



St. Augustine Athletics
2022-2023

Player & Parent Handbook



Welcome to the 2022-23 Athletic Year!

Dear Student-Athletes, Parents, and Guardians,

Hello, my name is Brandon Witherspoon and I'm the Athletic Director here at St. Augustine Catholic High School. Let me be the first to welcome you to the 2022-23 school year.

I truly hope this message finds you all in good health and spirits! I am beyond excited to be entering my second year as the AD here at St. Augustine CHS. I am originally from Grand Rapids, MI where I attended Rogers High School and received my B.S. in Movement Science from Grand Valley State University. I moved to Tucson in the summer of 2016 and worked for both TUSD and the Vail School Districts. Outside of working to help improve and maintain athletics here at St. Augustine, I am also a NCAA Men's Basketball Official currently working in various D2 & D3 conferences across the Western United States.

Following this letter you will find our **Athletic Handbook**. The handbook contains relevant information on academic eligibility, team selection, parent involvement, and much more. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email at Bwitherspoon@staugustinehigh.com. Thank you for supporting Wolves athletics, and we are looking forward to an exciting year!!

Healthfully yours,

Brandon Witherspoon



Mission Statement

Saint Augustine Catholic High School facilitates academic excellence in a Catholic environment where students are encouraged to grow in the Christian life through dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship, and celebration.

Philosophy

Saint Augustine Catholic High School believes in the inherent dignity of each person and advocates for the wellbeing of all those served, particularly the most vulnerable. (*For more information on our Philosophy, please refer to the Student-Parent handbook*).

Integral Student Outcomes

An Active Christian who lives the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church:

- Engages the heart and seeks communion with God through participation in the Sacraments, individual and communal prayer, and retreats.
- Engages the mind and seeks to know about God through study of Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the teachings of the Magisterium. Engages the hands and seeks to serve the Lord Jesus through the service of his people, following the principles of Catholic social teaching.

A Life-Long Learner who:

- Seeks to continuously learn for the improvement of self, family, and community.
- Uses the skills of informed critical thinking, problem solving, and appropriate research.

A Well-Rounded Person who:

- Recognizes all people are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore creates healthy and positive relationships with them, regardless of race, culture, or creed.
- Participates in activities that enrich the mind, body, and spirit.
- Makes moral decisions using a conscience informed by Scripture, Church teaching, and life experience.

An Involved Citizen who:

- Contributes to the common good and democracy, and engages in the political process.
- Acts according to the principles of justice in a manner consistent with Catholic teaching.
- Recognizes and responds to global issues.

“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-14



Expectations of Parents

Parents play an important role in enriching the experience for all student-athletes. This includes supporting not only their own child but in also supporting the programs, coaches, and administration. This includes but is not limited to being physically present, being emotionally and financially invested, and providing continued spiritual guidance.

What parents are encouraged to discuss (with coach)

- The treatment of their child
- Concerns about their child's behavior; sanctions by their child
- Team rules and requirements
- How to become a P2P "Parent to Parent" organization member.
- Scheduling
- College placement
 - Families are encouraged to seek guidance and instruction on the process of pursuing athletics at the various collegiate levels.
 - Contact Mrs. Meyer or Mr. Witherspoon for more information.

What parents may not discuss

- Placement on teams
- Playing time
- Strategies used by coaches during competition
- Other student-athletes

Steps of Conflict Resolution

1. Student-athlete speaks with coach. (This is the final step if it is regarding playing time or strategy.)
2. Parents contact the coach. Please make sure the subject matter is listed underneath the "what parents are encouraged to discuss" section.
3. Contact the athletic director. The coach involved will always be present at these meetings. The goal is to resolve ALL issues in a Christ-like manner.
4. Contact the principal; the athletic director will be present.

Note: Please do not approach a coach or play during a competition. Please make an appointment to speak to the coach at a different time if you have concerns.

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Expectations of Athletes (Athletic Code of Conduct)

- Have an updated AIA physical on file dated after March 1, 2022.
- Attend all practices & games (maximum 5 missed practices/games*)
- Follow all school rules set forth by the St. Augustine, Diocese of Tucson, and athletic trainer.
- Be a good student, be respectful of teachers, staff and classmates.
- Communicate with parents about all team activities (games, practices, etc).
- Display sportsmanship towards opponents, officials, spectators and coaches.
- Report all injuries or medical concerns to your coach immediately.
- Be a “team” player.
- Listen to your coaches.
- Maintain academic standards by being on time for class and remaining eligible throughout the season/school year.
- Hustle - always give 100%
- Have fun and represent St. Augustine CHS with honor and dignity.

