coordinator or Athletic Director.

D. Number of Weekly Gatherings

The maximum number of gatherings per week for any team should be no more than 4 times per week. A gathering is defined as a game, practice or team meeting. Exceptions are allowed for tournament play, rescheduled games or nighttime football games.

B. Rules of Play

The League follows the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) rules of play, along with the Chicago and Joliet Archdiocese Guidelines for interscholastic sports with amendments as outlined in the league's constitution and by-laws.

V. PLAYER EVALUATIONS/ TEAM LEVELS (A & B)/ NUMBER & SIZES OF TEAMS

A. Player Evaluations

1) Volleyball & Basketball

Evaluations will be held before the start of the season. Athletes participating in sports requiring pre-season evaluations are expected to attend all scheduled evaluation dates. Missing evaluation dates may adversely affect an athlete's placement and therefore ultimately team divisions. As make-up evaluation dates are not often feasible, in the event a player cannot participate in evaluations due to injury or other significant event, team placement will be determined by the Sport Coordinator and the Athletic Director. In addition to overall demonstrated skill, attitude, effort, and commitment to SFX athletics will be considered in the evaluation process.

2) Football

Evaluations and team selection are ongoing processes that continue throughout the season. Demonstrated skills, effort and commitment will be considered in the evaluation process

3) Cross Country/ Track and Field/ Cheerleading

No evaluations held.

B. Team Levels

1) Volleyball & Basketball

For 6th-8th grade Volleyball, Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball teams are divided into one A team and B level teams based on their performance during the evaluations. 5th grade is considered instructional; therefore there are no A or B level teams, and players will be distributed evenly by skill level across teams.

2) Football

Teams are divided into JV (5th and 6th grade) and Varsity (7th and 8th grad) levels. Each level is composed of one A and one B team. Players will be selected to the A or B level based on their performances throughout the season.

3) Cross Country/ Track and Field

Teams will be divided by grade level and gender.

4) Cheerleading

Teams will be divided by grade level

C. Number and Sizes of Teams

1) Volleyball & Basketball

For 6th-8th grade, teams will be divided into one A team and as many B teams as necessary to keep team sizes manageable. In general, team sizes will be between 8-11 players. There may be instances where team numbers are higher due to commitment of players to SFX Athletics and/or additional students from transfers, etc.

2) Football/Cheerleading/Cross Country/Track & Field

Team sizes will be determined by number of registrants per grade.

VI. STUDENT ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS

Participation in the SFX Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. Athletes will be held to personal, academic and disciplinary standards. Additionally, enrollment in the SFX Athletics program is a commitment by the student to play according to all the rules and at all the locations at which their team is scheduled to play. Full participation in all aspects of the program, including, off site locations for games and practices as well as possible tournaments during the holidays should be expected. Please consider all other commitments before registering for sports, as part-time players can sometimes hinder and not help team sports.

A. Academic Eligibility

Students are expected to perform in the classroom to the best of their abilities. When academic performance is not commensurate with a student's abilities and/or a pattern of incomplete or missing assignments develops, the Principal will notify the parents and Athletic Director that the student has been placed on academic suspension. The duration of the suspension is determined by the Principal. If a student is placed on academic suspension three times during a season, the Principal will make a decision as to the eligibility of that student to remain in that sport for the remainder of the season and possible ineligibility for the subsequent season as well.

B. Disciplinary Eligibility

Students are expected to follow the DWP Skills and SFX code of conduct. Violations of the DWP Skills program and code of conduct may result in a suspension from athletics. When athletic suspensions are warranted, the Principal will notify the athlete's parents and the Athletic Director. The duration of the suspension is determined by the Principal. If disciplinary issues subsist, the Principal will make a decision regarding further athletic eligibility of the student.

C. Health Eligibility

1) School Absences

An athlete who is absent from school due to illness on the day of a competition or practice may not attend the activity. Absence from school on a Friday does not affect weekend participation if the athlete has recovered sufficiently to participate.

2) Injuries

Any athlete that is unable to participate in gym class due to an injury is also ineligible to participate in athletics. If a student has sustained an injury or is returning from an injury and a coach or other representative of the SFX athletics program has concerns regarding the ability of the athlete to safely compete, they may request a note from the athlete's parent/guardian or a medical practitioner stating that the athlete has permission and is capable of participating in the sports program.

3) Yearly Physical Exam Requirements

The Archdiocese of Chicago requires that all students participating in a school sponsored athletic program have a yearly sports physical on file. Sports physical forms are valid for one calendar year. For students entering 6th grade, a copy of the state mandated physical is sufficient.

D. Registration Forms and Fees

Eligibility to participate in the sports program is dependent on having completed the registration materials and submitting payment for activity fees. Forms to be completed include the Activity Fees Schedule, Family Information/Waiver and Release Form (including Student-Athlete and Parent Acknowledgment) and fully completed yearly sports physical form. Failure to have any of these forms on file with the Athletic Committee will prevent the athlete from participating in any aspects (evaluations, games, or practices) of the sports program.

E. League Rules of Eligibility

All Student Athletes are bound by league rules regarding age, weight and birthdate requirements.

VII. SPORTSMANSHIP

A. Athlete's Code of Conduct

Students who choose to participate in the SFX Athletic Program are representing our school and parish at all times. They must act in a manner that reflects favorably upon the school and on themselves. This expectation should be evident at the school, in the community, and at other schools, as well as before, during and after the games.

STUDENT ATHLETES:

- Are expected to play by the rules and show good sportsmanship
- Are expected to demonstrate respect for coaches, officials, teammates and opponents
- Should never use foul language
- Should not argue an official's call or coach's decision
- Are expected to put team goals before individual goals
- Are expected to win or lose with honor knowing that the true nature of competition is evaluated by effort and teamwork.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in disciplinary action which may include reduced playing time or suspension.