

Parent/Student Handbook

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the John P. Stevens High School Athletic Program. We currently offer 25 sports and 54 teams over our 3 seasons of competition. Our teams have captured State Championships, Sectional State Championships, GMC/County Championships, and Conference Championships in our school history. In addition, we have won multiple Sportsmanship Awards. Some of our former coaches have been elected to the New Jersey State Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

ATHLETIC AFFILIATION

John P Stevens High School is a member of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, the governing body for high school sports in the State of New Jersey. Our teams compete in the Red & White Division of the 34 team Greater Middlesex Conference and are classified as a North Section 2 New Jersey Group IV (Football Group V) and Volleyball Central Jersey Group IV.

JOHN P STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The John P Stevens High School Athletic Program consists of 29 sports and 55 teams, for both male and female athletes.

FALL

Football (3)
Boys' Soccer (3)
Girls' Soccer (3)
Girls' Tennis (2)
Girls' Volleyball (3)
B/G Cross Country (1)/(1)
Cheerleading (3)
B/G Swimming (1)(1)
Girls' Lacrosse (2)

WINTER

Boys' Basketball (3)
Girls' Basketball (3)
Wrestling (2)
B/G Track (1)/(1)
B/G Bowling (1)/(1)
Cheerleading (2)
Ice Hockey (1)
Boys' Golf (1)

SPRING

Baseball (3)
Softball (3)
Boys' Lacrosse (2)
Boys' Track (1)
Girls' Track (1)
Boys' Volleyball (3)
Boys' Tennis (2)
Girls' Golf (1)

*Numbers in parentheses are the number of teams (ex: Varsity, JV, Frosh) we have in that sport

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

*All coaches can be reached at:

732-452-2800ext. 2813	Men's' Coaches Office
732-452-2800ext. 2876	Women's' Coaches Office
732-452-2800ext.	Main Office
732-452-2800ext. 2847	Athletic Secretary – Lindsey Miragliotta
732-452-2800ext. 2843	Supervisor of Athletics – Kathy McKean
732-452-2800ext.2844	Trainer's Office – Melissa McQueeney
732-452-2800ext.2824	Nurse's Office – Laura Crincoli

LIST OF HEAD COACHES

Football - Joe Riggi
Boys' Soccer – Bill McMullen
Girls' Soccer – Lisa Dato
Boys' & Girls' Tennis – Ellen Pisano
Girls' Volleyball – Anthony White
Boys' & Girls' Cross Country – Anum Azher
Fall Cheerleading – Nicole Cacoilo
Girls' Lacrosse- Rachel Toporek
Boys Volleyball- Anthony White
Boys' Golf- John Canova
Girls Golf- Mike Siter

Wrestling – Mike Giacobbe
Boys' Spring Track – Joe Riggi
Girls' Spring Track – Joe Rovito
Baseball – David Marzano
Softball – Shannon Hamilton
Boys' Lacrosse – Mike Giacobbe
Winter Cheerleading – Meghan Makowski
Boys' Basketball – Chris Garcia
Girls' Basketball – Amy Field
Winter Track – Joe Rovito
Ice Hockey – Vincent Mondano

SPORTSMANSHIP GOALS

- Keep things in perspective – you are a role model and winning may mean more to you than it does to your child.
- Realize that athletics are a part of the educational experience, and the benefits of involvement go beyond the final score
- Encourage students to perform their best, just as you would encourage them with their school work
- Participate in positive cheers that encourage your child and refrain from taunting, intimidating or harassing opponents, fans, officials, or coaches.
- Learn and understand the rules of the games and respect officials who administer them
- Respect the task our coaches face as teachers and support them as they strive to educate our youth
- Develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances
- Be a fan – not a FANATIC
- Be a “team” fan, not a “MY KID” fan
- Understand that admission/entrance to an event is a privilege to observe a contest, not a license to verbally assault others
- Enjoy the game – let the players play, the coaches coach, and the officials officiate
- Praise the student/athletes for their improvement and development of skills, win or lose
- Follow the designated chain of command in an appropriate manner – including proper time and place
- Display a respect for the opponent – recognize and appreciate skilled performance regardless of affiliation.

Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially – this is the Golden Rule in action; you can have a major influence on your child's attitude about academics and athletics. The leadership role you take in sportsmanship will help influence your child, and our community, for years to come

- Failure to adhere to these guidelines can result in removal from that contest and suspension from any future contests – whether the contest is at John P Stevens High School or at an away site.

