



**Athletics and Activities Code
for Students Representing
Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County
2023-2024**

**Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County
Department of Athletics
(574-232-2048 or 574-274-8694)
Jacqueline Kronk-Chief Executive Officer
Duane Wilson-Chief Operating Officer
Chad Hershberger-Athletic Director
Colin Wilson- Athletics Intern**

Dear Student and Parent(s),

The Athletic/Activity Handbook is designed to inform each of you about the valuable information relating to participation in the MYSL (Michiana Youth Sports League) through the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County. Authority for the conduct of students participating in these activities and the policies of athletics and activities with The Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County and the MYSL. The Athletic Director will speak to all the athletic teams before the start of their season in order to provide additional guidance as to the expectations found in the handbook and answer questions they may have. Please feel free to ask, call or email me if you have any questions concerning athletics, activities, or policies governing athletics and activities with The Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County.

All participants of any activity will complete and return to the Athletic Department the *Parent and Student Informed Consent and Understanding of Activities form*. This will indicate that you have read, understand and will abide with the policies as stated.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chad M. Hershberger

Chad M. Hershberger
Director of Athletics

**Athletics & Activities Code
for Students Representing
The Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County**

Philosophy

The Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County is able to offer students a variety of extracurricular activities with the MYSL (Michiana Youth Sports League). Because of the influence of students participating in these activities which extend beyond Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County, these students are required to uphold high academic and behavioral standards.

Every Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County students have the opportunity to participate in these programs, and it is our wish that every student will do so. It must be understood, however, that participation in these programs is a **privilege, not a guaranteed right**. All students participating in extracurricular activities must follow the standards set forth in this guide, not only during the school day, **but at all times**, including club and non-school hours.

Each participating student, in addition to his or her parent or guardian, is required to review this guide and sign a certificate of understanding.

Beliefs

Student involvement in extracurricular activities is an integral part of the Clubs total curriculum and should be a part of the total experience for all Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County students, for the following reasons:

1. Extracurricular involvement teaches participants the values of cooperation and good citizenship. Students learn how to work with others for achievement of group goals, resulting in the realization that individual needs can be met by a group effort.
2. Extracurricular involvement develops self-discipline. Disciplining one's self to comply with the rules of the game, and demonstrating good sportsmanship are necessary for the total development of young adults.
3. Extracurricular involvement creates a wholesome equalizer because individuals are judged for who they are and for what they can do, not based on any preconceived stereotypes.
4. Extracurricular involvement publicly demonstrates many positive characteristics of today's young adults.

Amateurism

Students shall not play under assumed names; accept remuneration (gift certificates, money, merchandise or products) directly or indirectly for athletic participation; or participate in any athletic activities, tryouts, auditions, practices, and games held or sponsored by professional athletic organizations, clubs, or their representatives. Students or parents with questions concerning amateurism should contact the Athletic Programs Director.

Eligibility

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege earned by meeting the rules and standards set by The Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County Board and The Boys & Girls Club Athletic Department. Students who have questions concerning eligibility should contact the Athletic Office.

Age

Any student between the ages of 12-18 years old may participate in the MYSL. A student who turns 19 years old prior to or on the scheduled date of that MYSL season is ineligible to participate.

Academic Eligibility

To be academically eligible to participate in the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County athletic program students must be passing 5 of their eight core classes at the time of grade checks. (see chart below). Grades then will be checked halfway through each season. If a student is found to be ineligible they will have one week to bring grades up. If grades are not improving that student will be done for the remainder of that season.

Sport	Grade Check	Mid Season Grade Check	Grade Recheck
Futsal	October 23, 2023	November 29, 2023	December 5, 2023
Basketball	January 10, 2024	February 20, 2024	February 27th, 2024
Volleyball	April 1, 2023	April 30, 2024	May 6, 2024

Grades will be checked through their Club Directors and the Athletic Director.

