St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School

Athletic Guidelines

(Written April 2025)

Introduction

The athletic program is an important part of the total educational program of our school. All school activities, including athletics, provide our students opportunities to use their God-given talents to give glory to God.

"So whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all for the glory of God."
I Corinthians 3:17

As everyone strives to follow the Lord's command, we remember that everyone is a sinner and when we fail, as we will, we are treated with love and forgiveness, both from God and our fellow man. We are not Christians because we are perfect, we are Christians because we are forgiven.

Athletics teach many lessons. Among these lessons are teamwork, discipline, persistence through adversity, a strong work ethic, and competition. It is the goal of SPI athletics to teach these lessons and cultivate these qualities in our students, while always prioritizing the development of character in our student-athletes and upholding our Christian values, over winning a contest.

"Do you not know that all runners in a stadium compete, but only one receives the prize? So run to win. Each competitor must exercise self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one."
I Corinthians 9:24-25

Board of Education

All authority for the school is vested in the Board of Education by the Voters' Assemblies through the Operational Agreement of the school. The Board is the one and only policy making body for all aspects of school life, including athletics. The Board of Education is elected by and from the members of the Voters' Assemblies and is accountable to the Voters' Assembly. All member parents are eligible for membership in the Voters' Assembly. The principal is the agent of the Board, responsible for procedures necessary for the implementation of policy.
The Board of Education will be responsible for hearing and resolving any conflicts that have been brought first to the coach, and then to the principal without resolution. In these matters, the Board of Education shall have final authority.

Athletic Board

As of this writing, April 2025, it is the opinion of the Board of Education that a separate Athletic Board is *not necessary at this time*. For the time being, and until athletic participation at St. Peter Immanuel reaches a level deemed to be high enough that the athletic responsibilities therein should be delegated to a separate *Athletic Board*, the Board of Education will act as the governing body over athletic teams, coaches, and approved Athletic Director. In the future, should the aforementioned *Athletic Board* be created, it will be subservient to the Board of Education.

Athletic Director

The Athletic Director (AD) will be approved by the Board of Education on a yearly basis and will be directly responsible for the following:
1. Recruit and hire coaches for all SPI teams.
2. Organize and schedule all games.
3. Hire and schedule officials for all home games, including tournaments.
4. Arrange for scorekeepers' appropriate equipment, and any additional necessities required for home sporting events.
5. Arrange for opening and locking up of gym and school, as necessary, for all home games.
6. Provide schedules of athletic events to Board of Education, the principal of SPI, and both congregations (through pastor or church secretary).
7. Promote an atmosphere of fair play and Christian ethics.
8. Must complete the NFHS (or comparable) online concussion training course and submit a copy to the LSAA before the August meeting.
9. Attend School Board meetings to report on current athletic events.
10. The AD will be responsible for organizing teams/schedules for tournaments.

LSAA

SPI is a member of the Lutheran School Athletic Association, and adheres to all of the guidelines of this organization. Information about current rules and regulations can be found at lsaafw.com

Athletic Activities

1. There are to be no athletic activities on days on which school has been cancelled due to weather, unless a special event is scheduled, weather conditions significantly improve, and approval is granted by the principal.
2. **There shall be no athletic activities of any sort on Wednesdays during Lent or Advent.** The scheduling of athletic activities during other church and school activities is also prohibited.
3. St. Peter-Immanuel sponsors varsity and junior varsity teams in girls' volleyball, girls' basketball, and boys' basketball. If not enough players are available to field a team in a particular sport, the AD will work with the family to help find a spot on another school's team. This does not guarantee a spot will be available.

Player Eligibility

1. All athletes must have a 'C' average and not be failing any classes in order to participate in any athletic activity. Eligibility is determined at the mid-term and end of each academic quarter. Teachers shall report grades to the principal. Students who are ineligible may return to participation on probationary status as soon as their academic deficiencies have been resolved and are cleared to play by the principal. Should the student-athlete continue to struggle with remaining academically eligible, the principal has the authority to remove the student from the team for the remainder of the season.
2. Every effort must be made by student athletes to attend church on Sundays.
3. Athletes must have been in attendance at school in order to participate in an athletic activity that same day.
    a. In the event of a student leaving early or arriving late to school, it is up to the principal's discretion as to eligibility.
4. Athletes may not participate in games or practice for a period of one week following an in-school or out-of-school suspension.
5. Athletes must be students of St. Peter Immanuel Lutheran School. An exemption to this rule may be granted by the Athletic Director and Principal, should a request be made by another local Lutheran School for their students to play on one of our teams because their school does not have enough players to field a team of their own. Home-schooled students attending either St Peter or Immanuel as well as other local Lutheran Churches may also be eligible for participation.

Athletic Permission & Agreement

1. Each athlete must have a completed IHSAA sports physical and concussion form on file.
2. Each Athlete and parent must have a completed athletic agreement on file in order to participate.
3. All required documents and fees must be turned in to the school before a student is allowed to participate in SPI sports.

