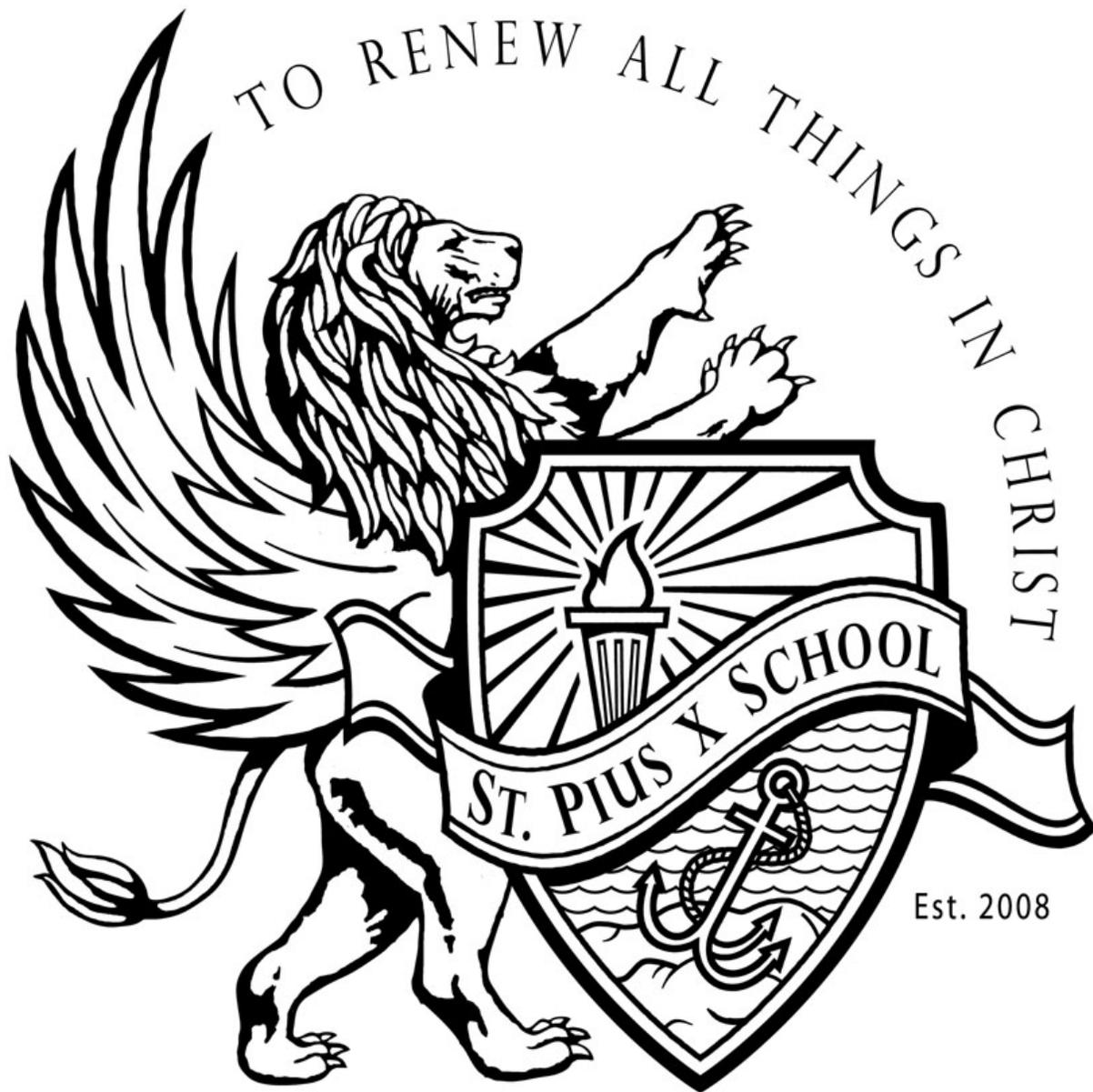


**Saint Pius X Catholic School**  
**2017-2018 Athletics Program Handbook**



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## THE SPIRIT OF SAINT PIUS X CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### OUR MASCOT

THE WINGED LION



*The shield of the coat of arms of Pope Saint Pius X, patron saint of our parish shows a winged lion with his paw on a book. The lion is part of the coat of arms of the Patriarch of Venice, where the future Pius X served from 1893-1903. The winged lion is symbolic of Saint Mark, patron saint of Venice.*

### OUR COLORS

GREEN AND GOLD

#### Use of School/Parish Logos

Use of any school logos by any parish group, school group, ministry or outside constituent requires written approval from the Parish Marketing Committee. Please refer to the Saint Pius X Catholic Church Graphic Standards manual for information on use of official Saint Pius logos, tag lines, and wording, or contact the Director of Marketing and Communications.

Dear Parents, Students and Coaches,

Welcome to Saint Pius X Catholic School. Your decision to attend or support Saint Pius X Catholic School has brought you to a school that is Christ-centered and provides each child the opportunity to realize their God-given spiritual, intellectual, and physical gifts. You and your child will experience many wonderful opportunities at Saint Pius X Catholic School.

As a Catholic school community, we all must weigh the appropriate role of athletics for our children. It is our belief that athletics provide our children a means to develop their Catholic character through the practice of the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. We also believe that athletics offers youth the opportunity to put into practice the life skills taught each day in school, applying the values of teamwork, hard work, and fair play. Our athletic program is a form of youth ministry that allows children of all different abilities and skills to come together and form important bonds, even lifelong relationships.

Our Athletics Program incorporates the *Play Like a Champion Today*<sup>TM</sup> model created at the University of Notre Dame. *Play Like a Champion Today* emphasizes that coaching is a ministry. Our coaches embrace the idea that their mission extends beyond skill development; equally as important is the development of Catholic character. Our goal is to help our young people realize their potential through athletics and beyond athletics.

