

SAINT GABRIEL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION PROGRAM STATEMENT

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The St. Gabriel Athletic Association (SGAA) organizes and funds the following athletic programs of St. Gabriel School: basketball, cheerleading, cross country, volleyball and soccer. All students who meet the grade level requirements, are academically eligible, and have a valid physical are able to participate in these programs.

For each sport, teams will be organized according to whether or not those teams participate in leagues sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Those teams which participate in a league will be known as varsity or junior varsity teams. Those teams which do not participate in a formal league will be known as grade level developmental teams. The basketball program will consist of varsity/junior varsity and grade level developmental teams.

For every sport, student athletes will be developed and play in accordance with the following philosophies.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the SGAA is to develop every child to the best of his or her ability and to prepare him or her for the next level of competition subject to the playing time philosophy.

PLAYING TIME PHILOSOPHY

For all grade level developmental teams, a child is guaranteed equal playing time during each game throughout the season except in tournaments where variations in playing time can be determined by the coaches, with the permission of the Athletic Director and/or President.

For varsity and junior varsity teams, a child is **not** guaranteed playing time throughout the season.

Playing on multiple teams is prohibited, unless a full team cannot be fielded. The determination as to what constitutes a full team shall be made by the Athletic Director, President for the SGAA.

SPORTS CLINICS

Traditionally, The SGAA sponsors clinics for the students in kindergarten through 3rd grade. Basic skills are stressed and the emphasis is on the children having fun through drills. A separate fee is established for the clinics. Traditionally, the clinics are held on Saturdays for six weeks each year. Each session lasts for 1 - 1 1/2 hours, based on availability of gym time.

THE BASKETBALL PROGRAM

The basketball program is available to all students of St. Gabriel School in grades 4 through 8. The basketball program begins on/about October 15 of each year. Practice time is distributed among the teams as equally as possible providing there is adequate gym time available. If for some unforeseen reason gym time would be reduced, the Association would have to reevaluate its existing

program. All players are provided both home and away jerseys and shorts. Uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season. Failure to return a uniform will result in a monetary penalty and uniform replacement costs.

4th Grade Basketball Teams

In the past, St. Gabriel School has been represented by both a boys and girls team. An attempt is made to give practice time to this grade in early evening hours, usually once a week. Traditionally, 4th grade practice begins in early November, after the upper grade teams have been established. In mid-December, games begin and based on the number available teams, a schedule is established. Usually, one home game and one away game, is scheduled each week through February. This program is instructional/developmental, therefore playing time is equal.

5th/6th Grade Basketball Teams

The 5th and 6th grade basketball program offers both Junior Varsity and grade level developmental teams, based on the number of interested students in these grades. Both teams play competitively and differ only as to playing time during games.

7th/8th Grade Basketball Teams

The SGAA offers a Varsity program for the 7th and 8th graders. Playing time is not guaranteed. However, when possible, as determined by the number of interest students, an attempt is made to establish grade level developmental teams for those student athletes who desire more playing time.

CYO Basketball Team

Based on the number of interest students and volunteer coaches, the SGAA offers a competitive program open to members between 9th and 12th grades. If a large number of students show interest at this level and decisions regarding the making of the team have to be made, former St. Gabriel students will receive preference.

THE CHEERLEADING PROGRAM

Cheerleading is offered to 4th through 8th grade girls. Practice begins within the first few weeks of the start of school. The program consists of both a Junior Varsity and Varsity squads who cheer at their respective girls and boys home basketball games. Throughout the season, both teams may compete in diocesan cheering tournaments. Each cheerleader is supplied with a uniform and pompoms. The uniforms are not to be altered in any way. If a uniform does not fit, the coach should contact the SGAA Equipment Manager.

Junior Varsity

At this level (4th - 6th grades), the cheerleaders begin by learning the basic cheerleading techniques, as shown by the coaches. Practices are usually held 1-2 times per week immediately after school, depending on gym availability.

Varsity

The 7th and 8th graders interest in cheerleading represent the Varsity squad. Practices are held 1-2 times per week immediately after school, depending on gym availability. Varsity cheerleaders cheer at all home games for both the Varsity boys and girls basketball program. The Varsity cheerleaders represent St. Gabriel School in year-end competitions.

