



# Athletic Handbook

Developed and Revised  
March 2017

“It is our mission to equip and encourage students for lives of service to Christ through athletic opportunities.”

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## ADMINISTRATIVE PHILOSOPHIES

### THE PURPOSE OF ST. PETER ATHLETICS

St. Peter Lutheran School believes that participation in athletic activities is an integral part of the education process. This Christ-centered, co-curricular athletic program is specifically designed to develop the mind, physical abilities, and social skills of each child. It is the mission of the St. Peter Lutheran Athletic Department to equip and encourage students for lives of service to Christ through athletic opportunities.

The goal of this program is to provide unique environments where children can grow into strong and healthy young Christians. Self-discipline, teamwork, hard work, and respect are themes that can be found at the foundation of this program. As each athlete continues to grow, the SPL Athletics Program works to ensure that students can actively participate at their appropriate developmental level.

Participation in athletics at St. Peter is a privilege. As a Christian institution, St. Peter outwardly applies biblical principles to all programs including athletics. 1 Corinthians 10:31 clearly states, "Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God." That is the foundation and the standard with which all programs are designed and led. All families must keep in mind that as sinners bought by Christ, all individuals connected to St. Peter are to reflect the love of their Savior in all that they do and say both on and off the court.

The purpose of this handbook is to clearly define the standards of St. Peter Lutheran School in regard to co-curricular activities. It has been developed to assist coaches, staff members, parents/caregivers, and athletes involved in SPL athletics. This document will bring a greater level of organization to the offered programs, as well as consistency and harmony within the department, school, and community. The staff at St. Peter asks for the fullest cooperation of all involved in the athletic department, as all parties involved are working to train the next generation of Christian leaders.

### PROGRAM DESIGN

#### **St. Peter Athletics Priority**

Although St. Peter athletics do not completely cover the wide range of youth sports opportunities, it is an expectation that St. Peter co-curriculars take priority over outside of school youth sport activities. To maintain the integrity and quality of all St. Peter programs, families should plan accordingly to ensure that community and club sports and activities do not interfere with your child's participation in school programs. Your child's coach, as well as the Athletic Director, should be made aware of all additional sports programs in which your child is participating during that specific season. Should a family decide to place a community or club activity over a school activity for either a practice or a game, they may be asked to remove their child from participation. Part of being a team involves being present; therefore, any conflicts should be carefully analyzed before a participation decision is made.

#### **Fall Sports**

Three different sports are offered to students in grades 4-8. Cross Country is the only sport open to all students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, as that is what our numbers allow. Soccer and Volleyball are only open to students in grades 5-8. Soccer is open to girls and boys in grades 5-8, and volleyball is open to all girls in grades 5-8.

### **Winter Sports**

Basketball and Cheerleading are the athletic activities open to students in the Winter. Students in grades 3-4 are able to play *Junior Comets* basketball. More information can be found below under “Competitive Levels.” Grades 5-8 are able to represent our school as members of our FVWAL teams. They will compete against other schools from the FVL Schools, as well as a few schools who are not members of the FVWAL. Cheerleading is going to be offered for all girls in grades 5-8, and will cheer for the B-Teams at all home games.

### **Spring Sports**

St. Peter offers Track and Field for all students in grades 5-8 in the Spring. Any student may participate. FVL Schools also offers a Track and Field program for middle school students attending FVL member schools. All St. Peter Track and Field athletes are encouraged to participate in both the St. Peter and FVL Schools Track and Field programs.

### **FVL Schools Sports**

If you are interested in other competitive sport opportunities for your child, Fox Valley Lutheran High School offers programs for young students. Please take the time to look at <http://fvlschools.org/about/youth-sports>.

### **Competitive Levels**

St. Peter offers varying levels for students of different ages and abilities. Below is a list of the varying levels as defined by St. Peter Lutheran in conjunction with the FVWAL.

*Junior Comets* is a program that is designed for St. Peter Lutheran school’s basketball program. It is comprised of students in grades 3 and 4. This team is not to be confused with the C-Team, as some schools C-Teams are comprised of students in grades 3 and 4. This is a 100% instructional team and format. The coaches are working to help young athletes develop the skills of the games in a minimally competitive environment.