Behavioral Responsibilities

All students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities, provided they are willing to assume certain responsibilities:

1. Exhibit high standards of social behavior.
2. Exhibit outstanding sportsmanship and spirit of cooperation.
3. Exhibit proper respect for authority figures, including teachers, directors, team leads, YDP's, coaches, officials, and those with whom they are participating against.
4. Dress appropriately when attending an event, whether home or away.
5. Use socially acceptable language.
6. Comply with prescribed school and club rules and regulations.
7. Demonstrate commitment to academic excellence.
8. Adhere to approved guidelines set by Athletic Director, Coach and Sponsor.
9. Be a credit to themselves, their parents, their school, their club and community.

The ultimate responsibility for maintaining eligibility (behaviorally and academic) rests with the individual student.

Jewelry Policy

No player is allowed to wear jewelry of any type, especially pierced earrings while participating in MYSL games or practices. The only exception is made for medical alert jewelry, which must be taped in place.

Coaches, Directors, and Sponsors Responsibilities

Coaches, directors, and sponsors are required to have organizational meetings on or before the first practice date for each season or activity to distribute and explain training rules including expulsion from the activity and any additional expectations that might be set by the coach, director, sponsor, or administrator.

Consequences For Athletic & Activities Code Violations

Extracurricular Sports

- **Felonies, Sale or Distribution of Drugs:**

1st Offense- Suspension from activities for 365 calendar days.

2nd Offense- Expulsion from all activities for the individual's career at Boys & Girls Club of St. Joseph County.

- **Use or Possession of Drugs, Drug Look-a-Likes, and/or Drug Paraphernalia (except as medically prescribed), Consumption or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages, Misdemeanors, Thefts, Inhalants and Use of Tobacco of any form:**

1st Offense- Suspension from 50% of contests

2nd Offense- Expulsion from participation in all activities for 365 calendar days

3rd Offense- Expulsion from participating in all activities for the remainder of individuals career at Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County..

Boys & Girls Clubs of St, Joseph County rules and consequences found in the Club Handbook will apply in all situations and the student(s) may be denied further participation in the activity for violations. Coaches, Athletic Director, and sponsors are required to follow the sequence of consequences for violations established in this Athletics and Activities Handbook.

Exception to full extent of Penalty for First Offense for Extracurricular Activities

First time offenders for: Use or Possession of Drugs, Drug Look-a-Likes, and/or Drug Paraphernalia (except as medically prescribed), Consumption or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages, Misdemeanors, Thefts, Inhalants and Use of Tobacco of any form can have the penalty reduced to 25% of season contest if the individual completes an assessment administered by a licensed organization/individual.

Computing Percentage of the Season to be Penalized for Extracurricular Activities

A season is defined as being the total number of regular season contests plus one (1) MYSL tournament contests. To determine a percentage of a season, count each regularly scheduled event. The first contest in the tournament should be used to determine the end of the season for activities that conclude with a tournament. Then compute the percentage of the season. If the fractional portion of a penalty is .5 the suspension will be rounded off to the next highest whole number (e.g. 1.5 moves to 2)

If a violation occurs with less than 50% of the season remaining , the individual can be suspended from the remaining contest and the start of the next season that they choose to play for the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County..

Activities Suspension Chart

MYSL Sport	Number of Games	MYSL Tournament	Total Contest	50%	25%
Co-Ed Futsal	10	1	11	5 Games	3 Games
Basketball	14	1	15	8 Games	4 Games
Co-Ed Volleyball	10	1	11	5 Games	3 Games

Practice and Suspension

Each head coach, director, and sponsor has the authority to determine whether an individual is allowed to practice with the team during the period of suspension from activities/athletics.