THE CROSS-COUNTRY PROGRAM

The SGAA has a 3rd/4th5th/6th (Junior Varsity) and 7th/8th (Varsity) Cross-Country team for both boys and girls. The fundamentals of running and training are stressed. The entire team practices 1 or 2 times a week from mid-August to mid-October. There are five to eight cross-country meets per year where all team members are able to fully participate. The students run on various cross-country courses. The Diocesan Final is a meet involving all Diocesan cross-country teams at the end of the season in mid-October.

VOLLEYBALL

Girls' volleyball begins the first week of August and lasts through early November. Boys' volleyball begins in March and lasts through mid-May. During these periods, there are usually 1-3 practices per week preseason and 1-2 practices during the playing season.

Junior Varsity

Competitive volleyball is offered beginning with 5th grade. The Junior Varsity squad is made up of both 5th and 6th graders. If a sufficient number of athletes sign-up, two Junior Varsity teams may be fielded preferably along grade level lines. Although competitive, during these first two years, an effort is made to play all students during the games. The emphasis is on developing the girls through fundamentals.

Varsity

The Varsity squads are composed of 7th and 8th graders. A more competitive atmosphere exists and no playing time is guaranteed. If a sufficient number of athletes sign-up, multiple Varsity teams may be fielded.

SOCCER

Co-ed soccer begins the first week of March and lasts through May. During these periods, there are usually 1-3 practices per week, preseason, and 1-2 practices during the playing season.

Junior Varsity

Competitive soccer is offered, beginning with 5th grade. The Junior varsity squad is made up of both 5th and 6th graders. If a sufficient number of athletes sign-up, two Junior Varsity teams may be fielded, preferable along grade level lines. Although competitive, during these first two years, an effort is made to play all students during the games. The emphasis is on developing the athletes through fundamentals.

Varsity

The Varsity squads are composed of 7th and 8th graders. A more competitive atmosphere exists and no playing time is guaranteed. If a sufficient number of athletes sign-up, multiple Varsity teams may be fielded.

TRACK

The team is composed of boys and girls. 3rd/4th grade – Novice, 5th/6th grad – Junior Varsity, 7th/8th grade – Varsity. It is a six week program starting in early April. Practices are usually 1 or 2 times a week.

SAFETY AND HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Children will not participate in the athletic programs without an annual physical examination. Under Diocesan Rules, permission forms signed by a physician and the parent must be returned before a child may participate in practices or competition. Parent release forms must be signed by both parents and must contain at least two (2) emergency telephone numbers. Parent release forms will be placed on file at the rectory if requested. Copies will also be given to the Athletic Director and appropriate coach.

In all practices, the SGAA strives to have at least two (2) adults in attendance, one of whom has a car in case of emergency.

ACADEMIC AND DISCIPLINARY CONCERNS

Student athletes must maintain an academic average that indicates that they are progressing and putting forth the effort to the best of their ability. If academic problems arise, notification will be sent from the principal to parents, students, teachers and coaches. Two weeks will be given from the date of notification for the students to improve the grades. If adequate improvement is not achieved during this time, a conference is to be scheduled by the principal for the parents, teachers, and students. All parties involved are encouraged to attend this meeting with the students' welfare in mind and with a willingness to help the students.

If the problem is one of discipline, a conference will also be scheduled by the principal for the parents, teachers and students. A solution that is fair to the students themselves, as well as the other students involved will be sought. Students and parents should be informed of the meeting and the goals set for a more appropriate behavior, if discipline involves some action to be taken in connection with the athletic program. If the need for another conference becomes necessary, the coaches are to attend that second meeting. In extreme situations of a disciplinary nature, the principal reserves the right to pull a student from participating in one or more athletic functions if necessary.

COACHES

St. Gabriel coaches are volunteers and receive no compensation. Every attempt is made by the SGAA to find qualified and dedicated individuals possessing both the abilities to teach the fundamentals and adhere to the philosophy of the Association. An emphasis on both sportsmanship and Christian attitude will be stressed by coaches when teaching students. Each coach assigned to the Varsity/Junior Varsity teams solely determines rosters and playing time during the games. No

coach can be removed from his or her position without consent of the Board. All coaches, at all levels, must meet Diocesan Guidelines for clearances.

If a concern arises during the season, regarding a child, it should be discussed with the child's coach. If satisfaction is not achieved from the coach, the next step is to bring it to the immediate attention of the appropriate Vice President of the Board. The Vice President will solve the problem consulting with the Board and Athletic Director as needed.