This handbook describes the philosophy of our Athletics Program and the policies under which it operates. Please read it to become familiar with the program and the expectations for student-athletes, coaches, and parents. After reviewing this handbook, please sign and remove the attached agreements found in Appendix B and Appendix C, and return them to the school office. The agreements confirm that you will positively support the Saint Pius X Athletics Program.

The Athletics Program is an extension of Saint Pius X Catholic School's mission to lead children to Christ through intellectual, spiritual, and physical growth. Thank you for doing your part by positively supporting our school, our student-athletes, and our Athletics Program.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Athletics Program or improvements to this handbook, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

Melissa Farmer  
Saint Pius X Athletic Director

## **Mission of Saint Pius X Catholic School**

Saint Pius X Catholic School partners with the parish community to provide a safe and effective learning environment, anchored in the Gospel Values, fostering spiritual development, academic excellence and stewardship, centered on the Eucharist.

## **Mission of Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Program**

The athletics program at Saint Pius X Catholic School advances the overall educational mission of the church by organizing teams, practices, facilities, equipment, and competitions to help every student develop and deepen their God-given physical abilities and gifts. The Athletics Program budgets, personnel, and operations are designed to ensure that the Christ-centered ethos of our parish, school, and families is respected and honored in all sports events.

## **Athletics Program Philosophy**

In fulfilling the athletics program mission, we believe that:

- All people are created in God's image and likeness; in fact, each student is a child of God, and therefore deserving of respect at all times.
- Athletic programs benefit from a Christian environment.
- The adult community of coaches, parents, teachers and staff should model good sportsmanship and mutual respect at all times.
- Competition undertaken with integrity can help build individual character, humility and contributes to the life of the community.
- Sports in a Catholic school provide a means of Christian moral education, character development, mutual respect and team building.

## **Revisions/Modifications to Policies**

Saint Pius X Catholic School reserves the right to make revisions in these policies, rules, and regulations when deemed necessary. Student-athletes and their parents are expected to observe any change in policies, rules, and regulations that the school makes know to them in writing.

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PASTOR	Monsignor William Schooler
Parochial Vicar	Reverend Eric Burgener
Principal	Elaine Holmes
Assistant Principal	Stephanie Molnar & Allison Krisch
Athletic Director	Melissa Farmer

### **Conference Affiliation**

Saint Pius X Catholic School is a member of the Inter City Catholic League (ICCL). The ICCL coordinates and regulates inter-scholastic athletic competition among Catholic grade schools located in Saint Joseph and Elkhart Counties. In addition to Saint Pius X Catholic School, other ICCL members are listed below:

Christ the King, South Bend	Saint Adalbert, South Bend
Corpus Christi, South Bend	Saint Anthony, South Bend
Holy Cross, South Bend	Saint John the Baptist, South Bend
Holy Family, South Bend	Saint Joseph, South Bend
Mishawaka Catholic, Mishawaka	Saint Jude, South Bend
Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend	Saint Matthew, South Bend
Queen of Peace, Mishawaka	Saint Michael, Plymouth
Saint Thomas, Elkhart	

As a participating member of the ICCL, Saint Pius follows the league's policies. These rules and regulations are set forth in the ICCL Constitution, available for review at [www.icclsports.org](http://www.icclsports.org).

Directions to ICCL school gymnasiums are provided in Appendix A. All football and soccer games, and many varsity level basketball games, are held at the athletic facilities of Marian High School and Saint Joseph High School.

## **Athletic Director Responsibilities**

The Athletics Program at Saint Pius X Catholic School is administered by the Athletic Director, who acts under the direction and with the authority of the School Principal and, ultimately, the Pastor in implementing and enforcing the program's policies and rules.

## **Saint Pius X Sports Advisory Board**

The Sports Advisory Board consists of a small group of parishioners who meet monthly with the Athletic Director to discuss Saint Pius X athletics and work on issues related to the program's policies and administration. This board includes a variety of lay men and women who have expressed special interest in the athletics program at Saint Pius X Catholic School. The Pastor and School Principal also meet with the Sports Advisory Board.

In consultation with one another, the Pastor, School Principal, and Athletic Director appoint members of the Sports Advisory Board. Current advisory board members may recommend new members, but interested persons also may apply directly to the Athletic Director for open positions. Applications are accepted from any interested parishioner in April each year. Advisory board members serve three-year terms. Advisory board members may be removed by a two-thirds vote of current advisory board members or, alternatively, at the direction of the Pastor.

The primary role of the Sports Advisory Board is to provide objective advice to the Athletic Director. In addition, the Sports Advisory Board members actively assist the Athletic Director with administration of the Athletics Program. The Athletic Director assigns to board members various responsibilities, including, but not limited to: recruiting qualified coaches, providing recommendations for coaching assignments, developing the Athletics Program budget, increasing and coordinating parents' volunteer participation, evaluating coaches, and providing input regarding suggested improvements to the Athletics Program.

The Sports Advisory Board meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:15 a.m. Coaches and parents who would like to address the Sports Advisory Board must contact the Athletic Director to reserve time on the meeting agenda.

Because the Board must consider its business in an orderly and efficient manner, the following guidelines govern public presentations to the Board:

1. A formal request must be made to the Athletic Director in writing with topic and supporting documentation at least ten (10) days prior to the Sports Advisory Board meeting. The request shall include a statement describing the presentation the person wishes to make to the Board. The statement must relate the presentation to a direct responsibility or policy of the Sports Advisory Board.
2. The Athletic Director will review the request and the item will appear on a meeting agenda as soon as is practicable.
3. At the meeting, A fifteen (15) minute presentation is the max allotted time to speak with the board and present the request.

## **From the Sports Advisory Board**

The Sports Advisory Board seeks to represent the Saint Pius X School Community in matters involving the Athletics Program. Our quest is to promote a model faith-based, high energy Athletics Program that cultivates our children's moral character and physical abilities.

