

Saint Joseph Academy



A d A s t r a P e r A s p e r a

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September 10, 2012

Saint Joseph Academy Community:

Saint Joseph Academy has a proud and long established tradition of participation in interscholastic athletics. Today, in 2012, we face a new world with its own set of challenges and opportunities. I would like to take this opportunity to articulate as clearly as I can the central values and expectations that will guide our institutional participation in interscholastic athletics in the coming years.

Saint Joseph Academy is dedicated to the mission of providing the highest quality college preparatory education in a Catholic and Marist Brothers tradition for all of our students. Students come to us to develop their God given talents and to open up new possibilities in their future lives. We want to put our students in touch with the wisdom of our culture and religious heritage and help them to experience the diversity and interdependency of the human family.

For any of these educational tasks to be engaged in successfully, a certain level of scholastic ability and preparation is required. Even for those well-suited by training and endowment, the adjustment to the rigors of academic life in a highly competitive school setting may be difficult.

Basic Principles:

1. No student (or potential student/athlete) will be admitted into the Academy who does not possess, on the basis of the best available testing instruments, the capacity to successfully complete the course of studies for a high school diploma.
2. Once admitted the student (or potential student/athlete) will have available proper academic counsel and support.
3. In the arrangement of schedules for practice and competition, every effort will be made to minimize conflicts with the class schedules and academic assignments of the student athlete. Special attention will be paid to the RHYTHM of the Academic year and the particular importance of final examinations.
4. The normal expectation is that the student (or potential student/athlete) will maintain the appropriate sequence of courses and high enough grade point average to earn a high school diploma.
5. The student (or potential student/athlete) is **first of all a student**. Each student is held to the same general standard of conduct as any other student. All students are subject to all of Saint Joseph Academy's guidelines and rules printed in the SJA Parent & Student Handbook.
6. Coaches are primarily teachers. They share with the members of the faculty the responsibility to educate and train the students entrusted to them.

Accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

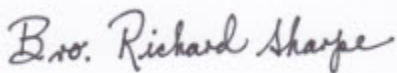
7. Coaches are expected to abide by the highest standards of personal conduct. They have the opportunity to influence the student athlete not only by the values they espouse but by their manner of life as well.
8. Coaches are expected to appreciate the importance attached to academic life in the Saint Joseph Academy experience and to express this appreciation in all activities associated with the education of students in athletics.
9. The Athletic Director and his/her staff are directly responsible for the administration of the athletic program at Saint Joseph Academy. The Athletic Director reports to the Principal.

Saint Joseph Academy will endeavor to maintain a high-quality competitive athletic program consistent with our heritage. Funding for athletics will never be done to the detriment of the integrity of the institution or its identifiable priorities. There will be no Booster Clubs or other such entities outside the direct control of Saint Joseph Academy Administration. The annual operating budget and the ongoing financial activities of the Athletic program will be subject to the same review and approval process as are all operating units of the Academy. A full athletic program, consistent with the financial resources available and the overall academic program of the Academy will be provided for our students.

This being said and after exhaustive consultation, detailed analysis of lost instructional time; for both the Athlete and Teacher Coach, and numerous budget scenarios, it is evident that the best course of action for the Academy; to maintain the quality and affordability of our Athletic programs, and the ability to expand athletic offerings is to become an Independent Entity within TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) for all Team Sports beginning the 2014 – 2015 school year. For the 2012 – 2013 and 2013 – 2014 seasons, Football and Basketball (both Boys and Girls) will continue to honor District play, however all other team sports will enter the TAPPS playoff structure through the league's independent system. Our student-athletes will also continue to be eligible for state athletic and academic honors. Individual Sports will continue to advance through the TAPPS regional format. The Directory and Executive Cabinet will continue to research alternatives to conference association whether it be public (UIL) or private, exploring both Judicial and Legislative alternatives.

In sum, as an institution we will pursue a standard of achievement in athletics consistent with our overall purposes as a School. We will attempt to excel in every form of interscholastic athletics, but not at the price of distorting our primary role as educators and moral guides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bro. Richard Sharpe". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Brother Richard Sharpe, FMS
President
Enclosure

Saint Joseph Academy Varsity Athletics An Abstract of SJA Representation in TAPPS until the end of 2013 – 2014 Seasons

Fall Sports

Football: Our Varsity Football team will compete for the 2012-2013 and the 2013-2014 school years as they did for the previous two, in TAPPS 5A District 2. The District will be composed of 6 Teams. The new member of the District will be Corpus Christi John Paul II, who is moving up from 4A. The other 5 teams will be Austin St. Michael's, San Antonio St. Anthony's, San Antonio Central Catholic, San Antonio Antonian, and Brownsville Saint Joe (previous members, San Antonio Holy Cross and Victoria Saint Joseph, have moved down to 4A). District play for football will begin on October 13, 2012. The TAPPS Playoff Format will be finalized at a TAPPS meeting on Sept. 18, 2012 and published shortly thereafter.

Cross Country: Our Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country teams' participation in TAPPS will not differ in any way for the next two years. TAPPS will host the State Championship Invitational Cross Country Meet in Waco, TX. on October 20, 2012. All TAPPS schools are invited to attend within their division and to submit up to 7 runners to compete. It takes a minimum of 5 runners to score as a team and compete for a state title and any school submitting 4 or fewer runners will be running for individual honors only. Saint Joseph Academy will continue to compete with 7 male runners and 7 female Runners at the TAPPS State Cross Country Meet.

