



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP. CITIZENSHIP. LEADERSHIP.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2011-2012

Athletic Program Profile

Mascot – Tigers and Lady Tigers

Colors – Red, White and Navy

League – ISAL – Independent Schools Athletic League,
Grades 5-8th
STFC – South Texas Football Conference,
Grades 6-8th

Sports - Cross-Country, Soccer, Football, Volleyball,
Basketball, Track, Softball, Baseball, Golf,
Tennis



Athletic Program

Purpose

The St. Luke's Athletic Department exists to help fulfill the mission of the school: St. Luke's Episcopal School is a Christian community dedicated to academic and personal excellence, lifelong learning, and service to others.

Philosophy

St. Luke's athletics helps to fulfill the mission of the school by teaching the St. Luke's Way of competing and the Christian way of life as expressed through character, commitment and community.

St. Luke's Athletic Department acknowledges the following order of priorities in our school:

1. God
2. Family
3. Academics
4. Athletics

Goals

The goal of the athletic program is to support students in their physical and social development. Students will learn the fundamentals of their chosen sports, as well as the importance of commitment, perseverance, sportsmanship and teamwork.

It is our desire that our athletic community – coaches, players and parents – participate in such a way that honors God and conveys a positive witness to those around us. We will be modest in victory and gracious in defeat. Winning on the scoreboard should be one of our goals, but losing can many times present beneficial learning opportunities.

Team Level Philosophy

In 5th and 6th grade we encourage participation and experimentation to establish a love for the game. The fundamentals of the game will be strongly emphasized. Try-outs are for the purpose of team placement based on skill and ability. **Cuts are highly discouraged but permissible if based on facility or resource issues. Coaches will do**

their best to provide equal playing time. 5th and 6th grade athletics will work to develop skills and techniques as well as introduce the concept and critical need of “teamwork”. And finally, athletics at this stage provides first time excitement or wearing St. Luke’s school colors in sports.

In 7th 8th grade we strive to further a love for the game, and to continue to develop fundamental skills that help the athlete begin to understand and execute a more advanced level of strategies and schemes. At this level of play we become more competitive and manage our rosters as such to give our team the best opportunity to win. Try-outs are for the purpose of team placement based on skill and ability. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

Creation and size of teams is determined by many factors including but not limited to the number of participants interested in a sport, facility availability, safety and coaching resources. Whatever we do we want to do it well. Decisions will be made on a season-by-season, team-by-team basis if we cannot provide a healthy experience for all parties involved.

General Policies

Sportsmanship

During home contests, we serve as hosts to the visiting team, its students and spectators. They are our guests, and they should be treated accordingly. At away contests, we are expected to act as invited guests. We will treat the home school’s personnel and facilities with care and respect.

Sportsmanship is the responsibility of parents, coaches, students and spectators. Everyone who participates in, represents or supports the St. Luke’s athletic program should treat opponents, officials and spectators with respect, recognizing that their actions reflect on the school.

Remember, players play the game; coaches coach the game...no official has ever “lost” a game for a team. Much like we do not readily credit an official for a win, we will not blame an official for a loss. Officials will be treated with respect and we will accept absolutely and without quarrel the final decision of any official.

Any member of the St. Luke's community who is a participant or spectator at an event, who uses profanity, engages in inappropriate behaviors such as fighting or similar conduct will be dismissed from the event and is subject to disciplinary action by the school.

Scheduling

The athletic department does its best to schedule games and practices well in advance of the season. Because we cannot control league changes or changes made by an opponent when we travel to their home court/field, changes to schedules will inevitably occur.

Practice and game schedules are posted on the website under the athletic calendar. You can also access the ISAL website to view scores and schedules as well. That website address is www.isalsports.com. The website for our football league is www.southtexasfc.com.

In the event of inclement weather, practices or competitions may be canceled. Whenever possible, decisions to cancel will be made by 1:00 p.m. on the relevant day and will be posted on the website. Parents will be notified via phone and or email.

Away Game Transportation

The athletic director arranges for bus transportation to all games played off campus. St. Luke's coaches who hold commercial driver's licenses will transport students on St Luke's school buses. If parents wish to take students home from games, they should inform the coaches before the game that they will be picking up their child. Students will not be allowed to remain at an off-campus location to wait for pick up by a parent.

Students will change into their game uniforms at school before boarding the bus. They should take their backpacks with them. When athletes return to St. Luke's on the bus, parents may pick up their students in the south parking lot. Students will be allowed to call their parents upon their arrival to the school. A cell phone will be available.

Requirements for Participation

Each St. Luke's student-athlete desiring to participate in athletics must have the following completed and signed documents on file in the athletic office before the first day of participation in any given sport:

- *Acknowledgement of Athletic Handbook
- *Physical Examination
- *Individual Sport Release/payment form, along with payment

All of the aforementioned documents can be found in hard copy in the athletics office.

Student-Athletes

Academic Requirements

A 5th-8th grade student whose grades are not passing will not be allowed to participate until their grades have been brought up to passing. The teachers and coaches will be communicating weekly.

Participation

Student-athletes must attend at least 3 consecutive academic periods the day of a practice or game in order to play. The only exception to this rule is if the absence is caused due to a school event (field trip, school visit). Parents and students need to recognize that absences from practices will hinder skill development and physical conditioning as well as jeopardize team unity.

When a family event causes the student to be absent from a practice or game, the situation should be communicated to the coach at the earliest possible moment, preferably at the beginning of the season and not the same day of the conflict (this does not include family emergencies which are beyond ones control).