In order to continually improve the athletic experience at our school, we want to hear your interests and ideas. The Sports Advisory Board can provide information about sports and/or answer your questions about our Athletics Program. Please also feel free to contact board members with any concern that you may have. If you would like to attend one of our board meetings as an observer, you may notify the Athletic Director. There is not, however, public participation in the Sports Advisory Board, except as authorized in accordance with the procedures specified above. If you would like to present a matter of concern directly to the Sports Advisory Board, please contact the Athletic Director (as discussed above).

## **Play Like a Champion Today™**

Saint Pius X Catholic School has partnered with *Play Like a Champion Today™* (PLACT), a respected national program developed at the University of Notre Dame. PLACT promotes character-building and moral responsibility in youth athletics. All Saint Pius X coaches attend workshops centered on character development through sports, team building, motivating student-athletes, and cultivating partnerships with parents. Parents of Saint Pius student-athletes must attend a PLACT training session once every two years. At the parents' meetings, we also review the policies included in this Athletics Program Handbook and discuss the expectations for parents' involvement in sports at Saint Pius X. Parents of fourth grade students are encouraged to attend their first PLACT session in the spring or summer before their children enter fifth grade. Other parents must attend a meeting every other year. More information on PLACT can be found at [www.playlikeachampion.org](http://www.playlikeachampion.org).

## **Volunteering**

The Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Program now serves more than 75 percent of students enrolled in the fifth through eighth grades. To ensure the success of such a large youth ministry, parents and other adults in our community must volunteer their time and talent. For these reasons, parents of all students participating in sports are asked to make a volunteer commitment of support. Appendix C to this handbook contains a copy of the Volunteer Contract, a service agreement that parents must complete and return in order for their student athlete to participate in the Athletics Program. As described in the Volunteer Contract, adult volunteers may assist in a wide variety of ways, from coaching to keeping score at games, from selling refreshments to helping with team organizational tasks. Please take the time to review the many needs of the program and identify areas where your family can contribute. Without your help, we simply cannot provide a diverse and vibrant sports program for our student athletes.

## Sports Offered at Saint Pius X Catholic School

Saint Pius X Catholic School currently fields teams of boys and girls, in fifth through eighth grades, which compete against other ICCL members in a variety of sports offered during the academic year. Eligible student-athletes may participate in one sport per season.

<b>SEASON</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>BOYS</b>
Fall (August-October)	Soccer, Softball, Cheerleading*	Football, Soccer
Late Fall / Early Winter (October-December)	Volleyball	N/A
Winter (November-March)	Basketball, Cheerleading* (January-March)	Basketball (November- February) Wrestling (December – March)
Spring (March-May)	Track, Lacrosse (6-8), Tennis (3-4), Golf*, Girls on the Run (3-5)	Track, Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis (3-4), Golf*

\*Saint Pius X Catholic School fields both varsity and junior varsity cheerleading squads.

However, some sports are not recognized for competition by the ICCL. Saint Pius cheerleading & Golf participate in the sport as a club activity.

### Sports Registration

Each spring, the Athletics Program registers student-athletes who wish to participate in sports during the following school year. During spring registration, all students who will be entering the fifth through eighth grades in the fall will receive the package of forms necessary to register to participate in athletics. The sports registration packet will contain the following forms:

- Registration Form (noting the sports the student plans to play during the upcoming year)
- ICCL Contract
- Emergency Medical Authorization Form
- Volunteer Contract
- Coach Volunteer Application (to be completed by parents volunteering to coach)
- Play like a Champion Form

All required forms should be completed and returned to the school office prior to the end of the spring semester (end of school year) in order to facilitate planning for the upcoming year. However, additional registrations will be accepted prior to the beginning of each sport's season. Announcements will be made in school notifying students of the deadlines for pre-season registrations.

## **Athletics Fees**

Current athletics fees at Saint Pius X Catholic School are as follows:

- \$60 per sport for each sport played (except for wrestling)
- Football fee of \$60 is paid to Saint Anthony
- Wrestling fee determined by the ICCL and paid to the ICCL
- All fees must be paid prior to the first game thru the FACTS program. Student-athletes will not be permitted to participate in games until fees owed are paid. All exceptions must be approved by the Athletics Director and/or the Sports Advisory Board. Parents seeking a fee waiver due to financial hardship should be directed to the Athletic Director.

## **Tryouts**

The Athletic Director approves the number of players and the final rosters of all Saint Pius X Catholic School sports teams. Tryouts will be held in order to select players for varsity teams only if an excess number of seventh and eighth grade students register to participate in the sport (typically for basketball and volleyball). It is essential to demonstrate respect for all participating athletes in this process, and coaches should provide individualized feedback to players rather than simply posting a list of varsity team members.

Any players not assigned to the varsity team will have an opportunity to compete on a colors team in that sport. Historically, Saint Pius X Catholic School has fielded colors teams (See Levels of Competition for definition of teams) in volleyball, boys' basketball, and girls' basketball. Although the ICCL does not sponsor a colors league for boys' soccer, girls' soccer, boys' baseball, or girls' softball, Saint Pius will enter a second team in the varsity league if the number of participating seventh and eighth grade students is sufficient.

Prior to the tryouts for varsity teams, all interested seventh and eighth grade students will be provided with a list describing minimum skills and expectations for players, as well as any other criteria used to evaluate players during tryouts, and an explanation of the notification process.

When the number of participating fifth grade students, sixth grade students, and/or colors team players necessitates fielding more than one team in an age group, players will be divided among the teams after coaches have evaluated the players' skills and experience. The intent of such non-varsity player evaluations is to create balanced teams that are comparably competitive.

If Saint Pius X Catholic School does not have a sufficient number of interested students to field a team, we will make every effort to join with another ICCL member school in order for our students to participate in the sport.

### Levels of Competition

Fundamental skills development is the primary emphasis in preparation for competition. Each team experience, however, may differ somewhat, depending on the level at which the team is competing. The varsity level has specific skill requirements and commitment requirements not necessarily found at other levels, including a tryout process. The following chart describes the various levels of competition.

<b>LEVEL</b>	<b><u>Varsity</u></b> <b>(7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)</b>	<b><u>Colors</u></b> <b>(7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)</b>	<b><u>A &amp; B Leagues</u></b> <b>(6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades)</b>
	Highest competitive level. Teams at this level strive to prepare students for high school athletics. A specific skill set is required. ICCL varsity leagues are highly competitive.	Intended to provide non-varsity players in 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade the opportunity to compete at their skill level. Players transitioning from developmental level to varsity level and, potentially, high school athletics.	Emphasizes individual skill development and team building.  A league-- 6 <sup>th</sup> grade B league-- 5 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>COMMITMENT REQUIRED</b>	Teams practice two to four times per week, in addition to games.  Athletes must make full commitment to attending all practices, scrimmages, and games.	Teams practice two to three times per week, in addition to games.  Athletes should try to attend all practices, scrimmages, and games.	Teams practice two, or occasionally, three times per week, in addition to games.  Athletes should try to attend all practices, scrimmages, and games.
<b>TRYOUTS</b>	Yes, if excess number of students register to play.  Athletes not selected for varsity team will have an opportunity to play on a colors team.	No, except as part of the varsity tryout; there is no separate tryout for colors teams. When more than one colors team can be fielded, those teams will be selected through an evaluation process.	No.  When more than one team is formed in the A or B league, those teams will be formed to be competitively comparable in skill level.

<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b><u>VARSAITY (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)</u></b>	<b><u>COLORS (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)</u></b>	<b><u>A &amp; B LEAGUES (6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>Grades)</u></b>
<b>PLAYING TIME</b>	<p>Officiated games against other ICCL schools as well as occasional non-conference games. Season ends with conference tournament.</p> <p>Playing time is at the discretion of the teams' coach(es). While specific time targets are not used for varsity teams, coaches are encouraged to provide all athletes with opportunities to play in games during the season.</p>	<p>Officiated games against other ICCL schools as well as occasional non-conference games. Season ends with conference tournament.</p> <p>Coaches will make every effort to play every team member in each game.</p> <p>Over the course of the season, players should receive approximately 25 percent of the available playing time.</p>	<p>Officiated games against other ICCL schools as well as occasional non-conference games. Season ends with conference tournament.</p> <p>Coaches will strive to provide players equal playing time over the course of the season.</p> <p>During the tournament, coaches will ensure all players will receive at least 25 percent of the available playing time. Playing time will be determined by the coach in accordance with ICCL rules.</p>
<b>SKILLS EMPHASIZED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Advancing game strategies</li> <li>*Leadership skills on and off the field/court</li> <li>*Individual fundamentals reinforced and extended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Importance of team cohesion</li> <li>*Individual fundamentals introduced and reinforced</li> <li>*Formal game strategies introduced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Basic skills</li> <li>*Introduction to team dynamics and the rules of formal competition.</li> </ul>

## **Student Eligibility, Expectations, and Requirements**

Students enrolled at Saint Pius X Catholic School in grades 5-8 are eligible to participate in athletics provided that they are in good standing academically (see below) and fulfill the expectations and requirements of the school. Student-athletes, like all students, are subject to the policies and rules of Saint Pius X Catholic School, as described in the Family Handbook. Students wishing to participate in athletics at Saint Pius X should be dedicated to giving their personal best in the classroom as well as in sports competitions.

### **Academic Eligibility Standards For Student-Athletes**

Saint Pius X Catholic School aspires to provide an excellent Catholic education to each child according to their needs. In order to educate the whole child and enhance the academic curriculum, Saint Pius provides a wide range of extra-curricular experiences for its students, including competitive sports, and various clubs. Participation in school-sponsored, extra-curricular activities and events should fulfill the school's mission to the academic formation of the student.

To support its mission, Saint Pius X Catholic School has adopted the following academic eligibility standards and enforcement processes for its students participating in the Athletics Program and other extra-curricular activities. These policies apply to all students enrolled at Saint Pius X Catholic School in grades 5-8. (Students in grades K-4 do not participate in the Athletics Program except for Soccer & Tennis.)

#### **Standards of Academic Eligibility**

Students are eligible to participate in athletics and other extra-curricular activities by fulfilling the grade standard of C- or higher in each subject. Academic eligibility is reviewed monthly at middle school meeting beginning in October, with the final check in May. All student-athletes also are responsible for complying with ICCL eligibility requirements. Saint Pius X Catholic School will work with students and parents to help students maintain academic expectations in order that students may participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities. However, students are responsible for communicating with their teachers to ensure compliance with these standards of academic eligibility.

*See family handbook for further behavior plan.*

### Academic Probation

A student who does not fulfill the standards of academic eligibility will be placed on academic probation for a two-week period. The student and his/her parents will be notified in writing of the probation. Specifically, written notification will be sent home to indicate the subjects in which the student has performed below grade level. The form will require a student and parent signature. (Appendix D includes an example of such a notice.) The student's coach and/or club leader also will be notified that the student has been placed on academic probation. At the end of the probation period, academic progress will be rechecked to determine the student's eligibility to participate.

### Ineligibility

At the end of the probationary period, if the student still does not comply with the standard for academic eligibility, he/she will be declared ineligible to participate in athletics (and any other extra-curricular activities) for a two-week period. During this two-week period, the ineligible student may not play in games, participate in practices, or attend team meetings. Written notice of a decision to declare the student ineligible (see Appendix D for example) will be sent by the assistant principal to the student and his/her parents, with a copy forwarded to the student's coach and/or club leader.

### Suspension

At the end of two weeks, if the ineligible student still has not met the standard for academic eligibility, the student will be declared ineligible and suspended from the team for the remainder of the sport's season. (In other extra-curricular clubs, a grade check will be made every two weeks. A student will not be able to participate in an extra-curricular club until the average(s) are all at or above a C-.) Written notice of the suspension decision (see Appendix D) will be sent by the student's teacher(s) to the student and his/her parents, with a copy forwarded to the student's coach and/or club leader.

## Other Eligibility Rules, Expectations, and Requirements

### Absences from School

Students who are absent from school are not permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletics, on the day of the absence. A student will be considered absent for the day if they are not present in school prior to 11:30 a.m. or if they leave school for an illness at any time during the day and do not return prior to 11:30 a.m. Students who have medical excuses to be exempted from physical education classes during the day will not be permitted to practice or play on a sports team that day. Exemptions given on a case-by-case basis.

### Physical/Health Requirements

All students must provide a completed Emergency Medical Authorization Form signed by the student's parents or guardians. This document must be on file before the student-athlete may participate in practices and games. Return to play after extended absence must have a doctor's release.

Different sports demand varying levels of physical exertion. Players must understand the requirements of their sport and make sure that they are in appropriate physical condition to participate safely.

### Attendance at Practices and Games

Student-athletes should recognize the time commitment necessary to participate in sports at Saint Pius. Players are expected to attend all practices and games. A player who cannot attend a practice or a game should inform the coach, in advance, as soon as possible once the reason for the absence becomes known. In addition to the natural consequences that result from missing practice instruction or game experience, consequences for missed practices or games are within the discretion of the team's coach.

### Dress Code and Uniforms

Student-athletes are highly visible representatives of Saint Pius X Catholic School and, thus, are responsible for using good judgment in their overall appearance. Saint Pius provides uniforms (but not shoes) for its sports teams. For certain sports, the purchase of additional clothing and equipment may be required.

Student-athletes must wear their school-issued uniforms and treat their uniforms with care and respect. Players must keep their uniforms clean and may not make modifications to their uniforms including head wear. All game shirts will be tucked in unless otherwise instructed by the coach. Per ICCL rules, no jewelry is permitted to be worn during competition.

School-issued uniforms are the property of Saint Pius X Catholic School and must be returned promptly to the team coach or to the Athletic Director at the conclusion of the season. Parents will be charged the cost of replacing any uniform that is not returned.

Outerwear and accessories are to be in compliance with all school dress code guidelines at all scheduled athletic events both at Saint Pius and other venues.

### Student-Athlete Behavior

A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and policies that apply to all students enrolled in Saint Pius X Catholic School, as set forth in the Conduct and Discipline section of the Family Handbook. Violation of the school's Conduct and Discipline rules may cause the student-athlete to become ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletics.

## Sportsmanship (*Play Like A Champion Today*<sup>TM</sup>)

Student-athletes are expected to represent Saint Pius X Catholic School in an exemplary manner, demonstrating good sportsmanship both on and off the playing field/court and encouraging good sportsmanship by their teammates. Good sportsmanship is the rule at all times, with no exception. Furthermore, Saint Pius student-athletes are expected to display the best Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. To affirm their commitment to these standards, student-athletes must sign the Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Contract (see Appendix B) and the ICCL's Code of Ethics.

### **Determination of Penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Determination of the penalty for a student-athlete's unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or a game will be left to the coach's discretion, with input from the Principal and the Athletic Director. Potential penalties may include game suspension or in extreme cases (for example, when a student-athlete has been ejected from a game), a multiple game suspension or even dismissal from the team. In such a circumstance, the Athletic Director and the Principal will make the final decision as to the consequences for the student-athlete following a meeting with the student-athlete, his/her parents, and the coaches.

Any child receiving two technical fouls for any reason during a basketball season will be declared ineligible for 1 game. If a child receives a third technical foul during the season, the child will be declared ineligible for 2 games. If the child receives a fourth technical foul during the season, they will be removed from the team. Technical fouls carry forward from the regular season into the tournament.

Any player receiving a red card for any reason, with or without an earlier caution, will be ejected from the game and declared ineligible for 1 game. Red Cards carry forward from the regular season into the tournament.

All player reviews will be sent and reviewed by the Sports Advisory Board for final approval.

We will adhere to the ICCL rules for each sport. All rules can be found on the ICCL website <http://www.icclsports.org>.

### **Selection, Training, and Evaluation of Coaches**

In consultation with the School Principal and Pastor, the Athletic Director is responsible for the selection, training, and evaluation of Saint Pius coaches. Candidates for coaching positions must complete an application process which includes review of qualifications, Diocesan-required background checks and Safe Environment training, and acknowledgement of the ICCL Code of Conduct. Persons selected to coach Saint Pius X sports teams receive *Play Like a Champion Today*<sup>TM</sup> training for coaches. The Athletic Director reviews coaches after each season using, among other evaluative information, *Play Like a Champion Today*, surveys received from parents and players.

## **Coaching Expectations**

Saint Pius X coaches are responsible for the safety, development, and overall well-being of the student-athletes under their supervision. As educators, coaches must be messengers of the school's mission, ensuring that the Athletics Program embodies the Catholic character of our school. In addition to being teachers and mentors in their respective sports, coaching is considered a ministry at Saint Pius X Catholic School. Consequently, coaches are expected to be examples of Christ the Teacher and to serve as role models for student-athletes to emulate. It is important for coaches to display proper conduct at all times.

## **Goal Setting By Coaches**

As proposed by the *Play Like a Champion Today*<sup>™</sup> philosophy, successful coaches will work toward goal setting in three dimensions--personal, team, and school.

