ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Athletic Handbook

2026 - 2027

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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Athletic Handbook

Mission Statement of St. Andrew School:

Faith · Love · Learning

St. Andrew Catholic School nurtures faith, inspires academic excellence, and leads our students in a life of service beyond self within a safe Catholic community where every child is known and loved.

Mission of St. Andrew School Athletics:

The St. Andrew Catholic School Athletic Program dedicates itself to the pursuit of excellence in athletics within the framework of a Catholic community and in accordance with its primary role as an educator and spiritual guide. The athletics program is committed to providing opportunities for each individual student-athlete to reach his/her highest potential while developing the qualities and spirit of a Catholic Christian.

Philosophy:

We recognize that the imperishable crown offered by Jesus Christ far exceeds any of the perishable crowns or trophies offered by this world. As a Catholic school, St. Andrew upholds Christian values and principles. Though our athletic teams strive to win in the sense of having the best score, we recognize the real value of Catholic school athletics is realized only if it fosters the development of the human person—both in spirit and body—by cultivating Christian character, strengthening personal integrity and responsibility, and promoting the pursuit of excellence in all endeavors.

Participation on a team is a privilege. With this privilege come responsibilities in the areas of preparation, attitude, sportsmanship, and academics. These responsibilities exist in and out of school, and in athletic and non- athletic settings.

Conference Affiliation:

St. Andrew School participates in the Grand Strand Middle School League (GSMSL), a conference comprised of area Christian and Private Schools. In addition to playing conference games, St. Andrew teams often play other schools in or around the Myrtle Beach area. Thus, St. Andrew athletes play students from diverse backgrounds and skill levels.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Nondiscriminatory Policy

St. Andrew Athletics admits any student of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its participatory policies, admissions policies, or athletic program.

Procedure for Registration

A student can become eligible to try out for a St. Andrew athletic team once the following requirements are met:

1. Student and parent/guardian have completed the St. Andrew Permission to Tryout Form. The form will go out in the Tuesday folder at least one week before try-outs begin.
2. Student and parent/guardian have attended the preseason Orientation Meeting, if required by the Coach of that sport.
3. Student and parent/guardian have read the St. Andrew Athletic Handbook and signed the Athletic Contract.

Athletic Teams at St. Andrew

St. Andrew School offers the following sports as recognized by the Grand Strand Middle School League to students in grades 6-8 (unless otherwise noted)

Fall: Girls Volleyball
Winter: Girls and Boys Basketball, Cheerleading
Spring: Coed Soccer, Coed Golf

Tryouts

Announcements of tryout dates will occur on the loud speakers at the end of the school day and information will go out in the Tuesday folder. Flyers will also be posted on the school bulletin boards, website, and Facebook page. Students who are trying out for an athletic team must understand he/she might not make the team.

Transportation Policies

In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Charleston, St. Andrew School does not provide any transportation to or from athletic events. All transportation is arranged by parents/guardians. St. Andrew School and the Diocese of Charleston assume no liability for accidents that may occur en route to any sporting practice or activity.

Coaching Expectations and Requirements

Coaches are first and foremost educators and must work in coordination with the parents who are the primary educators of children. At all times, coaches must serve as role models for student-athletes emulating Christ the Teacher. Coaches are called to be models and witnesses to their faith each day and as such coaches are expected to uphold high standards of conduct

in and out of season. They must be messengers of the schools mission and ensure that athletic programs embody the Catholic characteristics prevalent at St. Andrew School.

Coaching Duties

In addition to serving as witnesses and models of faith, St. Andrew coaches are expected to fulfill the following duties:

- Plan practices and games
- Supervise athletes at all times until they are picked up from practices/games
- Condition athletes properly
- Assess athletes readiness for practice and competition
- Instruct properly on what to do and not to do
- Maintain safe playing conditions
- Communicate practice and game schedules to athletes and parents
- Select, train, and supervise assistant coaches

Awards and Recognition

St. Andrew School hosts an annual Sports Awards Program at the end of the school year, as noted in the school calendar.