Investigative Procedures

The Athletic Director, coaches and sponsors shall enforce all rules and regulations described in this handbook. Any alleged violation shall be reported to the individual's current coach, Athletic Director and the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County CEO (Jacqueline Kronk) or COO (Duane Wilson) as soon as possible. An administrator will conduct an investigation, confirm whether a violation has occurred, and take

administrative steps prescribed and deemed appropriate by this policy. The Director of Athletics will notify the parents/guardian of the outcome of the investigation.

Appeal Procedure

A student or student parent/guardian may appeal the decision advising them of a violation of this Athletic & Activities Code in only two circumstances. (1) If the student's parents/guardian believes there has been a procedural error or factual mistake in the application of the Athletics and Activities Code; or (2) if new evidence has come to light that was not previously available. The written request for an appeal must set out the reasons the student or student's parent/guardian believes an appeal is warranted and must be submitted to the Director of Athletics and Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County within fourteen (14) days from the date that they were notified of the decision, which they are appealing. In the event that the request for an appeal is not received within fourteen (14) days, the appeal will be dismissed. The Director of Athletics shall notify the CEO (Jacqueline Kronk) and COO (Duane Wilson) upon the receipt of appeal request, and the Athletic Director, CEO, and COO shall name three (3) people who serve on the leadership team as provided herein. The student or student's parent/guardian will be notified of the meeting of the Athletics Review Board at which time they may appear in person to present their position in support of their appeal of the decision.

In the event that the student or parents fail to appear at the appeal meeting, the Athletics Review Board will enter a decision concerning the appeal in their absence. The student or student's parent/guardian will be notified of the decision within five (5) days of the appeal.

Alcohol and/or Substance use Conditional Amnesty

The Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County recognizes that students who have used alcohol and/or other substances may be hesitant to seek assistance either for themselves or for someone else due to fear of the potential consequences for their consumption. This policy aims to remove the fear and strongly encourages students to seek and ask for assistance when necessary. Accordingly:

1. Students who seek medical assistance for himself or herself or someone else by calling law enforcement and/or emergency personnel shall not be subject to disciplinary sanctions from Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County for their consumption and possession of alcohol and/or other substances. Any student

who requires medical assistance for the consumption of alcohol and/or other substances will be provided similar amnesty.

2. Students who voluntarily acknowledge their own alcohol and/or other substance use and/or dependency to a member of Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County administrator, coach, or sponsor for the purpose of seeking assistance shall not be subject to disciplinary sanctions from Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County for their consumption and possession of alcohol and/or other substances.

Amnesty cannot be claimed if administration or a staff member confronts the student first. In addition, this policy does not preclude disciplinary sanctions due to other violations of Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County Code of Conduct.

Evidence of abuse of this amnesty policy will revoke its application to a student who abuses it. Finally, Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County reserves the right to condition amnesty from disciplinary sanctions in the above circumstances upon a student's agreement to participate in counseling sessions to prevent similar situations in the future.

Enrollment

Students must be a member of Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County and attend club at least two days a week to be eligible to participate in MYSL.

Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form

The Parent and Student Acknowledgement Form can be found in the back of this handbook. It must be completed, signed and returned to the Athletic Director in order for a student to be eligible for athletic participation. The signature of a parent and student indicates that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the stated policies, rules and procedures.

Athletics Code Consent

I, _____ and _____ have read
(Parent/Guardian) (Student Athlete)

and understand the rules and regulations as stated in this booklet pertaining to the Athletics Handbook. This also certifies that the undersigned have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies outlined within Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County Program and Handbook. As a member of a student activity representing Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County, I agree to guide my conduct accordingly.

As a parent/guardian of a member of Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County Athletics, I have also read and understood the contents of this booklet. I know what is expected of my son or daughter, and want him/her to maintain these standards. I understand that the Athletics Code is in effect for the entire calendar year.

*Please note this form must be signed and returned to the Athletic Office before participating in practices or games.

(Parent Signature and Date)

(Student Athlete Signature and date)

(Parents Name)

(Student Athlete Name)

(Sport)

(Parents Phone Number)