### **Personal Goals**

Saint Pius X coaches grow as individuals by:

1. Modeling moral character, sportsmanship, dedication, and faith
2. Recognizing and appreciating moments of grace throughout the season
3. Being a student of the game they coach
4. Maintaining perspective in all athletic endeavors, recognizing that teaching experiences arise in practices and in games
5. Fostering a positive attitude with student-athletes, their parents, the school, and the league

### **Team Goals**

Saint Pius X coaches develop teams by:

1. Infusing a positive team philosophy for practice and games
2. Creating a sense of responsibility in each athlete as well as team responsibilities
3. Teaching specific skills required by a specific sport and helping each athlete achieve their personal best skill performance
4. Instilling an attitude of fair play and fair competition, preparing student-athletes and the team to succeed
5. Helping to develop relationships on the team that will positively influence the student-athletes in the greater school community

## School Goals

Saint Pius X coaches contribute to the school community by:

1. Ensuring that that school's mission is embodied in all athletic activities
2. Promoting academic excellence as an essential part of the development of the student-athlete
3. Communicating effectively with school administrators, teachers, parents, and student-athletes
4. Helping student-athletes develop as leaders and as role models for the greater school community
5. Creating a culture of school unity and spirit, as exemplified through sportsmanship, positive fan participation, team unity, and respect for all

## Conduct of Coaches

Saint Pius X coaches are called to be role models to their faith and are expected to uphold high standards of conduct both in and out of season. Should a coach violate the rules, regulations, or policies of the ICCL or Saint Pius X Catholic School, he/she may be dismissed by the Athletic Director, School Principal, or Pastor.

## Language

Language should be appropriate and constructive at all times. Not only are coaches expected to monitor their own language and refrain from inappropriate language, but coaches also should set and enforce standards of appropriate language for student-athletes. Inappropriate language includes, but is not limited to, swearing, harassing and exclusionary words, language conveying sexual innuendo or personal attacks, and unsportsmanlike expressions.

## Treatment of Opponents

Coaches should model respect for opposing coaches, athletes, parents, and spectators. Coaches should instruct Saint Pius student-athletes to exhibit sportsmanship and fair play at all times, including, but not limited to, shaking hands with opponents after games, win or lose.

## Treatment of Officials

Referees, umpires, and other officials at athletic contests represent an authority that must be respected. Coaches should model appropriate respectful behavior toward all game officials, whether or not they agree with their decisions, and coaches should instruct Saint Pius X student-athletes to do the same.

## Prayer

Athletic experiences can play an important role in the spiritual formation of Saint Pius X student-athletes. To support our school's mission to be Christ-centered, we must carefully and conscientiously prepare those who are in positions of leadership. Coaches, as team leaders, are chosen not just to be mentors and role models for student-athletes, but to be true Christian witnesses. Prayer is part of the fabric of Saint Pius X parish and central to the spiritual life of our school community. For these reasons, coaches are encouraged to build and create prayer traditions into their approach to coaching. Prayer should be an essential component of every team's culture, not just a rushed event before or after a practice or a game.

The ICCL requires that each team, and those in attendance, recite the ICCL prayer before each ICCL contest:

*God our Father, help us to put forth our best effort, to represent our school with class, to respect our opponents, and to grow as disciples of Your Son, Jesus. Keep us safe from injury and harm through the Intercession of Our Lady, the mother of your Son and our mother, too. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen! Saint Sebastian, pray for us!*

## Coaching Responsibilities

In addition to serving as a witness and model of faith, Saint Pius X coaches are expected to fulfill the following responsibilities:

- Plan practices and game strategies
- Supervise student-athletes at all times before practice begins and until the student-athletes are picked up from practices/games
- Maintain a safe environment for student-athletes to practice and compete
- Condition student-athletes properly
- Assess student-athletes readiness for practice and competition
- Carry players Emergency Medical Authorization Forms and a first aid kit to all practices and games
- Report any injuries to the Athletic Director and complete an accident report
- Teach skills and develop teamwork
- Respect Saint Pius X Catholic School facilities and all facilities where Saint Pius X teams compete away from Saint Pius X Catholic School
- Communicate practice schedules, game schedules, and performance updates to student-athletes and their parents
- Understand and comply with the academic and other eligibility rules for student-athletes

- Report any unruly players, parents, or spectators to the Athletic Director
- Supervise and develop assistant coaches
- Create a positive, team-focused atmosphere

### Coaches Administrative Tasks

Coaches are asked to perform certain administrative tasks associated with their teams, including the following:

- Ensuring that Emergency Medical Authorization Forms are returned and on file for each student-athlete on the team. These forms must be in the coach's possession at every practice and at all games.
- Collecting and returning player uniforms to the Athletics Director at the end of the season. Retrieval of uniforms is very important to help control the expense of fielding teams.
- Calendars for practice schedules and games can be found on the school website under athletics.

### Coaches' Communication with Student-Athletes and Parents

Saint Pius X Catholic School coaches should establish clear procedures and guidelines for regular and timely communications with student-athletes and parents that are in line with the philosophy and mission of Saint Pius X Catholic School. Coaches are highly encouraged to hold a pre-season meeting with parents or, alternatively, send a pre-season communication to all parents, regarding practice schedule, coaching philosophy, team rules, and expectations of student-athletes and their parents. (Coaches should copy the Athletic Director on all correspondence.)

