ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2024-2025

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All athletic information (Athletic Handbook & Athletic Calendar) is available on the FACTS Family Portal – under the Calendar and Resource Documents headings. In addition, the Athletic Handbook can be accessed through the school's website (www.saintelizabethseton.com).

Handbook Updated: July 31, 2024

Section One

Purpose Statement and Philosophy

The purpose of the Sports Program at SES shall be to promote the development of the participants' athletic skills through teaching, practicing, and competition. We also strive to develop in the athletes, character, leadership abilities, and good citizenship by teaching the importance of practice, preparation, and sportsmanship in reaching one's potential. Our Sports Program provides for the development of physical, social, spiritual, and moral skills in a setting that is an extension of the classroom.

Section Two

Athletic Eligibility
Code of Conduct

A member of a St. Elizabeth Seton School athletic team agrees to fulfill the following requirements:

Elementary and Middle School Eligibility

- Report Card: Students must have C average or above with no failures or Unsatisfactory (U) in Conduct or Special Subjects. If the average is below a C, or any failing marks, student-athlete will be dismissed from athletics until the **next report card** is issued.

Attendance:

1. The athlete must attend all practices and games.
2. Absences due to illness will be handled on an individual basis.

Sportsmanship:

1. The athlete agrees to conduct themselves as a good Christian athlete exhibiting a high level of good sportsmanship at all times.

2. Parents, coaches, fans, and players are responsible for seeing that:

    a. Abusive language is not used;
    b. Officials are treated with respect and not criticized during and/or after games;
    c. Their actions bring honor to the reputation and good name of St. Elizabeth Seton School;
    d. Appropriate attire is worn (no obscene print, no undergarments visible, and no jewelry on players).

Section Three

Parent Responsibilities

1. Please arrive to pick up your child on time. Our coaches are volunteers- please do not inconvenience them by being late.

2. Arrange for your child to be at games and practices on time with proper equipment and uniform.

3. Be a good role model for your child in regard to conduct. Be supportive as a parent in the stands. Understand that we are competing at the grade school-middle school level. Be respectful of all participants, coaches, and officials. Understand that you represent St. Elizabeth Seton School.

4. If any problems or questions arise please address them with the Athletic Director or coach during a scheduled meeting or e-mail. Please refrain from initiating a conversation with the Athletic Director or coaches before, during or after games to discuss perceived problems. The time to discuss problems-issues is NOT before, during or after contests.

5. Please be supportive of your child and the program by attending games whenever possible.

6. Please be considerate of the school's administrative staff by refraining from calling the office pertaining to the athletic schedule. The FACTS Family Portal is the most updated and quickest way to learn of cancellations and schedule changes. All students and parents have Portal logins that can be utilized to access current athletic information.

7. Complete the Extracurricular Activities Form and Medical Waiver as well as pay all athletic fees on time. **All athletic fees will be paid through FACTS.**

Please be advised that your child's eligibility will be in jeopardy if you choose not to accept these responsibilities.

Section Four

Tryouts, Practices, and Games

Tryouts

* Two tryout sessions will be planned for all sports. The student athlete must attend at least one of the sessions to be considered eligible for the sport.

* A team roster will be determined by the coaches and the Athletic Director.

Practices

* Practices are mandatory unless stated otherwise by the coach.

Games

The athletic department will do their best to try and keep everyone informed of all scheduling changes. Please be advised that changes in the schedule are sometimes a necessity. All Seton Athletic Schedules are kept up to date on the FACTS Family Portal.

***** A student athlete that gets sent home from school for disciplinary reasons or sickness cannot attend tryouts, practices, or games on that day. A student athlete who is dismissed from school early for approved reasons may participate on that day. *****

***** At the discretion of the Athletic Director and Principal a student athlete who chooses to quit a team after the official team roster has been posted may be subject to a loss of eligibility in other sports activities/seasons. This rule is in place to discourage student athletes from quitting after the official team roster has been posted. *****

Section Five

Description of Athletic Program

The athletic program at St. Elizabeth Seton School is broken down into two levels, junior varsity and varsity.

The junior varsity program is for 5th and 6th grade students.

The varsity program is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students.

Please notice that 6th grade students may compete at both levels. The coach and athletic director will decide if a 6th grade athlete plays on varsity or junior varsity. Players cannot switch back and forth between junior varsity and varsity teams.

The number of players who can participate on a team varies from sport to sport. Unfortunately, not all students who try out for a team can become a member of the team.

The junior varsity program is in place to allow every team member a chance to practice his/her individual and team skills. Coaches will stress individual and team skills without putting too much emphasis on winning games. All 5^{th}-8^{th} grade athletes will receive playing time during regular season games. Not all players will necessarily receive equal playing time. The amount of playing time a player is given is at the discretion of the coach. **During tournament play**, playing time is **not guaranteed** as the coaches may choose to play certain individuals over others for the benefit of the team winning the conference tournament.

The varsity program is in place to challenge the athletes to prepare them for high school athletics. Individual and team skills will be stressed. Coaches will emphasize team effort to achieve the common goal of performing in the best possible way for the team. Preparation-practice will be stressed as the pathway to winning games. All players will receive playing time during regular season games Playing time is at the discretion of the coaches. During tournament play, playing time is not guaranteed as coaches may choose to play certain individuals over others for the benefit of the team goal of winning the conference tournament.

If we do not have enough athletes to make a JV and Varsity team in a particular sport, our priority is making sure we offer the sport as Varsity.

St. Elizabeth Seton School participates in the Sunshine Athletic Conference.

Being a member of the St. Elizabeth Seton Athletic Program is a privilege that a student athlete may earn through acceptable academic standards, overall behavior on and off the court or field, and skill achievement. Both team and staff members are expected to represent the entire school with great dignity and fair play.

The sports that are offered at SES are: Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Basketball, and Boys and Girls Track, Boys Flag Football.

Section Six

Fees for Participation

Every athlete who makes a team will be required to pay a nominal fee to participate. Fees collected will go towards hiring game officials, obtaining suitable equipment, uniforms, field maintenance, pennants, other general athletic necessities.

The rate scale is as follows:

$90.00 for all sports

All athletic fees will be set up through the FACTS program. The athletic fee will show up as an "Incidental Fee"

Incidental fees may be added for sports requiring special equipment which is kept by the athlete (Socks, hats, gear, etc.).

The Athletic Department understands that families sometimes experience financial difficulties. No student athlete will be deprived the opportunity to play because of financial reasons. Please see the Athletic Director with any financial concerns.

Section Seven

Coaches

* Coaches are volunteers. Payment is made in service hours.

* Fingerprint screening and Safety Environment Training is required

* Coaches and assistant coaches are chosen by the Athletic Director on the basis of their ability to lead a team through a season and their knowledge of a particular sport. Proper leadership qualities include appropriate behavior, language, and dress. Coaches must meet the standards of the Athletic Philosophy and Purpose Statement.

* Coaches are responsible for adhering to the terms and standards discussed in the Athletic Handbook.

* Coaches are required to meet with the Athletic Director prior to the beginning of the season to review expectations and responsibilities.

Section Eight

Athletic Director

* The Athletic Director serves as the liaison between the St. Elizabeth Seton Athletic Department and other competing schools.

* The Athletic Director schedules all games and secures fields-courts for home games.

* The Athletic Director obtains officials for all home contests.

* The Athletic Director serves as the liaison between the coaching staff and parents.

* The Athletic Director is responsible for determining the eligibility of all student athletes.

* The Athletic Director works with the coaching staff to establish official team rosters.

* The Athletic Director works with the Administration regarding athletic policies.

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