

Saint Rita Athletic Constitution

Adopted April 25, 2004, Amended May 3, 2009

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as the Saint Rita Athletic Committee

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to administer the athletic activities of the youth of the parish (exclusive of the physical education activities within the school), and to promote a Christian atmosphere within parish athletics. The Saint Rita Athletic Program will follow the rules as established by the Rockford Diocese for Athletics. Where Saint Rita policies or rules differ, the Diocese rules will be followed.

Article III: Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in promoting the values and objectives of the Saint Rita Athletic Committee.

Article IV: Governing Board

The Governing Board, to be known as the "Athletic Board", will administer and direct the activities of the Athletic Committee. Only board members will have voting power on matters concerning Athletic Committee activities. Because of the nature of issues addressed by the Athletic Committee, most votes will be informal voice votes. However, any voting member may request a vote be made by secret ballot. Attendance by the voting members of the board at the monthly meetings is strongly encouraged, in order to have the highest percentage of representation possible on all voting matters.

The Athletic Board will consist of the following:

- a. All active head coaches and cheerleading advisors from the current sports season for Saint Rita school grades 5 through 8
- b. The most recently succeeded Athletic Director
- c. Six at large representatives of the Athletic Committee, to be nominated by members of the Athletic Committee. Nominations to take place at the September Athletic Committee meeting and approved a majority of the Board present at the October meeting.
- d. Committee Chairpersons (i.e. concessions, uniforms, tournament directors)
- e. Officers of the Board

Should it be alleged that a member of the Athletic Board is not acting in the best interest of Saint Rita Athletics, a member may call for a vote to authorize an inquiry. If authorized by a 2/3 majority of those present for the vote, an inquiry board consisting of the officers of the board (if not the subject of the investigation), and the at large members will conduct an investigation. The inquiry board will report to the membership at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Following their report, a vote will be taken to remove or retain the subject member of the Athletic Board. A 2/3 majority is required for removal.

Article V: At Large Representatives

It is the intent of the at large representatives to be individuals able to attend the regularly scheduled monthly Athletic Committee meetings to provide input and vote on matters of the Athletic Committee. Therefore, to be eligible to vote on any matter, the at large representative must have attended a minimum of ½ of the Athletic Committee meetings, on an ongoing basis, during their term.

It is recommended that two of the at large representatives, represent families with children in grade levels less than 5th grade. Terms of the at large representatives will be for two years. At large representatives may succeed themselves.

Article VI: Officers of the Board

1. Officers of the Board shall consist of:

- a. Athletic Director
- b. Assistant Athletic Director
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer

2. Terms of office shall be for two years from June 1 until May 31

3. Officers are to be elected by a simple majority of board members present at the regularly scheduled meeting in the month of April.

4. Any committee member is eligible to become an officer.

5. The Athletic Director will serve as the Board Chairperson.

6. Duties of an officer's position on the Athletic Board may be shared by two persons for a single term of office (i.e. co-treasurers). Each of those individuals sharing an office will be given voting rights.

Article VII: Committees

1. Committees may be set up at the option of the Board

2. Committee chairpersons are to be appointed by the Athletic Director and approved by a majority vote of the Athletic Board present.

3. Terms of committee chairpersons are to run for two years.

Article VIII: Meetings

1. A monthly meeting of the Athletic Committee is to be held at a time and place determined by the board. The Athletic Director may call a special meeting as necessary.

2. Meetings are to be open to all parish members.

3. The Secretary is to place notice in the parish bulletin announcing the monthly meetings

4. Those who are not Athletic Committee members may address the Board only upon giving prior notice to the Athletic Director.

5. A minimum of seven members of the Board must be present to have a quorum.

Article IX: Non-expired Terms

All non-expired terms for Officers of the Board must be filled utilizing the same process as that in place for the positions that are filled at normal term expiration.

Article X: Head Coaches /Advisors

All head coaches, assistant coaches, and cheerleading advisors must meet current Diocesan requirements in order to participate. Current Diocesan requirements will be attached to the Saint Rita Athletics Constitution and made a part of it.

A committee consisting of the Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, Secretary, Treasurer, and the six at large representatives will make head coaching and cheerleading advisor recommendations. Recommendations will be presented to the Pastor and Principal for approval. The Pastor and Principal will be given names of all candidates and reasons for selections in the case of more than one candidate for a specific head coaching or advisor position. The voting members of the Athletic Committee will then approve or disapprove the slate of candidates for head coaches and advisors at the next regularly scheduled Athletic Committee meeting.

A head coach may continue to coach a specific grade level and gender team if they wish to do so from year to year. A head coach may advance to the next grade level, in the event that the previous year coach at that particular level has left that position, which creates the opening to advance.

Coaching Expectations Policies (Added May 3, 2009)

Coaches should set an example for their team. If coaches do not attend their own practices or games because of another sports team's activity, or if they allow a child of theirs to do so, they will face action by the "Coaches Review Board." This will be a warning or suspension. This might also affect their opportunity to coach other St. Rita teams in the future.

All coaches (soccer, basketball, cheerleading and volleyball) are expected to attend Athletic Committee meetings not just during their season but during the entire school year.

Coaches in a sport in which St. Rita has a tournament(s) are expected to actively participate in the running of the tournament, by being a "Session Coordinator" at times designated by the administrators of the tournament. Coaches may switch to a more convenient time with another Session Coordinator if the other party agrees and with the approval of the tournament administrators.

If a coach has a team playing in a tournament they are also expected to be actively involved in the pre-tournament administration by helping seed and bracket the tournament, sending invitations, making follow-up phone calls, etc. as well as performing duties needed during the actual tournament.

Coaches who choose to not fulfill their duties or fail to make other arrangements approved by the Athletic Director will not be eligible for future coaching assignments.

Article XI: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority of the voting members of the Athletic Board. Votes to amend the Constitution will be held at the next regularly scheduled Athletic Committee meeting following the time of introduction and discussion.

Article XII: Effective Date

This Constitution becomes effective 6/1/04

Saint Rita Athletics Policy

I. Purpose:

The Constitution of the Saint Rita Athletic Committee states:

The purpose of this organization is to administer the athletic activities of the youth of the parish (exclusive of physical education activities within the school), and to promote a Christian atmosphere within parish athletics.

The Saint Rita Athletics Policy supports the purpose stated above.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the Saint Rita Athletics Policy are as follows:

- a. Promote Christian values
- b. Promote sportsmanship and sense of fairplay
- c. Improve physical fitness
- d. Promote the development of cooperative skills in striving to reach team objectives
- e. Promote a sense of striving for excellence in the individual athlete and in the team as a whole

III. Policy

A. Conduct - The players, coaches, parents, and fans shall conduct themselves in a positive manner at all times, radiating the values of Christianity, sportsmanship, fairplay, and teamwork

B. Team – The team is comprised of individuals of varying degrees of athletic ability. However, we are a team, first and foremost. Teamwork continues throughout our lives and must be learned and practiced

C. Players – Each player must possess the desire to participate, learn, cooperate, and contribute. We can teach athletic skills, but only the individual athlete can provide the stimuli stated above. Attitude, work ethic, emotion, and abilities will all be gauged in determining the player's effectiveness as it relates to a team.

D. Cheerleading – Cheerleading will be under the leadership and guidance of the Saint Rita Athletic Committee and the School Principal. Unless specifically stated elsewhere, Cheerleading follows the same rules and policies as other sports at Saint Rita. A cheerleading handbook will be given to the Cheerleading advisors, participants, and parents prior to the start of the season.

E. Team Assignment - At Saint Rita we do not "cut" athletes. All students who wish to play will be offered the opportunity to participate at the appropriate level. Athletes will be moved up a level only when it is necessary to field a team at that particular level. Moving athletes up a level will be done only with the player and parent's concurrence.