We look forward to your continued support.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

It is very important that if you have any problems or concerns, you follow the proper chain of command:

Assistants/JV/Frosh Coaches
Head Coaches
Supervisor of Athletics
Principal
Superintendent

Board of Education

PHYSICALS

Physicals must be completed before any student/athlete is allowed to try-out for any athletic team. According to N. J. A. C. 6A:16-2.2, all physical examinations must be done in the medical home (a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent or guardian for the provision of health care) of the student. All physicals must be completed on the proper school forms (obtained from the coach, nurse, trainer or online on our school website under athletics) and within the required time for participation. Students and parents must also complete a health history form, a participation questionnaire/contract, and a permission slip for **each** sport. One physical is good for the entire year (365 days), and a multi-sport athlete needs only to complete a new permission slip and health history form prior to their next sport's season. Make sure coaches are aware of any medical problems you may have (ex: asthma, etc.)

INSURANCE

The Board of Education has purchased comprehensive insurance coverage to protect all participants in interscholastic athletics against accidental injury. Coverage is also provided for managers. This policy contains restrictions and limitations, and may not cover all medical bills in full. This policy is in excess of any personal group insurance, which you may carry and will not pay for medical expenses covered by your own insurance plan. The regular student accident policy, which covers students in all activities, may be purchased as an additional policy to the sports' policy. Please report all injuries immediately to your coach or trainer. Parents/guardians are responsible to obtain and submit all medical bills to the insurance company.

ELIGIBILITY

Each student needs to have passed 32.50 credits from the previous year to play a fall and/or winter sport. They need to pass 16.25 in the first half of the current year to play a spring sport. Even though athletes may be initially eligible to play, they will be closely monitored during the season –Each head coach will then determine if they are not progressing satisfactorily in the classroom, either by their academic progress or their behavior/attitude. Athletes can be put on probation, suspended or removed from the team. Seniors must be passing **all** of their classes to be eligible if taking less than 32.5 credits. **Ineligible athletes cannot be a part of any team (practice, manager, etc.).**

INCOMPLETES

Any athlete with an incomplete in any class will be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics until the work is completed, or in some cases, satisfactory progress is being made towards its completion.

FINE LIST

Any athlete whose name appears on the fine list is **immediately** ineligible to practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the fine is cleared by the Main Office. Athletes must present to his/her coach the receipt of payment.

*Players and teams are not permitted to have their own "fine" system for any reason.

PARENTS AT PRACTICE

For some sports, because of the area and nature of the sport, it is conducive for parents to attend practice sessions. Please stay in the "background" and allow the players to practice and the coaches to coach. Also keep in mind that many athletes, including your own, may feel uncomfortable with parents at practices. Please respect the coaches' wishes in this area.

GAMES

Athletes must always remember that it is an honor and privilege, and a tremendous responsibility, to represent John P Stevens High School in an athletic contest. Athletes are expected to display proper sportsmanship and to compete to the best of their ability at all times. Only school issued equipment is to be worn for athletic contests.

Being on the fine list, poor academic/behavior reports, incompletes, being tardy, absent, suspended, serving detention or any other breach of the athletic contract can prohibit an athlete from competing in athletic contests.

Games are scheduled day/night, weekends, holidays, vacations, etc. Athletes are expected to be at all contests, which are subject to change throughout the season.

Parents should also remember to display proper sportsmanship as was previously stated in this handbook. Parents can wait by the locker areas or in the parking lot for your son/daughter after games. Please stay off the courts/playing fields at all times.

AWAY GAMES

Athletes, parents and coaches should always remember that you are representing our school and our community when you travel to another school. All athletes are expected to travel to away contests on the school-sponsored bus or van. On rare occasions, due to an emergency, it may be necessary for a parent to transport a student/athlete either from a game or to a game. When leaving a game, the coach must visibly see the parent or he/she will not release the athlete. If a parent is transporting an athlete to the game, the coach must be given a written note prior to the day of the game. An athlete is allowed to go with **THEIR PARENT ONLY!** Written approval must be given to the coach if an athlete must depart a contest with someone else's parents – again, these situations are frowned upon because we feel traveling with the team is a vital part of camaraderie and team chemistry. Always leave your changing/dressing areas cleaner than you found it.

Athletes are expected to show exemplary behavior at all times on busses. You must enter and exit from the front door by the driver – no exceptions.

