

ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ATHLETIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. SPORTS

Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Bowling, Football, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling, Dance, Boys Hockey, Girls Hockey, Softball, Baseball, Girls Track, Boys Track, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Boys Lacrosse, Clay Targets

2. PHYSICALS & SPORTS REGISTRATION

A current sports physical and online sports registration are necessary in order for an athlete to practice.

3. BASELINE CONCUSSION TEST

A baseline concussion test is required every two years for CONTACT and LIMITED CONTACT sports.

MSHSL Sport Classification Based on Contact		
Collision Contact Sports	Limited Contact Sports	Non-contact Sports
Basketball	Baseball	Bowling
Football	Field Events:	Cross Country
Hockey	*High Jump	Dance Team
Lacrosse	*Pole Vault	Field Events:
Soccer	Softball	*Discus
Wrestling	Volleyball	*Shot Put
		Golf
		Tennis
		Track

4. MSHSL ELIGIBILITY

Any consumption of a chemical substance such as alcohol, drugs, or tobacco causes an athlete to be ineligible to participate in contests. This time period begins when an athlete enters 9th grade and extends continuously including summers through grade 12. This also applies to all other MSHSL eligibility rules.

5. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility reports will be run based on assignments turned in by 4pm on Thursday. 6th to 10th-grade students who have more than 6 missing assignments at the time of the report will be considered ineligible for the following week starting on Monday. The instructor determines when to classify work as “missing”. Parents and students will be notified by email the day the report is run if their student is ineligible for the following week. Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in any co-curricular activity including athletics, fine arts, or student clubs/groups. Students who are enrolled in choir or band for credit are eligible to perform when the choir or band performs as a unit. Junior/Senior Opt-in: Junior and Senior students may choose to opt-in to the eligibility policy. Contact the Academic Dean for details.

Academic Detention Once ineligible, the student is required to serve academic detention each day until work is current and there are zero missing assignments. Academic detention takes priority over co-curricular activities, employment, or transportation arrangements. If a student skips a required after-school academic detention, it becomes a behavioral detention, is documented, and is subject to disciplinary action. When the student is complete with all coursework (verified by their teachers and the Academic Dean), the student may practice or meet with their co-curricular group during the remaining ineligible period, but not participate in contests or performances. They may regain full eligibility with the following week's report. Students who are declared ineligible multiple times within a season may be removed from the co-curricular activity. Students may be declared ineligible at any time based on other factors such as behavior, ability to positively represent St. Croix, or academic performance at the discretion of the administration.

Past Due Assignments (Cut-Off) With each Eligibility Report, any students (including juniors and seniors) with assignments incomplete that are more than 2 weeks old at the time the report is run will be required to attend academic detention the following school day until there are zero total missing assignments. Even one past due assignment can trigger academic detention and it takes priority over co-curricular activities. Students in this situation are NOT ineligible

6. PRACTICES

Practices are usually held from after school until 5:00 – 5:30 p.m. Late practice until 8:00 p.m. Attendance at all practices is required.

7. SCHEDULES

Contests are listed on the SCLA online school calendar. Additions or changes will appear on the calendar as soon as they are made. Sign up under “Notify Me” for automatic e-mail or text notifications of schedule changes of the designated sports. Transportation schedules for away contests will be given to athletes by their coaches.

8. DIRECTIONS TO CONTESTS

Directions for the various activity sites are available on the SCLA online calendar.

9. TRAVEL

Each coach will give specific information for away trips. Permission must be given to a coach when an athlete does not ride on the team bus/van.

10. INJURIES

SCLA has an athletic trainer on-site for home games, and the trainer has office hours at SCLA every day after school. The trainer will treat minor injuries. Coaches also treat minor injuries. Taping, wrapping, and applying band-aids and ice are usually the extent of this treatment. For more serious injuries, proper first aid procedures are followed on the spot and further emergency medical help is obtained if necessary. For these injuries, parents are contacted for information and guidance.

11. WEIGHT TRAINING

Many coaches require it in order to help athletes prevent injuries, develop physically and improve in sports. SCLA carries out a weight program applicable to all sports.

12. LETTER

These are awarded to athletes on a varsity team who meet the coach's criteria. **An athlete must be and remain eligible for the entire season in order to letter.** Quitting the team for any length of time or an unexcused absence from any practice – defined as not contacting and receiving permission in person from the head coach - is grounds for not lettering.

