



# St. Louis Academy Crusader Athletic Program

Guidelines of the St. Louis Academy Crusader Athletic Board  
and Responsibilities of all Involved in the Program

## **Philosophy of the Crusader Athletic Program**

The purpose of the athletic program of St. Louis Academy Catholic School is to complement home, church, and school in the development of the whole person. Activities of the program are for the benefit of the children suited to their age and physical growth. The goals are to recognize the need of physical fitness in the wholesome growth of the child and to provide enjoyable recreational activity that develops Christian attitudes of sportsmanship and fair play that can be sustained beyond the elementary level. The primary function of elementary athletics should not be the development of exceptional athletes. Rather, it must be the development of student-athletes who genuinely display the virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude in every aspect of life. The successful operation of athletics depends upon a true commitment from all adults involved.

Participation in this program is contingent upon a student's achievement in the academic, spiritual and moral areas of school life. The success of our sports program should not be measured simply by the number of games won, but rather how each individual was given the opportunity to grow as a person, teammate and athlete. The participation in the Twins Athletic Program is a privilege and not a right.

### **Mission statement**

**The St. Louis Academy Crusader Athletic Program provides an opportunity for students at St. Louis Academy Catholic School to participate in athletic competition according to the rules of the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) and handbook of St. Louis Academy Catholic School. Crusader student athletes, coaches, parents, and fans are required to reflect a Christ-like spirit of sportsmanship.**

### **The Purpose of the Crusader Athletic Board**

The St. Louis Academy Crusader Athletic Board exists to collaboratively serve and promote the Church's formational mission among the youth of our school. The Board is responsible for implementing the policies and guidelines created for the development of the youth that will benefit from the Crusader Athletic Program. The Board supports parish youth ministry programs in the learning areas of sportsmanship, competitiveness, physical exercise and teamwork through our athletic leagues and tournaments for our young people. In service to both the parent community and the parish community, the volunteer members of the Crusader Athletic Board are dedicated to the evangelization of our youth, open to collaboration, and promoters of Gospel values in the particular area of their role.

## **THE CRUSADER ATHLETIC BOARD**

**The Crusader Athletic Board consists of the following positions:**

- Athletic Director
- Treasurer
- Concessions Director
- Secretary
- Facilities Coordinator
- Communications Director

The **Athletic Director** reports to the Pastor and Principal and is responsible for the implementation of the policies and guidelines established by the Athletic Board. The Director will attend School Board meetings quarterly to give an overall program report. The Director will serve a renewable three-year term.

The **Treasurer** performs all accounting duties associated with the Athletic Board. He/She is responsible for depositing athletic fees and fundraising monies, and providing a financial status report at each Athletic Board meeting. The budget of the Athletic Program will remain transparent to the school Pastor and Principal at all times. The Treasurer will serve a renewable three-year term.

The **Concession Director** is responsible for control of concessions/admissions monies, staffing the concession stand, payments to referees, and providing a status report at each Athletic Board meeting. The Concession Director will serve a renewable three-year term.

The **Secretary** records the minutes of each Athletic Board meeting and distributes the meeting minutes to each member of the Athletic Board and to the school Principal. The Secretary will serve a renewable three-year term.

The **Facilities Coordinator** will work with the school to schedule practices and games that will take place on school grounds and other facilities. The Facilities Coordinator will work to use the St. Louis facilities to its fullest extent, and will forward the schedules to the Communications Director. The Facilities Director will serve a renewable three-year term.

The **Communications Director** is responsible for the communicating to the parents and Principal all seasonal practice and game schedules, as well as all tournament schedules. He/She will also report to the parents and Principal when games or practices are cancelled or rescheduled. The Communications Director will serve a renewable three-year term.

**As we begin the formation of the St. Louis Academy Crusader Athletic Board for the 2017/2018 School Year, all applications for the above positions will be reviewed and decided upon by the Pastor and Principal of St. Louis Academy Catholic School.**

**\*\*The following is contingent on board overview and may be amended.\*\***

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES**

Coaches are expected to adhere to the following:

### *General Responsibilities*

- Be aware of and adhere to the diocesan and Twins athletic guidelines.
- Have a completed copy of the required forms for each of their student athletes with them at all practices and games.
- Discipline fairly and consistently.
- Keep documentation on all disciplinary actions and forward it to the student's School Office and Athletic Director.

### *Pre-season Responsibilities*

- Complete the Twins Athletic Program Coach Application.
- Meet with the athletes and parents at least once before the season begins and explain all rules regarding practices, play, uniforms, etc.
- Notify athletes and parents of the necessary forms that must be completed before they will be allowed to participate. The school office or Athletic Director will distribute the necessary forms to the coaches.
- Attend a meeting with the Athletic Board and other coaches for their sport to schedule practice times, discuss rule changes, have a gym key issued, and share all other necessary information.

### *During-the-Season Responsibilities*

- Teach fundamental techniques and skills that enable the student athletes to develop to their fullest potential.
- Give all student athletes equal coaching time and encouragement.
- Organize and schedule practice sessions on a regular basis with the idea of developing the athlete's greatest potential.
- Work with the Facilities Coordinator to set up initial practice schedules and to reservation of facilities for practices. If a coach wishes to schedule practice for a time other than originally scheduled, the coach should contact the athletic director.
- Apply Catholic discipline in a firm and positive manner consistent with the Twins athletic philosophy. Treat all student athletes fairly with respect and dignity.
- Give all student athletes the opportunity to participate.
- Model good sportsmanship whenever they are with student athletes or representing the school as a coach. Avoid the use of inappropriate language, loss of temper, etc.
- Be present for all practice sessions and games. When this is not possible, the coach should find a qualified adult replacement (assistant coach or commissioner) to coach the team. If unable to find a replacement for a game, notify the athletic director.

- Be responsible for the safety and behavior of the athletes from the time they arrive for a practice or game until the time they leave the school premises. Students should not be allowed to remain after the practice session without adult supervision. The coach should be the last person to leave.

*Post-season responsibilities*

- Attend the Twins Awards Banquet that is held toward the end of the school year.
- Give feedback regarding the season and make recommendations regarding policies, procedures, and equipment to the Athletic Director.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS**

Parents are expected to:

- Complete all necessary forms and submit appropriate fees.
- Volunteer their time to benefit the St. Rose/St. Louis Twins Athletic Program.
- Find a replacement worker if they are unable to work a scheduled shift.
- Be a positive fan of the team.
- Treat all coaches, referees, and opponents with respect and courtesy.
- Ensure that athletes do not arrive more than ten minutes before the start of practice and that athletes are picked up within ten minutes after completion of practice.
- If there is a complaint, the following is the chain of command for such complaints:
  1. Any parent/guardian who has a complaint must first address it with one of the coaches and the complaint is not to be made until a 24-hour cool down period has occurred.  If the complainant feels the problem has not been resolved after talking with the coach, they should speak to the Director.
  2. The next step is for the complaint to be formalized in writing and presented to the Twins Athletic Board Director for discussion with the entire Board.