Athletes needing to use any facilities at away games must notify the coach where you are going, and ALWAYS travel in pairs. All athletes should leave the playing area together, with your coach, after games – do not wander away unattended and do not make any comments to opposing fans.

Any poor behavior or unsatisfactory actions by our athletes or fans will be reported to our Principal and Supervisor of Athletics by the host school, and will be dealt with accordingly.

ATHLETE PICK-UP

Coaches will inform athletes and parents about practice/game time and when pick-up should be. Athletes should be picked up in a timely fashion so coaches can carry out their other duties. No athletes should be waiting longer than 15 minutes to get picked up.

SCHEDULES

Go to jpshsathletics.bigteams.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please do not call the Main Office or the Athletic Office until after 1:00p.m. on inclement weather days. We try to wait as long as possible to get our games played. Most teams, especially Varsity level, will practice if their games are cancelled. Go to www.bigteams.com to register for email updates on cancellations.

If school is cancelled or students are dismissed early due to inclement weather, all practices and games will be cancelled. If there is a delayed opening due to weather, all practices and games will proceed as scheduled.

TRY-OUT PROCESS

Only those athletes that are physically cleared, with the necessary paperwork, and in good academic and administrative standing will be allowed to try-out for our teams.

The head coach and his/her staff will determine who makes the teams.

Try-outs:

Fall sports are held in August, Date TBD

Winter sports are in November, Date TBD

Spring sports are in March, Date TBD

In some of our sports, because of the high number of candidates that try-out, coaches will have to make “cuts” after a 3-day try-out period (coaches will inform athletes of their criteria at the pre-season meeting) – there is no set “number” as to how many athletes will be on each squad. In some cases, because of safety factors and certain circumstances, a coach may be forced to “cut” athletes without a full 3-day try-out. Athletes who do not make a team are encouraged to join other teams, or talk to the coach, work to improve your deficiencies, and try-out again next year.

PRACTICES

Most of our athletic teams practice 6 days a week for approximately 2 hours throughout the entire season. Practices are also held over vacations, holidays or any other time that school is not in session. Athletes are expected to attend all practices, be on time, be properly equipped, and compete every day to the best of their ability. Unexcused absences from practice will be handled by the coach. For practices on school days, which begin at approximately 2:45PM, athletes must bring all of their belongings that are going either home or to practice with them to their locker rooms after school – **no one** is admitted back into the hallways of the school building after practice.

HAZING

Hazing incidents of any type are inconsistent with the school’s philosophy and are prohibited at all times and will not be tolerated. Hazing is defined as any activity that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health, or safety of a student for the purposes of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any school activity recognized by the Board of Education. It is against the law in the State of New Jersey.

TARDY/ABSENT

Any athlete who is tardy, dismisses early, or absent from school is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic practices or games that day. If the athlete receives administrative approval, and presents to the coach a signed form from an administrator, they would then be eligible to participate. Athletes who are sent home by the nurse are excused.

EQUIPMENT

School issued equipment is Board of Education property, whether it be for practice or games, and is only permitted to be worn for practice or games. This equipment is not allowed to be worn or used at home, around town, for Physical Education, etc. All school issued equipment must be returned at the conclusion of the athlete’s season to their respective coach. Failure to do so will result in the athlete having to reimburse the cost of the damaged or lost equipment.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES

Conflicts are sometimes created by athletes wishing to be involved in other activities (band, choir, school play, etc.). It is very difficult for a varsity athlete, because of the great commitment that is required, to be involved in other activities.

Please understand that if you decide to participate in simultaneous activities causing you to miss practice and/or games, playing time and starting team selections will be determined by performance at previous games and practices.

TRAINER

We are fortunate to have a full-time Athletic Trainer for our athletes. She is present at all home athletic events and is available every day for treatment and care of our athletes. All injuries and problems should be reported to the trainer as soon as possible.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Only those athletes who have a physical problem or who are receiving treatment should be in the trainer's room. This is not a hangout and will be closely monitored by our trainer.

INJURIES

The trainer will direct all athletes and parents about follow-up care for injuries (treatment, medical intervention, etc.). You should always see the trainer first if you have an injury, unless the situation requires immediate medical attention. That doctor must clear any athlete in order to be eligible to participate in practice or games. Any athlete who is medically determined not fit to participate in physical education classes cannot participate in interscholastic athletics.

*Any injured athlete is required to be an active team member (attend practices, games, etc.) in order to receive a letter, go to the banquet, etc.