

## NATIVITY ATHLETIC POLICY STATEMENT

The athletic program at Nativity is an integral part of the total educational experience intended to result in a full development of every student. The success of the athletic program is a shared responsibility among the principal, the athletic director, the coaches, the parents, and each student athlete. The primary objective of the athletic program is to teach.

- First, the program must practice and teach that the self-esteem of each athlete is the most important goal of participation in athletics. All those responsible for the program must focus on ensuring positive self-esteem for each student, no matter what level of skill the student possesses.
- Second, the program must teach every student the skills, rules and game concepts of each sport in which they participate.
- Third, the coaches and the parents particularly must teach the student athletes the proper balance of often conflicting motivating forces common not only to sports, but to all endeavors of life. Primarily they must teach the students a proper balance of the value of winning and other significant values, including, respect for fellow students, respect for the performance of others, respect for authority, the value of team work, the value of self-discipline, and respect for opponents. It is contrary to this athletic policy, and of Nativity, to sacrifice any of these significant values, especially a student's self-esteem, for the sake of winning.
- Fourth, those responsible for the program must teach every student that sports is one ingredient of many that comprise their entire life. Participation in sports is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end, that is, a complete education of every student.
- Fifth, it is the objective of the sports program that every student who is in good academic standing should have the opportunity to participate. Those responsible for the program must ensure that the participation is meaningful. Except in the case of a student's lack of attendance or misconduct, no cuts from participation in a sport should occur. Coaches must make a meaningful effort to play all the athletes who meet their responsibilities as members of the team.
- Sixth, there are two kinds of athletic programs at Nativity School. An intramural program is offered for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on designated weekdays right after school. Details regarding the specifics are sent home with the students in the fall. The interscholastic program is a competitive program of team sports. The Catholic Athletic Association (CAA) sets various team levels. For those athletes in the eighth grade participating in this program, the CAA level of the team on which they will play may be determined by the skill of the athlete to play the sport when more than one team is necessary to accommodate all those who wish to participate. For those teams below the eighth grade level, when more than one team is necessary, selection based on skill is not the practice, as it is the objective at these levels is to create teams of equal skills.

If a parent has a question or concern with the Athletic Program, the parent should first consult the Coach, preferably in person. If the issue is not resolved to satisfaction, the parent may then contact the Athletic Director. Most likely a meeting with the coach, student, parent and Athletic Director will occur. If the matter has still not been resolved by the Athletic Director, then the parent should submit the question or concern to the School Administration.

## **NATIVITY ATHLETIC PROGRAM GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS**

At Nativity School we are committed to providing a quality program for our student athletes.

### **Our goals for each athlete are:**

- to help the development of a positive self-concept
- to instruct the athletes in the necessary skills of the given sport
- to develop respect for the athlete's fellow students
- to show sportsmanship when winning or losing
- to respect the performance of others
- to always show respect for authority
- to understand the value of teamwork
- to appreciate the value of self-discipline
- to show respect for his or her opponents

### **Our goals for our coaches are:**

- to treat our student athletes with respect
- to provide our athletes with the appropriate level of instruction
- to be a role model for our students
- to communicate their expectations and schedules in a timely manner to parents and student athletes
- to allow all eligible athletes to participate in game situations
- to make each student athlete's experience a positive one

As the athletic director, Jay Johnson, I encourage all of the adults working with our student athletes, both parents and coaches, to support us in the above goals. One of the expectations of our coaches is that they will communicate any concerns they have regarding a student with that student's parents. In return, we encourage you as parents to share any questions or concerns with the individual coaches. Any issues that need clarification may then be brought to me as the athletic director. Thank you for your support of the Nativity Athletic Program.

### **Athletic and Extra-curricular Eligibility (athletics, fine arts, academic teams, ski club, etc.)**

We encourage our students to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities, however, in order to be eligible, students need to be in good academic standing and working to their potential. Grades will be reviewed on a regular basis to determine eligibility. If a student is declared ineligible, after a two-week period, their academic standing will be reviewed to determine if they can be reinstated or if they remain ineligible. **Students must be present for at least half of the school day in order to participate in any school sponsored extra-curricular or athletic event (including practice and games).**

### **Cost**

Each sport participation fee for the 2015-2016 school year will vary based on field rental through St. Paul Park and Recreation and pool rental costs. The participation fee covers all the CAA team entry fees.

### **Time Commitment**

Time commitment is different by sport and grade level. Most sports average a weekly commitment of 3-4 days which includes practices and games. Our goal is for all our coaches to provide calendars of games and practices to families as soon as possible. Teams will not hold practices after 9:00 P.M. during on school nights nor on Sunday mornings before noon.

### **Levels of Competitions**

There are two main levels of competition, instructional and competitive. The instructional levels are in the 6th and 7th grade. Although winning is fun and important, this age group will focus on learning the game's fundamentals as well as the life long skills of being a team player. If there are enough players for two teams, coaches will divide players into teams of equal skill. Eighth grade begins our more competitive program. The level of the team they play on may be determined by the skill of the athlete. If there are enough players to form two teams, there will be an "A" team and a "B" team. After tryouts, the coaches of the two teams will divide the teams based on the athlete's skill.