During the season, e-mail should be used only to communicate general team information, such as practice times, schedule changes, game information, and game recaps. Discussion of individual concerns with a student-athlete should always be done in person. If a face-to-face meeting is not possible, a phone call is preferable. Before such a meeting, coaches should establish and communicate a clear agenda, including whether certain topics will not be discussed. Coaches need not discuss coaching strategies, specific plays, or information pertaining to other student-athletes. If your concern cannot be resolved with the coach, please contact the Athletic Director. Please remember to observe the **"24-hour Cushion Rule"** before contacting the coach or the Athletic Director. (See p. 25 for definition)

## Scheduling Practices and Non-Conference Games

Practices normally will be held two or three times per week, as appropriate for the sport and level of play. Practices in Saint Pius X gymnasiums are scheduled by the Athletic Director. Other practice sites should be identified and scheduled by the coach. Practices may be held during school holidays or vacation days, depending upon the availability of practice facilities. Practices may be held on Saturdays or Sundays, again depending on the availability of practice facilities, but Sunday practices may not begin prior to 1:00 p.m. All practices are held in accordance with ICCL guidelines.

All non-conference games must be approved in advance by the Athletic Director.

### Practice When School is Canceled

As mandated by the ICCL, NO practices or games will be held on any day when school is canceled due to inclement weather or similar unscheduled circumstance.

## Expectations of Parents and Guardians

*“It is incumbent upon parents to cooperate with the school teachers to whom they entrust their Children to be educated: in fulfilling their duty teachers are to collaborate closely with parents Who are willingly heard and for association or meeting are to be inaugurated and held in Great esteem.” (Code of Cannon Law. 796)*

Respecting the primary role of parents as the first teachers of their sons and daughters, Saint Pius X Catholic School partners with parents in the formation of student-athletes. Parents and other members of the community play a vital role in the holistic education of children, including their participation in school-sponsored athletics. Together, all stakeholders should work actively to ensure that the Catholic mission and identity of Saint Pius X Catholic School permeates the Athletics Program.

### Top Ways to Support your Saint Pius X Student-Athlete

Parental support of student-athletes is highly valued and encouraged at Saint Pius X. Among the best ways that parents can support their children are the following:

1. **Attend** a Play Like A Champion Today™ workshop for parents once every two years.
2. **Be Present** – show up to games, cheer, and encourage the student-athletes and teams.

3. **Be Positive** – children learn from role models. When talking about a game, performance, or decision, share a positive outlook on life. Make sure that your child knows that win or lose, they are loved. Emphasize effort; that your child did his/her best.
4. **Encourage Independence** – encourage your student-athlete to be a responsible player by attending all practices and games and arriving on time; taking care of their uniform and athletic gear; speaking directly with their coach about any questions or concerns.
5. **Observe the “24-hour Cushion Rule”** – As do all good educators, Saint Pius X Catholic School coaches naturally and deliberately reflect on situations and decisions following team competitions. Please allow the coaches the time they need to process their decisions before approaching them with any questions. Coaches need not discuss their specific strategies, particular plays, or information pertaining to other student-athletes.
6. **Model Saint Pius X Catholic School Behavior Expectations for Opposing Spectators**  
– Take pride in our Athletics Program and model for other spectators how we . . .
  - a. Cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.
  - b. Recognize and appreciate good play from *both* teams.
  - c. Respect the integrity and authority of game officials.
  - d. Allow coaches to coach without criticism from the spectators.
  - e. Help clean up at the end of athletic events.
7. **Volunteer Expectation** – All parents are required to commit their time and talent in service to the athletic program. (See Appendix)

#### Transportation

Transportation to and from practices and games is the sole responsibility of parents. Please ensure that your student-athlete arrives on time and is picked up promptly at the end of each practice and game.

#### Removal from Team – Parent Decision

The School Principal, Athletic Director, and coaches will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his or her child from a team for any reason. However, once the child is removed, he or she may not return to that team for the remainder of the sport’s season.

## Parental Behavior

It is the expectation of Saint Pius X Catholic School that parents will conduct themselves as representatives of the school at all athletic events, demonstrating enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and respect. Failure to do so will not be tolerated, whether or not the parents' behavior was cited by an official or observed by a school representative. Abusive, boorish, or obnoxious behavior will be subject to review and action by the Sports Advisory Board, School Principal, and Athletic Director. Parents who exhibit such behavior at any Saint Pius X Catholic School athletic event may be prohibited from attending future athletic events. Failure to comply with such requests may result in the child being removed from the team. (Please refer to pages 36-37 in the *Play Like a Champion Today*™ Parents' Handbook.) Parents must affirm their commitment to these expectations by signing and returning the Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Contract, including the Parent's Code of Ethics (see Appendix B).

## Implied Agreement

The registration of students at Saint Pius X Catholic School is deemed to be an agreement on their part, and on the part of their parents or guardians, to comply fully with all policies, rules, and regulations of the school, including those set forth in this handbook.

## Appendix A

### ICCL Participating Schools

<b>Christ the King</b>	<b>52473 Indiana State Route 933, South Bend</b>
<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>2817 Corpus Christi Drive, South Bend</b>
<b>Holy Cross</b>	<b>1020 Wilber Saint, South Bend</b>
<b>Holy Family</b>	<b>56407 Mayflower Rd., South Bend</b>
<b>Our Lady of Hungary</b>	<b>829 Calvert Saint, South Bend</b>
<b>Queen of Peace</b>	<b>4508 Vistula, Mishawaka</b>
<b>Saint Adalbert</b>	<b>519 S. Olive Saint, South Bend</b>
<b>Saint Anthony</b>	<b>2310 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend</b>
<b>Saint Bavo</b>	<b>511 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Saint, Mishawaka</b>
<b>Saint Joseph, Mishawaka</b>	<b>230 South Spring Street, Mishawaka</b>
<b>Saint Joseph, South Bend</b>	<b>216 North Hill Street, South Bend</b>
<b>Saint John the Baptist</b>	<b>3526 Saint Johns Way, South Bend</b>
<b>Saint Matthew</b>	<b>1015 E. Dayton Saint, South Bend</b>
<b>Saint Michael</b>	<b>611 N. Center Saint Plymouth</b>
<b>Saint Monica</b>	<b>223 W. Grove Saint, Mishawaka</b>
<b>Saint Pius X</b>	<b>52553 Fir Rd., Granger</b>
<b>Saint Thomas the Apostle</b>	<b>1405 N. Main Saint, Elkhart</b>