Time Commitments

Fifth and Sixth grade - three day a week commitment with two practices and one game or two games and one practice. Team related events held on a Sunday would be held to a minimum. Length of practice will be at coach's discretion. No teams will have mandatory practices over school holidays.

Seventh and Eighth grade – four day a week commitment with two practices and two games or three practices and one game. Team related events held on a Sunday would be held to a minimum. Length of practice will be at coach's discretion. No teams will have mandatory practices over school holidays.

Athletic Uniform

Student-athletes are issued team uniforms and are expected to take great care of the uniforms. If a student-athlete is missing a uniform or uniform-piece the day of a game, another uniform will not be issued. If a uniform is lost and cannot be found, another uniform will be issued out (if available) once the lost uniform has been paid for in full. The replacement cost of each uniform piece (top, or bottom) is \$75.00. The total replacement for a top and bottom would be \$150.00

All uniforms must be turned in at the end of the season.

Parents

Without a doubt, parents are the most influential models for young athletes. From a parent's conduct to the place sports plays in the family order of life, priorities, and parents make the biggest impact on a young person's athletic experience. The athletic department needs parents to come alongside all sport's teams to serve in one or more of a variety of volunteer positions throughout the year. Team moms/dads, admissions, concessions and chaperones are just a few of the opportunities that provide much needed help and good community time between parents. Serving the athletic department also sets a good example for our student-athlete.

Presence at games and practices

The coach's classroom is the court or field, usually with undefined walls, making it easy for parents to naturally move close to the action. Parents should be interested, supportive observers from a distance. The coach needs room to be able to instruct and the player to perform without distraction from the stands. Distraction only yields poor results. Cheer them on, yes! Coach or yell at them, no!

Practices and tryouts, which are considered valuable instructional and evaluation time, are closed to all non-team or program personnel, unless previously approved by the Head Coach.

Perspective – Why Kids Play the Game

Most young people participate in sports for the following reasons: to have fun, to develop that natural desire to play, to make new friends or be with their friends, to be part of a team, and to compete. "To win" or "to be a champion" is often not at the top of the list. Athletes must hear from parents and coaches that it is the process of competing that counts. Too much emphasis on winning and losing puts the value of sports out of context.

Coach as a Leader

Each coach is prayerfully and thoughtfully considered, recruited, interviewed and hired and therefore has the authority over our children in each given sport. Parents and student-athletes must trust that coaches try to make the best decisions for the team as well as the individuals that make up the team. Coaches are with the team on a daily basis in practice and in competition, evaluating character and performance, and therefore will make judgment decisions based on what they feel is in the best interest of the team. Playing time, players' positions, and strategy should be left to the discretion of the coach. Parents should help their child understand that being a team member means accepting the coach's decisions even when he or she does not agree with them.

Coaches

Successful athletic programs start with quality coaches. We believe coaches are one of the most significant components to the athletic program and therefore see to hire Christian role models who are committed to fulfilling the mission of the school, desire to disciple our student-athletes and serve their families, who are knowledgeable in their sport.

School athletics are an integral part of each student's overall education and development and coaches shall assist each student toward developing his or her full potential. Mentoring, development, care and safety of our athletes are the most important responsibilities of our coaches.

Time Commitments

Coaches are expected to attend all scheduled events (practices and games). Coaches should arrive to practices and games early enough to set up equipment and the facility, and to greet their team. Coaches should not leave the facility of a game or event until all student-athletes have left the premises, or have made prior arrangements with parents.

Off-Season practices are not mandatory practices. A student should not be asked by a coach to come to an off-season practice if that student-athlete is participating in another sport. Off-Season practices should be held to a minimum.

Communication

Coaches must communicate with student-athletes and parents on a regular basis. Coaches must communicate to parents at the start of the season the expected commitment to the team and the anticipated practice and game schedule.

All practices and games will be placed on the school website Athletic Calendar.

Sports Offerings

The following sports are offered at St. Luke's Episcopal School. Coaches, season dates and start and stop dates are also included.

Volleyball - A team coach, Robin Davenport

B team coach, Jenna Uzzell

Grades – 5th – 8th Girls

Season – August 22, 2011 – October 31, 2011

Cross-Country - Coach, Scott Dow

Grades – 5th – 8th Boys/Girls

Season – August 22, 2011 – October 23, 2011

Soccer – Coach Steve Muniz

Grades – 5th – 8th Boys/girls

Season – August 22, 2011 – October 31, 2011

Six-Man Football – Coach, Steve Bradley

Grades – 6th – 8th Boys

Season – August 22, 2011 – October 30, 2011

Basketball – A team boys/girls coach, Art Rangel

B team girl's coach –

Season - November 1, 2011 – January 29, 2012

6th grade league basketball – boys coach, Art Rangel

Girl's coach,

Season – November 13, 2011 – February 5, 2012

Track – Coaches - Scott Dow, Steve Muniz

Grades – 5th – 8th Boys/Girls

Season – February 14, 2012 – April 26, 2012

Softball – Coach, Abby Nealous

Grades – 5th – 8th

Season – February 14, 2012 – April 30, 2012

Baseball – Coach,

Grades – 5th – 8th

Season – February 14, 2012 – April 30, 2012

Golf – Coach

Grades – 5th – 8th Boys/girls

Season – February 21, 2012 – April 30, 2012

Tennis – Coach, John Newman

Grades – 5th-8th Boys/girls

Season – February 14, 2012 – April 30, 2012