Playing time is an important factor in determining the need for establishing additional teams. In the event that there are enough players to

justify an additional team at a particular level, the goal will be to divide the teams evenly from a talent standpoint. Sons/daughters will play with their parent and siblings. First cousins will be assigned to the same team if requested by the families. The dividing of teams will take place in a meeting with the coaches and the Athletic Director or his/her designee. Assistant coaches will be determined only after the players for each team have been established. The Athletic Director will have final word on team placement if there is a conflict between coaches. In basketball, 8th graders may be placed at the Junior Varsity level, based on the number of students participating at the 7th and 8th grade level. A review of the upcoming year participation levels at 7th and 8th grade basketball will be made by the officers of the board prior to the start of each season. At the next Athletic Committee meeting following the officer's review, a recommendation will be made, regarding the number of teams and the evaluation process to be followed to place the players at the 7th and 8th grade levels. That recommendation will be voted on by the voting members present and will be approved or disapproved by simple majority.

F. Eligibility – The eligibility policy will be established and administered by the School Principal for Saint Rita students and the Director of Religious Education for the religious education students. The student, parent or guardian, coach, and the Athletic Director will be notified in the event of ineligibility.

G. Game Participation – With the exception of Varsity basketball, it is the philosophy of Saint Rita Athletics that all Parochial League participants play a minimum of one quarter of any basketball game, 12 minutes of any soccer game, and one game of any volleyball match. Any measurable difference should be compensated for during the next game/match. Saint Rita Athletics recommends Varsity basketball participants average a minimum of one quarter per game over the course of the season. It is suggested that an assistant coach or predetermined team parent maintain a log documenting playing time.

Playing time may be influenced by (but not limited to):

Attitude in practices and games

Participation in practice (i.e. unexcused absences, tardiness, etc.)

Health conditions

Discipline problems

Game attendance and punctuality

Sportsmanship

H. Parents/Guardians – Each family will be required to pay an annual fee for their children to participate. The Athletic Committee will establish this fee. One of the primary reasons for the success of the Saint Rita Athletic program is the participation of parents/guardians. We need and want their involvement. Your player wants support at games. We ask that parents and all fans conduct themselves in the same manner we expect of the players

and coaches. We expect no one to abuse an official and only coaches can question an official. Parents/guardians are expected to assist at all games where needed. This will include, but not limited to, scorebook, scoreboard, admissions gate, concessions, setting up prior to games and cleaning up after games.

I. Coaches Review Board – The Coaches Review Board will be comprised of the Officers of the Saint Rita Athletic Board. The provisions of the Coaches Review Board apply to both head and assistant coaches. The Athletic director will serve as chairperson of the coaches review board.

Reasons for a Coach's Review

1. Ejection from a game (any sport)
2. A signed, written complaint against the coach
3. Being issued a red card (any sport)
4. Coach's second technical foul of the season or second yellow card of the season

Any occurrence of the above must be reported to the Athletic Director or his/her designee within 48 hours of the incident. In addition, all first occurrence technical fouls and yellow cards issued should be reported to the Athletic Director or his/her designee within 48 hours. The Athletic Director will then notify the other members of the review board. Failure by the coach to report an incident will result in appropriate disciplinary action, up to, and including recommendation for removal. A log of all reported incidents will be kept by the Athletic Director and reviewed by the full review board on a monthly basis. The log will consist of date of incident, name of coach, type of incident, number of this type of incident, and resolution or action taken. In addition, the log should include other pertinent information (if known) such as location, officials present, opponent, etc.

Potential Actions by the Review board

1. No action
2. Warning to the coach
3. Suspension of the coach
4. Recommendation for removal of the coach (the recommendation to remove a coach will follow the guidelines as set forth in the Saint Rita Athletic Constitution)

The above actions may not be followed in the order shown above and will be implemented at the discretion of the Coaches Review Board.

Appeals

A coach may appeal the Review Board's decision by filing an appeal with the School Principal in writing within 24 hours of notification of the Review Boards decision. No appeal will be allowed after more than 24 hours have passed. The appeal will be reviewed by an Appeals Board.

This board will consist of the Athletic Director; School Principal, and the Pastor or his designee. The decision by the Appeals Board will then be final.