

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

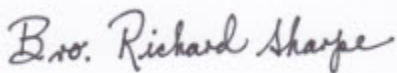
7. Coaches are expected to abide by the highest standards of personal conduct. They have the opportunity to influence the student athlete not only by the values they espouse but by their manner of life as well.
8. Coaches are expected to appreciate the importance attached to academic life in the Saint 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