13. SCHOOL ABSENCES

On the day of an athletic contest, participating students are expected to be in school all day. Students who miss classes due to illness, including time in the nurse's office, or who have an unexcused absence will not be permitted to participate in any contest on the day of the absence. Students who miss class due to scheduled appointments (i.e., doctor, dentist, college visit) must provide written documentation of the scheduled appointment, including contact information of the provider, and a written excuse by a parent/guardian before they are allowed to participate on that day.

14. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Parent help is vital to the success of the SCLA athletics program. Volunteers are needed for selling tickets, working in concessions, and working at track meets. In order to fairly disperse this workload, parents are required to work at 1-2 events during each season their child is in a sport. If you are unable to volunteer, there is an opt-out option for a fee of \$100 per family per sports season. Your part in volunteering adds a lot to the program and is greatly appreciated!

15. CUTS

Some sports require cuts if a large number of athletes try out for the team. Preparing your son/daughter for this before they try out will be beneficial for them.

16. COMMUNICATION

Our Philosophy

- Athletic achievement requires sincere commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. For all of us to be successful, effective communication must occur.
- St. Croix Lutheran athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.
- We are continually attempting to improve communication with the students and parents. For our program to be successful, it is necessary that everyone understand the focus and direction of the program.

Your Expectations

A. It is reasonable to expect your child's coach to inform you:

1. When and where practices are held
2. About his/her coaching philosophy
3. About expectations he/she has for all athletes on the team
4. What is required to be a part of the team
5. If your child is injured during participation in a practice or contest

6. Whenever any disciplinary action results in your son/daughter being denied participation in a practice or contest

B. It is reasonable for you to expect that your child will receive:

1. Coaching that will be geared to improvement of skills
2. Instruction in being a member of a team
3. Guidance in positive Christian values
4. Loving discipline when necessary
5. Open communication on any topic
6. Care and Christian concern

C. Typical concerns of parents that are **appropriate** to discuss with a coach are:

1. Any unhealthy mental or physical strain you detect in your child at home (especially when it affects his/her academic performance)
2. How you can contribute to your child's skill improvement and development
3. Any dramatic changes you detect in your child's behavior

Our Expectations

A. It is **not appropriate** to discuss with a coach:

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy or play calling
3. Other student athletes

B. Coaches often need parents to tell them:

1. Any specific health concerns about your son/daughter expressed directly and informally to the coach at a mutually convenient time
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
3. Your commitment to the program, and how you plan to make a contribution to the program's success. For example, one way is to be sure your son/daughter is at practice each day on time and to supervise that your child gets enough rest and nutrition at home
4. Strategies that have worked for you in dealing with your son/daughter being successful in the past.

C. If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, what procedure should you follow?

1. Make an appointment with the coach.
2. If the meeting with the coach does not result in resolution to the problem, call the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

17. PLAYING TIME

This is usually the area of most concern.

1. Coaches evaluate athletes daily.
2. Coaches see each athlete every day at practices and in games.

3. Coaches make playing-time decisions based on an athlete's ability, effort, and attitude. The most important of these is usually ability.
4. C and JV teams – All athletes get some playing time with those with more ability getting the greater amount of playing time.
5. VARSITY – Athletes with the greater ability get the most playing time. It is possible that in some contest not all athletes will play.

18. SPORTSMANSHIP

Coaches, spectators, and athletes show respect at all times to officials, opponents, and spectators of the opposing team. Each one of us has a great opportunity to show who we really are, especially in an emotional setting like an athletic contest. Even though many times this is difficult, it is vital to let people see us as the Christians we are, showing love and respect to all.

19. ATHLETICS IS MINISTRY

Athletics is one part of our ministry at SCLA – just like math class, history class, religion class, chapel, band, theatre, speech, etc. The goal in athletics is the same as in all other aspects of our ministry – prepare young people for life, a life with Jesus Christ as the foundation and focus. Athletics provides a wonderful arena to actually practice Christianity (leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork, effort, enthusiasm, caring). This is the reason SCLA exists. This is the reason we have an athletic program. We, as coaches and parents, want to keep this as our major focus as we work with our young people this year in athletics.

