



Holy Ghost Bluejays

Athletic Handbook



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Student Eligibility Guidelines

Students participating on Holy Ghost teams must be either:

- Enrolled as students at Holy Ghost School and be in good academic standing
- Enrolled as a CCD student at Holy Ghost Parish and be in good academic standing at their school.

All student-athletes must meet and comply with all eligibility guidelines established by the Parish. All teams, players and coaches will be under the athletic director and are subject to the rules, regulations and procedures set forth by this publication. In the spirit of Christian outreach, individuals from other Catholic parishes may participate if openings are available & league rules do not prohibit their participation.

The Pastor of Holy Ghost Church will have the final decision on the eligibility of students. Students declared ineligible may not play in any scheduled games nor may they practice with the parish team until such time they are deemed eligible. Students expelled from school are also considered ineligible for participation until deemed eligible. The Athletic Director has the right to suspend or remove players from parish teams for inappropriate behavior or activities.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Teams & Student Participation

Competitive and Developmental/Recreation teams are formed to supplement the learning, academic, and total school environment. Competitive and Developmental/Recreation teams shall be provided for all eligible athletes. Any Holy Ghost team will be developed and approved by the Athletic Director.

Off season Events

Holy Ghost does not sponsor teams to play in off-season events. We do encourage our players to seek off-season opportunities, but Holy Ghost will not pay for these events unless approved by the Parish.

In the event a group of Holy Ghost members participate in off-season events, they may request to utilize the Holy Ghost facilities with the following conditions:

- Facilities are available for use.
- Practice times are approved by the Athletic Director.
- The head coach or other SAFE ENVIRONMENT CERTIFIED adult is present during the practice.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Student Athlete Commitment

Holy Ghost has made an investment in the sports program. An effort to improve the facilities, uniforms, equipment, programs, competition, etc is vital to the growth of the athletic program. In addition, the concepts to “commitment to team, friends, classmates, school and church” are strongly encouraged and supported as positive values.

The parish believes that students should make a similar commitment to the Holy Ghost athletic program. Students who enroll as members of a competitive/recreational team at Holy Ghost are urged to make a commitment to the Holy Ghost team. When playing on multiple teams or multiple sports in the same season. The commitment also reflects a measure of fairness to those students who have solely committed their participation to Holy Ghost.

Students playing for Holy Ghost teams must attend practices and games on a regular basis. Should a student miss practices, leave early, arrive late or miss games, that student may have his/her playing time reduced. Play time is solely determined by the coach of each team.

Holy Ghost will not reschedule games due to conflicts with

other Non-Catholic sports teams or leagues.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Competitive & Developmental/Recreation Parish Teams

Competitive & Developmental/Recreational Parish Teams are defined as Holy Ghost teams which participate in a sanctioned league which involves playing against other schools or teams. Although the Athletic Program believes that Holy Ghost teams should play a schedule which will allow the players to improve their skills, provide a wide variety of competition and prepare students for High School Sports, limits must be in effect to avoid detracting from the mission goals of the school and parish.

In general, teams in the 7th and 8th grade level (junior high) are considered COMPETITIVE. The respective league sanctioning the sport will define AAA, AA and A as COMPETITIVE and B as RECREATIONAL. The Athletic Director and coaches of each team will determine their competitive level prior to registration.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is a vital component of athletics. Holy Ghost believes its player's coaches and fans should always conduct themselves in the highest of standards with and emphasis on good sportsmanship. Developing and demonstrating a Christian approach to practices and games is important. Coaches should focus on teaching the players the virtues of sportsmanship and should set exemplary examples of good sportsmanship during practices, as well as before, during and after the game. Coaches will lead all teams in prayers before or after all games and practices.

Players who violate the standards of good sportsmanship will be removed from the game. Coaches who violate the standards of good sportsmanship shall not be allowed to coach until such a time is deemed reasonable by the Athletic Director. Players will not berate, taunt, act condescendingly, and use inappropriate language or gestures towards any other players, coaches, fans or officials.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to monitor the conduct and sportsmanship of the fans and parents. Any parent or fan who exhibits poor sportsmanship shall be asked to immediately refrain from that behavior. If it continues, that parent or fan will be asked to leave the gym/field. The coach has

the ability to take their team off the field/gym until the fan is removed. The Athletic Director will review and act on all sportsmanship complaints.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Division of Teams & the Selection of Coaches and Leagues

It is the responsibility of the Athletic Director to formally develop and distribute notice to all eligible athletes, parents and coaches regarding registration and sign-ups for sports teams at Holy Ghost. The ultimate goal is to involve, encourage and educate as many athletes, parents and coaches as possible.

The division of teams, players and selection of coaches resides entirely upon the Athletic Director.

Teams will be divided as follows:

- Pre-K, K, 1,2,3,4: Equally divided teams, no A or B
- 5, 6: Teams split into A and B teams*
- 7, 8: Teams are divided into AAA, AA, A &/or B teams

Assignment of players will be determined by the Athletic Director based upon Coaches input and any other pertinent data.

The Athletic Director shall annually review & evaluate the competitive sports leagues that are available for Holy Ghost teams to participate. A listing of available leagues will be listed and provided for coaches to provide input for the best solution.

Coaches will be selected at the discretion of the Athletic Director. All coaches must complete the Archdiocese Safe Environment Training.