At no time, regardless of the circumstances, will any verbal and/or physical abuse of a coach be tolerated by the SGAA. All violations of this policy will be reviewed by the Board and appropriate action will be taken. Continued violations can and will result in the expulsion of the student or parent from the program.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The SGAA encourages and needs the support of its members, parents, and guardians of the children participating in the athletic program.

Parent/guardian support of the SGAA can occur in two ways. Firstly, parents/guardians must agree to uphold and abide by this Program Statement, the coaches and the team concept. Secondly, parents/guardians should volunteer their help during the games. This includes collecting gate, selling 50/50 chances, policing the facilities that are used, and keeping the clock and score book.

Most parents/guardians who are members of the SGAA are both working and donating their time in other organizations. They should realize that their time and talents are needed by the SGAA as well in order for it to continue to run effectively. Like all organizations, the SGAA cannot function effectively with only a few people doing all the work. The cooperation of parents/guardians, in volunteering, is strongly encouraged and truly appreciated.

Each participating student in the athletic program will be given various equipment or uniforms. It is the responsibility of each parent/guardian and student athlete to see that care is taken in returning same in clean and reusable condition at season's end. Failure to return a uniform will result in a monetary penalty – full replacement cost of the uniform.

Finally, and most important, all members of the SGAA, whether it be parents, coaches, or players, represent St. Gabriel School at all times. Any inappropriate behavior or conduct will not be tolerated by the SGAA. Any such behavior can jeopardize the entire SGAA's participation in any athletic program.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND DRUG ABUSE

No persons will consume alcoholic beverage or illegal drugs at any organized functions at which student athletes are present, whether held on school property or any other designated area that is used for organized SGAA functions.

All violations will be considered by the Board for expulsion from the SGAA.

ORGANIZATION

The Organization of the St. Gabriel Athletic Association Board consists of the following officers and directors for the 2017-2018 Season:

President	George Nieman
Vice President - Girls	Cindy Egan
Vice President - Boys	Michelle Niles
Secretary	Kathy Lucas
Treasurer	Joe Lucarelli
Membership/By-Laws Director	Melissa Stefanyszyn
Athletic Director	Pat Joyce
Equipment Manager	Tom Horvath
Equipment Manager	Jeremy Rose
Concessions Manager	Jackie Calabria
Fundraising Director	Bob Mickolay
School Principal	Donald Militzer
Parochial Vicar	Fr. John Skirtich

All of the officers and directors are elected by the Membership with the exception of the Principal and Moderator who are members of the Board by virtue of their position. The term of each of the elected officers and directors is two (2) years, with the exception of the President whose term is one (1) year.

Elections are held each year at the annual banquet. Nominations for Board positions are open to any parent or guardian of students registered in the SGAA program or any Association volunteer 18 years of age or older. The nomination process begins in November of each year with the creation of the Board's nominating committee.

FEES

Each year a budget is prepared and, based on projected costs, a registration fee is established. Every attempt is made to keep this fee to a minimum for each family. All fees are listed on the SGAA Registration Form.

All parents/guardians are asked to pay the annual registration fees and support the fund-raisers; however, **NO** child will be refused participation for financial reasons.

Any family who is unable to pay all or part of the annual registration fees should contact the SGAA or Parochial Vicar of St. Gabriel Church to have their registration processed before the SGAA's sign-up deadline.

SGAA DOCUMENTS

All SGAA documents can be found on the school website. Documents include:

- SGAA Statement
- Athletics Registration Cover Letter
- Athletics Registration Form
- Blank Physical Release Form

POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES SERVING AS COACHES' AIDES

Policy: In keeping with the goals of the Diocesan Athletic Office to foster teamwork, sportsmanship and athletic enrichment within a Christian framework, the SGAA allows for the use of student athletes as coaching assistants. Student coaching assistants, when utilized appropriately, can enhance athletic programs by allowing for more individualized attention to less experienced players by more experienced players, and peer role-modeling. The benefits to the student coaching aides are the development of leadership skills through patience, positive feedback and cooperative learning.

Procedure:

The procedures for using student athletes as coaching aides will be as follows:

1. The Athletic Director is informed by the coach of the identity of the student athletes who are acting as coach's aides and how they are to be utilized.
2. The student athletes work under the direction and supervision of the coaches as aides or demonstrators of particular skills.
3. During a team scrimmage, the student athletes should not be asked to play unless there are insufficient players to field a full team.
4. The assignment of student athletes to assist students who are the same grade level will be discouraged by not disallowed.