Academic Eligibility - Current and transfer students who are in good standing with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better with NO failing courses from the previous academic year, will be eligible at the beginning of the school year to participate and compete in athletics.

When a student-athlete is deemed ineligible, the following applies:

- The student will not be permitted to try out or finish the current sports season.
- The student must return any school uniform/equipment provided by the school.
- The student will not be permitted to attend any awards or banquet celebrations for that season.

Grade Check Dates for Athletics:

The following dates will determine eligibility for each season. A student with one of more Fs on the dates below, will become ineligible for that sports season.

- Fall 2022
 - Pre-season check: 8/5/2022
 - Start date: 8/8/2022
 - Mid-season check: 9/16/2022
- Winter 2022
 - Pre-season check: 10/28/2022
 - Start date: 10/31/2022
 - Mid-season check: 12/16/2022
- Spring 2023
 - Pre-season check: 2/3/2022
 - Start date: 2/6/2022
 - Mid-season check: 3/17/2022



Attendance - The expectation is for student-athletes to be present not just for competition, but also for practices and team activities. Student-athletes must attend at least half of their classes the day of the competition or they will not be allowed to compete. Exceptions to this must be cleared in advance with school administration. Athletes are only allowed to miss up to (5) days of practices/games whether excused or unexcused for the entire season unless due to a catastrophic event.

Administrative Detention - Detention is an extension of the school day. All school rules and policies (including those involving uniforms, cell phones, and electronic devices) are in effect throughout the detention. Students will not be allowed to leave early for a sports game or extra-curricular event on days they serve a detention.

Character - You are representing yourselves, your family, and St. Augustine High School at every practice, match and tournament. We are a program that will be known for good sportsmanship and integrity by our players, coaches, and parents. Players and parents arguing with officials, opponents, or fans is never appropriate or tolerated.

Uniforms - St. Augustine has purchased uniforms or team issued gear for every sports program. Please take care of the apparel while it is in your possession and follow given instructions on cleaning. Should you not return school issued gear, or damage gear beyond the scope of regular use, you will be charged \$250 to cover the cost of replacement. If your uniform is damaged due to regular use, please contact your coach so we can replace it for you.

Transportation - St. Augustine CHS will provide transportation to and from off campus activities or athletic events, including any practices. Coaches shall not permit or allow any student-athletes to drive themselves or any teammate/student to or from any athletic function. Any parent/guardian who wishes to drive their child to and/or from an athletic event may do so with prior permission from the coach and/or athletic director. All coaches will ride the bus with his/her team. Coaches are not permitted to drive students in their personal vehicles unless prior communication is made with school administration.

Team by Team

Athletic Programs - St. Augustine CHS offers 13 varsity sport programs throughout the school year. Our teams compete in the 2A South Region. Here is our list of our sports and their season:

Fall: Womens' Volleyball, Soccer (co-ed), Swim & Dive, Cross Country, Golf

Winter: Basketball, Wrestling, Cheer

Spring: Baseball, Softball, Mens' Volleyball, Track & Field, Tennis



Team Cuts - St. Augustine adheres to a “no-cut policy” for individual sports **ONLY!**

Rosters - Rosters are set and final 5 days from the first contact date. Any additions to rosters will be at the discretion of the athletic director.

Junior Varsity (JV) - This is a level designed to teach the game at a higher level to student-athletes. This level is to prepare students to potentially make a varsity roster in years to come.

Varsity - This is the highest level of HS sports. Our goal as an institution is to compete for championships. Student-Athletes and parents alike are expected to support the program regardless of playing time in games.

Disciplinary Action - Any student-athlete found not to be in compliance with the rules and regulations of the team, St. Augustine, Diocese of Tucson, or any state law may be subjected to disciplinary action set forth by the athletic director and president.

Playing Time - Playing time will never be equal, however, there are different expectations for playing time at the JV and Varsity levels. Playing time is earned through hard work, determination, and the ability to execute the necessary skills in both a game and practice setting. Please note that coaches determine playing time, in the best interest of student-athletes and their program.

Awards/Banquet - It is a tradition or practice to have awards programs, banquets, or some sort of gathering. These gatherings should be designed to celebrate the season. Celebration is the true goal of these gatherings. This can happen if teaching, learning, nurturing and growing takes place.

Varsity Lettering Policy - Student-athletes who compete at the varsity level will be eligible for a letter if they compete in a quarter of the competitions for the season. Student-athletes receive one letter for their high school careers. The first year they compete at the Varsity level in a sport, they will receive a pin corresponding to that sport. Every year after their first year, they will receive a bar to pin on their letter.