Winter Sports

Swimming: Our Varsity Boys and Girls Swim Teams will not see any changes in TAPPS participation for the next two years. As before, Varsity Swimmers who have achieved a certain TAPPS qualifying standard through the course of their regular season Meets will be invited to participate in the TAPPS Southern Regional Qualifying Meet, which is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2013, in San Antonio. The top 4 qualifiers at the South Regional Meet in each event will qualify to participate in the TAPPS State Swim Meet which will take place in San Antonio on Friday, February 15, 2013.

Boys Basketball: TAPPS has decided to proceed for the next two years with 3 Districts in 5A instead of 4 for all team sports. Our Varsity Boys Basketball team that has competed in TAPPS 5A District 4 (a small district) will now participate in TAPPS 5A District 2 for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. This will be a 7 team member district composed of Austin St. Michael's, San Antonio St. Anthony's, San Antonio Central Catholic, San Antonio Antonian, Laredo St. Augustine and Brownsville Saint Joe. District

Athletic Directors and Varsity Boys Basketball Coaches however have decided to separate the district into a North Zone and a South Zone.

North Zone

St. Michaels

St. Anthony's

Central Catholic

Antonian

South Zone

John Paul II

Laredo St. Augustine

Saint Joseph Academy

District home and away games will only be scheduled with other members of the Zone. Once these Zone games have been concluded the North Zone fourth place will play South Zone third place for the sixth seed in the playoffs for district 2-5A. The loser of this game is out of the playoffs. The remaining five teams- 1-3 of North Zone and 1-2 of South Zone will compete in a post zone season tournament to determine the seeding of the District and Playoff positioning. For District and Playoff seeding the top team from each zone will be protected from falling lower than a two or three seed for the Playoffs. The date of the District Post Season Tournament will be Friday and Saturday, February 15 - 16, 2013. The TAPPS Playoff Format will be finalized at a TAPPS meeting on September 18, 2012 and published shortly thereafter.

Girls Basketball: After 2 years in the small District 4, our Varsity Girls Basketball team will be returning to TAPPS 5A District 2 play for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 seasons. Members of our District will be Austin St. Michaels, San Antonio Providence, San Antonio Incarnate Word, San Antonio St. Anthony's, San Antonio Antonian, Corpus Christi John Paul II and Brownsville Saint Joseph Academy. Only the District games against Corpus Christi John Paul II will be in the traditional home and away scenario. All other district games will take place on a home and away basis per year with games scheduled for a Friday and Saturday. The TAPPS Playoff Format will be finalized at a TAPPS meeting on September 18, 2012 and published shortly thereafter.

Boys Soccer: For the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 seasons, the Varsity Boys Soccer Team will be independent of a District in TAPPS Play. The Varsity Boys soccer team **will be eligible for advancement in the TAPPS Playoff system if certain requirements are met**, either by virtue of their season play or by competition(s) with other independent teams. Those requirements have yet to be determined and will

be discussed and set at a TAPPS meeting on September 18, 2012 and the TAPPS Playoff format will be published shortly thereafter, by the latest September 20, 2012.

Spring Sports

Tennis: Our Boys and Girls Varsity Tennis Teams will not see any changes in TAPPS participation for the next two years. As before 6 Boys and 6 Girls will participate in tournament play in San Antonio for the TAPPS 5A South Regional Competition on Monday and Tuesday, April 8 - 9, 2013. Advancement into a predetermined round will qualify athletes into the TAPPS State Tennis Tournament which will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 24 - 25, 2013 in Waco, Texas.

Golf: Our Boys and Girls Varsity Golf teams will not see any changes in TAPPS participation for the next two years. As before, up to a maximum of 10 Boys and 10 Girls may qualify to participate for tournament play in San Antonio for the TAPPS 5A South Regional Tournament to be held on Monday and Tuesday, April 8 - 9, 2013. The top 10 individuals and the top 4 teams will qualify for the TAPPS State Golf Tournament which will be held on Monday and Tuesday, April 29 - 30, 2013 in Temple, Texas.

Baseball: For the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 seasons, the Varsity Boys Baseball Team will be independent of a District in TAPPS Play. The Varsity Boys Baseball Team **will be eligible for advancement in the TAPPS Playoff system if certain requirements are met**, either by virtue of their season play or by competition(s) with other independent teams. Those requirements have yet to be determined and will be discussed and set at a TAPPS meeting on September 18, 2012 and the TAPPS Playoff format will be published shortly thereafter, by the latest September 20, 2012.

Track and Field: Our Varsity Track and Field Teams will not see any changes in TAPPS participation for the next two years. As before, Varsity Track and Field Athletes who have achieved a certain qualifying standard through the course of their regular season Meets will be invited to participate in the TAPPS Southern Regional Qualifying Meet, which is tentatively scheduled for May 3 - 4, 2013 in San Antonio. Top marks or places (the exact number will be determined at a TAPPS meeting on September 18, 2012) in each event at the Regional Meet will qualify to participate in the TAPPS State Track and Field in Waco, Texas, on Friday and Saturday, May 10 - 11, 2013.