



# Saint Joseph School

## Athletics Department

### Coach-Parent Partnership

Following are guidelines for how sports parents can contribute to a Coach-Parent Partnership that benefits youth athletes.

**Recognize the Coaches' Commitment.** Our Coaches are volunteers!! Your child's coach has made a commitment that involves many, many hours of preparation beyond the time that is spent at practices and games. Respect their commitment and place yourself in their place.

**Interact positively with Coaches.** Too often, coaches hear only from parents who have complaints. Interacting with Coaches with truthful praise and positively reinforce them to continue doing the things you see as benefitting the athletes.

**Don't Put the Player in the Middle.** If your child has an issue with the coach, encourage your child to approach the coach constructively and, learn some life lessons in self-advocacy with an authority figure. Otherwise, if you disapprove of how the coach handles a situation, seek a private meeting to discuss the matter.

**Let Coaches Coach.** It can confuse players to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions. Also, your instructions may counter the coaches' strategy and tactics, undermining team performance.

**Interact positively with your child.** Competitive sports can be stressful to players. Coaches already critique your child's performance enough - don't add to that stress! Let your children know you love and support them regardless of their performance.

#### CONCERNS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

##### Appropriate concerns to discuss with Coach

1. Treatment of your child with respect to safety.
2. Things you can do to help improve their play.
3. Your child's behavior.

##### Inappropriate concerns to discuss with Coach:

1. Playing time, team strategy, and play calling.
2. Other student-athletes.

##### If you have a concern to discuss with a Coach:

1. Have a cooling off period and set-up an appointment with the coach.
2. Please do not approach the coach before, during, or after a game.

##### The next step for dispute resolution: (follow the chain of command for proper dispute resolution)

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Principal

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**SJS** *Saint Joseph School* **SJS**  
*Athletics Department*

## Parent Athletic Pledge

Saint Joseph School is committed to the principles of morality, sportsmanship and positive coaching with the goal of teaching life lessons first and winning second. We ask that you sign and return this form to your child's coach or the athletic department pledging the following:

(Initial each line below)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ As a parent, I will focus on teaching life lessons through sports and leave the goal of winning up to the SJS coaches and staff.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I will use positive encouragement with my child, their teammates, and coaches. I will encourage learning through mistakes and hard work to maximize learning.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I will honor the game by respecting my child's teammates, opponents, and officials. I will set an example by keeping silent when disagreeing with a referee's call.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I will refrain from negative comments about my team's coach in the presence of my child and teammates.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I will be as prompt as possible when dropping off and picking up my child.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I will set an example for my child by honoring the game, respecting opponents, officials, rules, teammates and self.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS, AND OTHER FANS AT EVENTS:**

Represent our school with dignity, pride and honor:

- In your support of high school athletics, do not verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be a role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible. Your student athletes and others may follow your example – make it a good one. Cheer for sportsmanship, good plays and limit comments during the game to encouraging my child and players from both teams.
- Respect fans, coaches, directors and other participants
- BE A FAN.... NOT A FANATIC.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_