Coaches

1. Persons interested in being a head coach must submit their name to the Athletic Director, who will then present the names of potential coaches to the School Board for consideration and approval.
2. Head coaches are responsible for choosing their assistants. Assistant coaches must be approved by the Athletic Director who will present the names to the School Board for consideration and approval.
3. All coaches must have a meeting for the parents of their players before practice begins for their team to explain team rules, schedules, and other pertinent information.
4. Coaches act as agents of the school. It is their responsibility to support all school policies and administrative decisions. Coaches are to instruct and encourage athletes in a positive manner. Criticism should always be constructive and directed at the player's actions and not to the player personally.

5. Coaches are to teach their players the skills of the game and the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline, and hard work.
6. Part of a coach's job is to determine the amount of playing time for each player. In that determination, the coach must consider skill level, effort, attitude and attendance among many other things. It is the expectation that each coach takes as many factors into consideration as possible and makes an effort to distribute playing time as fairly as possible.
7. Coaches who fail to follow these guidelines or are unwilling or unable to make necessary adjustments in their behavior, will be subject to dismissal.
8. Coaches must have a background check on file.
9. Head coaches must complete the NFHS (or comparable) online concussion training course and submit a copy to the AD before that sports season's first practice.

Players

1. Players are to attend all games and practices regularly. If an absence is unavoidable, the player is to contact the coach in advance. Absence from practice or games is a legitimate reason for reduced playing time.
2. Players are to put forth their best effort, exhibit a positive attitude, and support their teammates.
3. If a player is dissatisfied with their amount of playing time, **they are to be encouraged to speak with their coach to determine what steps are necessary to increase their playing time.**
4. Players are to support their coach and his/her decisions and express their appreciation to the coach for his/her efforts on the player's behalf.
5. Players will return their uniforms to the coach or AD at the end of the season in the shape it was received. Any uniform showing excess wear/tear shall be subject to additional fees.

Parents

1. Parents are to help their children keep the importance of athletics in the proper perspective. An athlete's faith and academics should take precedence.
2. Parents are expected to attend games and be available to assist the coach or Athletic Director if requested.
3. Duties may include but are not limited to, working in the concession stand, taking tickets, helping at the scorers' table, and other various tasks included in hosting an athletic event.
4. Each family is required to volunteer for at least one shift per sport that their child is participating in. The Booster Club reserves the right to charge an additional fee for families who do not volunteer.
5. Parents are to publicly and privately support the team and the coach. Gossip and public criticism is contrary to the purposes of our athletic program, our school, and God's will.
6. Students are expected to express their concerns directly to their coaches. If unresolved, parents are to bring any questions or problems directly and privately to the coach. If the situation cannot be resolved with the coach, the principal is to be contacted and a meeting with the coach and the parents shall be arranged. If the situation still cannot be resolved, the principal shall place the matter on the agenda for the next School Board meeting.
7. Parents are to be faithful members of the Booster Club and participate in the work required therein.

Booster Club

1. The purpose of the Booster Club is to provide the finances and support personnel for the athletic program.
2. The Booster Club has no policy making authority and shall fully support policies set forth by the Board of Education.
3. The president of the Booster Club should attend the monthly School Board meeting to report on Booster Club activities.

4. All parents of athletes are members of the Booster Club. A student's participation in athletics is contingent upon the parents' active role in the Booster Club. Parents are to share the burden by meeting their responsibilities by attending all meetings and fulfilling their assigned duties.
5. The president shall set and conduct all Booster Club meetings. The Booster Club shall meet in August, October, and April or as needed, as determined by current athletic activities.
6. The membership of the Booster Club shall elect a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The president and vice-president shall be members of the Athletic Board, assuming the Athletic Board is separate from the Board of Education.
7. The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence.
8. The secretary shall take minutes at every meeting and provide those minutes to the Booster Club president, so that they may be shared at the next meeting of the Board of Education.
9. The treasurer shall be responsible for all financial matters of the Booster Club and provide a financial report to the School Board annually by April 1st.
10. It is the responsibility of the Booster Club to stock/maintain, and run the concession stand. They are responsible for arranging help in the concession stand.
11. It is the responsibility of the Booster Club to determine yearly athletic fees and communicate the amount to the Athletic Director yearly prior to Back To School Night.
12. It is the responsibility of the Booster Club to manage admission, housekeeping after games, and other duties necessary for efficient operation of the athletic program.
13. The booster club is responsible for the set up and running of any fundraising activities/tournaments that benefit the Booster Club. They must contact the Athletic Director to discuss interest in hosting an activity or tournament.

Booster Club Fee

1. The Booster Club will set a Booster Club Fee at the beginning of the year for participating athletes. This amount will be communicated at Back to School Night. The Booster Club will send an invoice to each child that must be paid at the first practice.
2. If there are financial hardships in paying for these fees, please contact the Booster Club President or the Principal for assistance. We will accommodate accordingly so that all students have the opportunity to participate in SPI athletics.