*C-Team* is typically used in the basketball and volleyball programs, but may extend to other sports depending on the number of students participating. C-Team is a fundamental skills level where athletes are taking the skills that they learn, and working to more effectively apply them to a game situation. This is still an instructional level, focused on skill development, participation, and game play rules rather than competition. This is the first and lowest level of sport recognized by the FVWAL.

*B-Team* is typically made up of students between grades 5 and 7. Athletes in grade 7 may have the opportunity play A-Team depending on the number of students participating from grade 8. B-team is a step up from C-Team in competitiveness, but is still primarily focused on participation and player development. B-Teams are typically organized for Soccer, Volleyball, and Basketball, but are not limited to these sports.

*A-Team* is the team that competes at the highest level of competition in the FVWAL. All students in grade 8 who choose to participate MUST play at the A-Team level. Due to increased focus on competition, playing time in the game will vary based on the athletes’ roles and skill levels. Effort in practice as well as attitude may also heavily weigh into the amount of playing time a student receives. Athletes in grade 7 may be invited to move up based on displayed skill and understanding of the game. No student is entitled to any level of playing time or any position on any level of team.

## **GUIDELINES OF PARTICIPATION**

### **Conduct of the Athletes**

To reflect the love of their Lord, each athlete will display Christian sportsmanship at all times. This includes but is not limited to actions toward teammates, opposing players, coaches, fans, and officials. Jesus clearly reminds all Christians of their responsibilities when he spoke at the Sermon on the Mount, saying, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16)."

As Christians, St. Peter student-athletes are expected to...

- Respect the property, facilities, and locker rooms of others.
- Work hard to improve playing skills.
- Develop friendships with team members.
- Develop the realization that athletic cooperation, like life, accords privileges and definite responsibilities.

### **Guidelines and Expectations for Parents and Caregivers**

All parents, caregivers, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects their love for Christ. We understand that there is a great deal of human error within sport, but with that we also recognize that sport is God's gift to us for our enjoyment and entertainment.

The following actions are considered unacceptable.

- Making negative comments about players, coaches, officials, or opponents, etc.
- Coaching players from the stands
- Targeting officials physically or verbally
- Negative social media usage

If you have a question or concern, we at St. Peter are happy to speak with you to resolve the issue, but we ask that you be respectful in your approach. We want to work cooperatively with all families to create the most successful programs possible. Refusing to work cooperatively with individuals associated with the St. Peter Athletic Department may result in the removal of your child from an activity. More information on communication policy can be found within the section entitled, "Administrative, Parent, and Coach Communication."

### **Eligibility Policies**

St. Peter Lutheran encourages students to make use of their God-given talents both in and outside of the classroom. In order to be eligible to participate in athletics, students must achieve an acceptable level of academic prowess. Below is a breakdown of all eligibility policies in connection with academic achievement.

1. "Co-curricular" includes all athletic activities outside of the school day curriculum.
2. A student who earns a "D" letter grade or lower in any one subject on a midterm or quarter report will be deemed ineligible and have 2 weeks to raise that grade before becoming eligible for practice and competition again.
  - a. There are instances where students' needs must be factored into the decision making process in regard to student eligibility.

## **PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS**

### **FVWAL Conference Association**

As a member of Fox Valley Lutheran Schools, St. Peter competes in the Fox Valley WELS Athletic League. This league is made up of 15 other athletic programs from around the Fox Valley area. St. Peter competes in the Large School Division of the FVWAL. The Small and Large School Divisions may change year to year depending on enrollment.

### **Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin (LSA)**

The Lutheran Sports Association of Wisconsin provides a highly competitive series of Championship Tournaments throughout the school year for schools in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. St. Peter plans to have students participate in the LSA Championships in Cross Country, Volleyball, and Track and Field if they meet the qualifying standards.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATION AND ORGANIZATION**

### **Administrative, Coach, and Parent Communication**

Should there be a discrepancy, or a concern, we ask that you follow the guidelines as listed below.

1. Talk directly with the individual with whom you have a concern or question.
  - a. Avoid e-mail communication if possible. It is always better to talk in person.
2. If the issue cannot be resolved, you may contact the Athletic Director.
3. The Athletic Director along with the Administration will do their best to address your question and/or concern.
4. Remember to be respectful of all individuals involved with the situation. There is no reason to share concerns you have with outside parties unless they are directly involved in your situation.
  - a. It is not the role of the St. Peter Staff and Administration to serve as mediators in personal conflicts.
5. Social media of any form, including text messaging should never be used to attempt to address an issue related to St. Peter Lutheran School activities.

### ***The Daily Comet***

*The Daily Comet* is a weekly newsletter that will typically be e-mailed out to all subscribed parents on Thursday or Friday. This newsletter contains all schedule changes, and announcements that are important for parents to be aware of. You will have three opportunities throughout the school year to sign-up for this newsletter via a link sent from the School Office.

### **St. Peter Activities Google Calendar**

All schedules for athletics and activities, including practices, meetings and competition are found on the 922church.com webpage. This calendar can be downloaded to your mobile device calendar for your convenience. This calendar is updated daily, so it is your best source of information. If you have questions about the schedule, please check the information on the Google Calendar before calling the School Office.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

### ***Comet Crazyies***

The *Comet Crazyies* is a fantastic support group that allows our students to get actively involved with cheering for athletic events! Each week (home games only) during Fall and Winter Sports, students will have themes and contests in which they can participate. This group strives to “Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive!” We have a great sense of school unity and pride within our school activities, and this group is designed to emulate that sentiment.

### ***Comet Club***

The *Comet Club* is a parent/volunteer support group that holds a similar design and purpose to that of a booster club. This group meets once a month from August to May. They discuss ways to support the Athletic programs of St. Peter Lutheran School. They work with the concession stand, the coordination of volunteers, and the fundraising opportunities for our programs. This group works closely with the Activities Director to make sure all programs are running properly. Information will be sent home in August for parents interested in involvement in the *Comet Club*.

## ATHLETIC FORMS AND FEES

### **Explanation of Athletic Fees**

In early April of each school year, an online Sports Participation Survey is distributed to families via e-mail. Families are to submit the form, indicating which sports their children are planning to participate in. In the survey, a cost for participation is listed for each sport. Based on what sports are selected, the office will then include the total cost for all activities in your registration information for the upcoming school year. That fee will be due at school registration in August. These fees are collected to help with the maintenance of equipment and uniforms for all programs. The cost of each sport is subject to change each year, but will be decided prior to the release of the April Sports Participation Survey.

### **Uniforms and Apparel**

Uniforms are distributed for many sports here at St. Peter. These uniforms are logged and recorded upon distribution and return. If a uniform is returned in an unacceptable condition (unwashed, ripped, numbers falling off, etc.) there may be an additional cost for the responsible family. Hanging uniforms extends their life, and is preferred. Please take care of our property, as these uniforms need to last us several years.

Apparel order forms for specific sports will be available at School Registration in August. At that time you will need to order all sport-specific apparel. All orders must be submitted by September 1 or the last business day before if it falls on a weekend. Orders for apparel will not be accepted after September 1.

### **Athletic Department Forms**

#### **Permission for Sport Participation**

The last page in the Sports Participation Survey in April is a permission and liability agreement. By typing your name in that form and submitting the survey, you are giving permission for your child to participate in all activities related to the sports the activities selected, and you are also releasing St. Peter Lutheran and all associated parties from liability to injury and any event that takes place within the law during that sport season.

## **Concussion Form Requirements**

### **Wisconsin Concussion Law Act 172 – Statute 118.293 (2012)**

Statue Summary: At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the youth athletic activity shall distribute a concussion and head injury information sheet to each person who will be coaching that youth athletic activity. The law was amended in 2013 and the concussion information and acknowledgement must only be distributed and collected to the participant once per school year (Effective: December 15, 2013). No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or guardian.

### **Concussion Information and Form**

The Concussion Form, as stated above, will be distributed to all families at St. Peter, per the legislation noted. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to the Athletic Director or the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Information on Concussion Safety is available at <https://www.wiaawi.org/Health/Concussions.aspx>.