



St. Paul the Apostle  
Parish Athletic Association

## Code of Conduct for Coaches

The Saint Paul the Apostle Parish Athletic Association exists as a ministry to form our young people as disciples of Jesus Christ. Coaches play an integral part in this, and we are grateful for the adult volunteers who make our Parish Athletic Association possible. We believe what Pope Francis calls ‘the Joy of the Gospel’ (*Evangelii Gaudium*) should permeate everything in our sports programs. The following code of conduct helps set a vision and path forward for all coaches involved in our program. Coaches – and the parents of our youth – set the tone for athlete behavior on and off the field. It cannot be emphasized enough that the vision of Saint Paul the Apostle is that all our programs reflect the core values of developing Christian virtue and discipleship. Coaching ultimately aims to lead our youth to a love of God and neighbor.

The following are principles and foundations for coaching at Saint Paul the Apostle.

1. **Saint Paul understands coaching as a form of Youth Ministry.**
2. **Coaches must remember that parents are the first and most important teachers of the faith.** Coaches should always seek to partner with parents in the formation of the youth they are privileged to serve.
3. **Everything should be done for the glory of God.** Coaches must always remember that from a Christian perspective, sports are a means to an end. The ‘end’ in this case is formation in Christian virtue, sportsmanship, personal and team excellence, hard work and teamwork – and, ultimately, heaven.
4. **Saint Paul the Apostle’s goal is to form disciples of Jesus Christ.** All programs and ministries should be oriented toward making saints. Indeed, this striving toward sanctity and holiness is not antithetical to sports but can and should work hand in hand. It is worth noting that there are numerous examples of famous and faithful Catholic athletes and coaches (e.g. John Stockton, Kobe Bryant, Justin Tucker, Grace McCallum, Dominique Hawes, Mike Sweeney, Mike Krzyzewski, Lou Holtz, etc.).
5. **Coaches must set the example of good sportsmanship.** This point cannot be overemphasized. A coach who routinely yells at referees or players, etc. should reevaluate his or her role as a coach. Saint Paul Athletic Association will not tolerate coaches who exhibit this type of behavior.
6. **Racist language, jokes and discriminatory behavior is completely unacceptable.** There will be a zero-tolerance policy on any violations of this standard.
7. **Profanity should never be used by coaches.** The use of profanity, particularly directed toward a player, coach, fan, or referee, is completely unacceptable. The use of profanity may result in suspension or the removal of the coach in violation.
8. **Coaches should never teach young people how to cheat in a game** – e.g., grabbing a shirt, lying about a ball being out of bounds, etc. All games and practices should teach young people how to play with integrity and virtue.
9. **Coaches should be supportive and encouraging in everything they say and do.** Coaches should never assault others verbally or in writing. Coaches should promote competence through positive strategies and refrain from practices that belittle and humiliate children.
10. **Coaches must never use alcohol prior, during or immediately after a game on site.**
11. **Coaches must complete all requirements for coaching as set forth by the Saint Paul PAA and the Diocesan Recreation Association (DRA)**
12. **Coaches are to comply with all parish and league rules and directives.**
13. **Every child is equally important.** Coaches must make every effort to ensure that players receive a fair amount of playing time.
14. **Coaches should attend Mass every Sunday** and be examples of Christian discipleship to the youth that they serve.
15. **Coaches should pray with their team before games.** Prayer should be the frame of all that we do.

16. Coaches should address concerns to officials in a calm manner during dead ball situations.
  17. Coaches should address their players in a manner consistent with how a reasonable person would expect their own children to be addressed. A coach is *never* to address a player from another team unless in a sincere congratulatory or helpful tone. Concerns about a player from another team should be calmly addressed to the referee or the other coach.
  18. Conduct which falls outside that listed above is subject to disciplinary measures from Saint Paul Parish and/or the Diocesan Recreation Association (DRA).
  19. Coaches must understand that ultimately the team's players, coaches and spectators are his/her responsibility. The coach should help correct parents who lose control or yell at officials
  20. At the conclusion of the scheduled contests all coaches, players and spectators must refrain from confronting the Game Officials about the outcome of the contest. Any person that refuses to follow this rule will be suspended for the season from coaching, playing or attending any Diocesan contests. Concerns regarding the game or officials must be directed to the league Director.
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I hereby pledge as a coach for Saint Paul the Apostle that I will abide by the above rules and regulations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sport Coaching: \_\_\_\_\_

Boys: \_\_\_\_\_ Girls: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have attended a Diocesan required Protecting God's Children Training:

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

I have a BCI (fingerprint) report on file with the parish:

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

I have attended the required Play Like A Champion Today Training:

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

**Again, thank you for coaching and serving our young people!**

**We hope your experience is joyful both for you and your players!**