## Appendix B

### Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Contract

Please sign the applicable statements below to acknowledge that you have received and read the Athletics Handbook and that you agree to and abide by the policies and philosophy of Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Program and the ICCL. **To be eligible for sports participation, please return the completed form to the Athletic Director.**

School Year 20\_\_\_\_-20\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I. Parent and Student-Athlete**

I, athlete and parent, understand that participation in athletics involves the possibility of injury. In consideration of our child opportunity to participate in this program, we, the parents, individually and on the behalf of our child expressly assume any and all risk associated with and arising from such participation, including, but not limited to, bodily and emotional injury in practice, competitive events, and any other related activity, including transportation to and from any event by a volunteer. We hereby release the Diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend, ICCL, any parish and/or school sponsor, and all of their agents, from any and all liability for any such injury or damage. We will provide the required Emergency Medical Authorization Form to the coach. We will abide by ICCL rules, the Parent's Code of Ethics, and the direction of ICCL and game officials.

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Student-Athlete Signature & Date Signed

Parent Signature & Date Signed

#### **II. Parents' Code of Ethics**

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will demonstrate the Christian values of self-restraint, fair play, and sportsmanship in my treatment of others at all games, practice sessions, or other ICCL events.
- I will ask my child to treat all athletes, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol, tobacco, and weapon free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their possession and/or use at all School and ICCL events.

- I will do my best to make my child’s involvement with youth sports a positive experience, while remembering that the game is for the development and enjoyment of the youth and not the adults.
- I have read the above “Code of Ethics” and understand that my (our) failure to uphold any of these statements may lead to disciplinary action by the Saint Pius X Sports Advisory Board and/or the ICCL, which may include, but is not limited to, forfeiture of my right to watch my child participate in ICCL athletic events.

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Parent Signature & Date Signed

Parent Signature & Date Signed

### **III. Student-Athlete Code of Ethics**

- I will strive to give my best to the team in every practice and game and to be on time to every practice and game.
- I will not miss a practice or game because of another outside sport event or extra-curricular activity unless approved by my coach or Athletic Director.
- Team sports participation is an opportunity not only to learn a sport and develop skills but a chance to be part of a team and help develop team leadership skills. There will be times when you must follow and contribute as you can and times that you must lead. I will always strive to make a positive contribution to my team.
- I will take my coach’s directions and comments constructively which will help me be a better athlete and team member. I will have a positive attitude during practice and be a positive influence on my team.
- I will always give my best effort and play fairly whether we are winning or losing the game, realizing that everyone on both teams are playing for the fun of the game and the excitement of the competitive experience.
- I will carry these principles to my schoolwork and family focusing on the Gospel Values to help develop my moral character.
- I will be an example of Christ in all my actions on and off the field/court of competition.

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Student-Athlete Signature & Date Signed

## Appendix C

### Volunteer Contract

Overview: The Saint Pius X Catholic School Athletics Program serves the needs of more than 75 percent of the students in the fifth through eighth grades. To be successful and fulfill all of the needs of the Athletics Program, we need many volunteers. Every parent whose child plays on a Saint Pius X Catholic School sports team is required to commit their time and talent in service to the program. Please take time to look at the many needs and assess where you feel you can meaningfully contribute. Please determine what you can do to help us provide a vibrant and successful program. If no selection was made, you will be assigned a position.

Please select at least *one or more* of the following Volunteer Positions:

\_\_\_\_\_ Head Coach, Sport:

\_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Coach, Sport:

\_\_\_\_\_ Team Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_ Score Table \_\_\_\_\_ Book or \_\_\_\_\_ Scoreboard for Sport \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Volleyball Line Judge

\_\_\_\_\_ Track Home Meets: \_\_\_\_\_ Timer or \_\_\_\_\_ Field Event Coordinator or \_\_\_\_\_ Score Table

\_\_\_\_\_ Concession Stand \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Admissions Basketball \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

## Saint Pius X Catholic School Notification of Athletic/Extracurricular Eligibility



Date \_\_\_\_\_

To the Parents of \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic/Extracurricular  
Activity(s) \_\_\_\_\_

As stated in the school and athletic handbooks, the minimum grade for each subject to be eligible to participate in any athletic/extracurricular activity at Saint Pius X School is C-. Once a month, academic progress is monitored in every subject. Currently this student is performing below the grade requirement in the following subjects:

Subject	Teacher	Grade Average	Date Grade was Verified	Recheck Date

As a result, he or she will be placed on *Academic Probation* for two (2) weeks. The student may continue to participate in athletic/extracurricular activities during this probationary period. The grade performance will be evaluated again in two weeks. If the performance in this subject is not above a C-, he or she will be declared academically ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for two weeks. This includes practices, rehearsals, performances and competitions.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recheck Results

### *Academic Improvement*

\_\_\_\_\_ is currently performing at a C- or better average in all subjects. As a result, he or she is no longer on Academic Probation.

### *Notification of Academic Ineligibility*

\_\_\_\_\_ continues to perform below the minimum C- average in the following subjects:

Subject	Teacher	Grade Average	Date Grade was Verified	Recheck Date

As a result, he or she will be **ineligible** to participate in athletic/extracurricular activities for the next two weeks, effective immediately. This ineligibility includes practices, rehearsals, performance and competitions. If at the end of the next two-week review period a minimum of a C- average in all subjects is not obtained, the student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Notification of Removal from Sport and/or Extracurricular*

\_\_\_\_\_ continues to perform below the minimum C- average in the following subjects:

Subject	Teacher	Grade Average	Date Grade was Verified	Recheck Date

As a result, he or she is now **ineligible** to participate in athletic/extracurricular activities for the remainder of the season, effective immediately.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_