*League rules may dictate otherwise.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Playing Time

The goal of the Holy Ghost sports program is to provide students with an opportunity to learn various sports improve conditioning and skills and compete at a high level in a Catholic-based environment. Quality playing time is important for students; however the policy on determining playing time varies based upon sports, grade level, and ability, level of opposition, game conditions, practice attendance and effort. Ultimately playing time is determined by the team coaches after all of these conditions are taken into consideration

Playing time will be affected if players miss practice or games, are late for practices, lack of effort in games or practices, fail to listen to coaches or a disruptive or disrespectful to others on the team.

Coaches ultimately make their own individual evaluations and determinations on playing time. As a general guideline, the following playing time conditions will be followed:

Pre-School - Fourth Grade: Players on all sports receive equal playing time. Focus on skill development, rules of the sport and having fun in a team environment.

Fifth and Sixth Grade: Players in these games should expect to play in all games, but playing time will begin to vary at this level.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Playing Time continued

Seventh and Eighth Grade: Players in the Junior High level of competition continue to develop skills, fundamentals and conditioning. Teamwork and competition are important, as is learning the fine points of the sport. Expectations for players are higher. Playing time is not guaranteed, it is earned. Coaches are encouraged to make a good faith effort to try and play all members of the team in every game, but equal playing time should not be expected. At this level, ability, skills, attitude and effort are all important in determining playing time. Teams will determine at the beginning of the season by a team meeting with parents and coaches to determine if the team will be “competitive” or “recreational” (defined on page 5). This designation will factor into how the coach determines playing time. Coaches will let the AD know their team designation as early as possible in the sporting year.



Communication and Parent Responsibilities

Coaches are encouraged to conduct a pre-season meeting with the parents of their athletes. The meeting should at a minimum, address the following:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Explain the coaching staff approach to practices and games in conjunction with the Holy Ghost Athletic Policy.
3. Coaches roles and responsibilities.
4. Parents roles and responsibilities.
5. Expectations for players.
6. Detail practice times, games, tournaments, and contact information.
7. Have parents volunteer to assist with concessions and pass the volunteer list to the AD.
8. Explain the policy on equipment and uniforms.
9. Distribute copies of this policy to all players and parents, have them sign and return. No player will be allowed to participate in athletics until these forms are acknowledged, signed for receipt and returned to the AD.
10. Closing Prayer.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

Parents and Fans:

You are the heart of our program. Our coaches always work hard to put the best possible team on the field/floor for our parish. Please ensure your child regularly attends all practices and games. Please ensure your child is picked up promptly at the end of practices and games. Volunteering to work concessions is instrumental in Holy Ghost Parish being able to raise funds for an affordable quality athletic program.

Please take care of the uniforms. Uniforms should be laundered according to the directions given. Uniforms should be turned in promptly at the end of the sport season.

ROLES: Each player who enters the field/floor has a role.

1. We have the role of the player, which is reserved for the young people who are eligible to participate in the youth sport.
2. We have the role of the coach, which is reserved for the dedicated men and women who unselfishly dedicate their time to the practices, preparation and games.
3. We have the role of the referee/umpire. These are reserved for the trained, paid persons who have taken the time to attend training classes, complete necessary tests and are qualified to administer the rules of the game.
4. We have the role of the POSITIVE FAN. This is your role. To be supportive of all payers, coaches, referees and other fans

while modeling Christian behavior for which the children will learn from.



Holy Ghost Parent's Code of

Use of Athletic Facilities

The term athletic facilities include the Holy Ghost Gym and Holy Ghost Baseball/Softball Field.

The athletic facilities are for the primary use of Holy Ghost athletic teams. All sport teams will have priority over non-sporting events during their respective seasons. School and parish events take precedence over any sporting event or timeline.

Groups wanting to utilize the Holy Ghost Athletic Facilities will contact the Athletic Director to determine the availability and requirements for use.

All groups utilizing Holy Ghost facilities will ensure that at the end of the event, all garbage is placed in the proper receptacle, personal items found are turned into the front office lost and found and that the facility is secured after its use.



Holy Ghost Athletic Department

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Code of Ethics.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of the personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe environment.
- I will provide support for coaches and officials working with my child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all sporting events.
- I will do the best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect.
- I will promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience within personal constraint by assisting with coaches, being a respectful fan, providing transportation, or whatever I am capable of doing.
- I will assist as needed.
- I will ensure my child's commitment to the team by coordinating his/her attendance and timeliness at all practices and games.

- I will refrain from using abusive language, contradicting or belittling



Holy Ghost Parent's Code of

coaches, officials, players or teams.

I understand that playing sports for Holy Ghost is a privilege and honor. My actions reflect upon my parish, school, team and teammates. I promise to conduct myself in accordance with the following:

- I will do my best to learn the fundamental skills and strategies of my sport
- I will become familiar with the rules of my sport and make a sincere effort to learn the finer points of the sport and strategies.
- I will, to the best of my ability, maintain appropriate academic and behavioral expectations.
- I will play for Holy Ghost as my primary team and will fully dedicate myself to it's accomplishments as determined by this policy, and the coach.
- I will attend all practices and games.
- I will treat each player, coach, official and administrator with respect.
- I will conduct myself in all contests in a manner that will bring honor to my Parish, School and Team.
- I will uphold the authority of officials who are assigned to the contest I play in.
- I will refrain from making derogatory comments about any players, coaches or teams.
- I will act to encourage my teammates through positive comments and actions.
- I will respect the property and gym of Holy Ghost as if it were my own.

- I will pay attention at all games and practices and give my very best effort in all that I do.