Student Athlete Expectations and Requirements

Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the St. Andrew community in a favorable way. By being selected to join a St. Andrew athletic team, it does not ensure or guarantee playing time. Athletes and parents should accept the coaches decision on the playing time for their athletic team.

Athletic Eligibility & Probation Policy

Participation in athletics at the middle school level is a privilege that must be earned and maintained. Student-athletes are expected to demonstrate responsibility in the classroom, on the field, and in the community. Failure to meet academic, behavioral, or attendance expectations will result in consequences, including probation, suspension from play, or removal from the team.

Academic Eligibility

Student-athletes are expected to stay in good academic standing throughout the season.

Academic Probation Guidelines

A student-athlete will be placed on **academic probation** if:

- They have **one failing grade**, OR
- They are missing **one or more assignments** in any class (as determined by the teacher)

While on Academic Probation

- The student-athlete **may not participate in competitions**.

- The student **must attend all academic support sessions** assigned by teachers, coaches, or school staff (such as tutoring or study hall)
- If assignments are still missing after **one week**, continued ineligibility may apply.

Return to Eligibility

The student-athlete may return to full participation once:

- The failing grade is improved to a passing grade
- Missing assignments are completed and submitted
- Teacher(s) confirm academic improvement

Behavioral Expectations

Student-athletes represent their school at all times. Misconduct will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.

Behavioral Infractions Include:

- Disrespect toward staff, coaches, officials, or peers
- Repeated classroom disruption
- Inappropriate language, fighting, or bullying
- Any behavior resulting in school disciplinary action

Consequences:

- ***First offense:*** Meeting with coach and athletic director; possible **probation** or **1-game suspension**
- ***Second offense:*** **2-week suspension** from all team activities, possible dismissal from the team
- ***Third offense:*** **Dismissal from the team** (subject to administrative review)

Attendance & Commitment

Student-athletes are expected to attend all practices, games, and team events unless excused for illness or emergency.

- **Unexcused absences** from two or more practices or one game may result in probation or removal.
- Students who are **absent from school,** unexcused, on the day of a game or practice may **not participate** that day.
- Frequent tardiness or poor attendance in school can also impact eligibility.
- If your child is still at practice five minutes after practice has ended, they will be checked into aftercare.

Administrative Oversight

All eligibility and disciplinary decisions are subject to review by the Athletic Director and School Administration.

ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Athletic Contract

Please initial each statement below to acknowledge your agreement to this contract. Then sign the form and return it to the Athletic Director to be eligible for participation.

Please circle: Volleyball Basketball Cheerleading Golf Soccer

As a St. Andrew Student-Athlete……

_____ I understand participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right.

_____ I understand attendance at school, practices, and games is mandatory and affects eligibility. I will strive to do my best in every practice and every game, and I will do my best to be on time for practice and games. I will not miss practice or a game because of another outside sport or extra-curricular activity unless approved by the coach or athletic director.

_____ I understand missing assignments can lead to academic probation and ineligibility and poor behavior or school discipline may result in suspension or removal from the team.

_____ There will be times when I will follow someone's lead, and there will be times when I must assume the lead; I understand I will always have a contribution to my team.

_____ I will take my coaches direction and comments as constructive suggestions which make me a better athlete and my team a successful unit.

_____ I understand probation and disciplinary decisions are reviewed and enforced by the Athletic Director and School Administration.

_____ I will always play hard but will always be a fair sport whether we are winning or losing the game, realizing that everyone on my team and my opponent's team are playing for the competitive experience.

_____ I will, at all times, show respect for my classroom teachers, and my coach; I understand that my conduct in school will and can affect my being a part of the team.

_____ I will be an example of Christ in all my actions on and off the field/court of competition.

_____ I have my parent consent form and physical form complete and turned in. I have read the Athletic Handbook and agree to follow the stated policies and procedures.

Athlete Signature_____ Date: _____

Athlete Printed Name_____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Printed Name_____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR