

# Saint Peter Lutheran School

## Athletic Handbook

### 2024-2025

*“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31*

Our main objective at Saint Peter Lutheran School is to nurture each child’s faith and to equip children to serve their Lord. Athletics and competing are part of our school, but our main focus is not about winning. Our main focus will be serving and praising God in all practices and games.

What is expected of the student:

- display a Christ-like attitude toward coaches, teammates, opponents, fans, and referees
- work hard in every practice and game to the best of his/her God-given ability
- be willing to improve skills and knowledge of the game
- have fun, yet take practices and games seriously
- be faithful to attend both games and practices regularly
- respect and follow all rules and decisions of the coach

What is expected of the parent:

- encourage children to compete with a Christ-like attitude
- encourage and support all competitors, coaches, and referees
- allow referees to officiate games without disturbance
- allow coaches to coach games without disturbance
- contact the coach or athletic director if a problem arises
- transport children to games on time
- pick up children from practices in a timely manner

What is expected of the coach:

- model a Christ-like attitude in all activities
- encourage all students to show a Christ-like attitude when competing
- conduct practices which allow all children to compete and have fun
- allow referees to officiate without disturbance
- communicate with parents if a problem occurs

#### **COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS**

The Christian Education Committee will annually review requests from other area schools to participate with St. Peter Lutheran School for a specific sport season. The committee will also oversee SPLS’s request to participate with a neighboring school when participation numbers deem that necessary.

#### **PLAYING TIME**

Playing time in all activities will be determined by the coach. The coach will look at age, skill, attitude, conduct, practice habits, and attendance (both games and practices). It is understandable that students might be involved in other after-school activities which might cause a conflict in schedules. Keep in mind, this may affect the student’s playing time in games.

If a student is absent from school for the last half of the day of a game or practice, he or she may not participate in that day's activity. Some exceptions could be made by the coach or athletic director.

### **PRACTICES**

A schedule of practice dates and times will be given to each participating athlete. Please inform the coach when your child is unable to attend practice, must leave early, or will arrive late to a practice. Also, take careful note of practice times, as these may vary. Please be prompt in picking up athletes.

Siblings of athletes are not allowed to attend practices or be present on the sidelines unless they are directly supervised by a parent or guardian.

### **PROBLEMS OR CONCERNS**

If problems or concerns arise, please follow the guidelines below:

1. Contact the coach and discuss the matter.
2. If the matter has not been resolved, contact the athletic director.
3. If the matter has still not been resolved completely, contact the principal.

Please carry out all communications in the privacy of the parties involved. On the court or field, or immediately after a game, is generally not a good time to confront a coach.

### **SCHEDULES**

Both game and practice schedules will be handed out at the start of each season. The athletic director is responsible for these schedules, as well as informing parents, players, and coaches of any schedule changes in a timely manner.

### **SPORTS OFFERED**

Soccer will generally begin during the first week of school and end in the middle of October. Practices are generally Tuesday and Thursday. Home games are held at Gault Field. Soccer is available to all boys and girls in grades 3- 8.

Track and cross country are part of the 5 – 8 physical education program. Participation in interscholastic track meets is required. These track meets are held in May at host schools. Participation in the annual MVL cross country meet is optional.

A 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade Lutheran school softball tournament is typically held in mid-May. Preparation for this tournament will take place during our physical education classes. All 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in this event during the school day on the day the tournament is held.

### **COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITIES**

Basketball will be offered through Trinity, Nicollet, for students in grades 4-8. The season starts in December and concludes at the end of February. All athletes will follow the policies set up by Trinity. Practices and home games will be held at Trinity's school gymnasium. Parents are encouraged to set up a carpooling schedule to help with transportation to and from Nicollet.

All other cooperative sports will be communicated with you by the athletic director before the season begins. These sports may include volleyball, football, etc.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL SPORTS**

Students may participate in sports with the public school that are not offered by our school.

**If a student wishes to participate in a sport with the public school that we do offer at SPLS, a written request must be made to the Athletic Director.** If permission is granted, students must play for the SPLS team while also participating on the public-school team. In this situation students must prioritize SPLS athletic games before public school games and SPLS practices before public school practices. Public school games may be attended on days where SPLS has practice. Parents will be responsible for letting the public school coaches and SPLS coaches know of this arrangement and keeping the coaches regularly updated regarding which games and practices may be missed due to participating on multiple teams. Requests for exceptions to this policy for unique circumstances should be brought to the athletic director and discussed before the Christian Education Committee.

## **SPORTS FEES**

Fees are determined each year for each individual sport. The fees cover costs associated with equipment, field/gym rental, referees, conference dues, and any other costs during the athletic season.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from soccer and basketball practices and games. A parent not transporting his or her own child must send a written correspondence (i.e. email, text, written note) indicating who is responsible for transporting the child. Please note the time your child is required to be at the event. Absences and tardiness could affect playing time.

## **SPLS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

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