



Athletic Handbook

St. Bruno School fosters Christian values in a faith based community atmosphere emphasizing exceptional academic rigor balanced by integrated personal discipline and deep moral and ethical understanding of God.

St. Bruno Catholic School
210 North Gordon Street
Pinckneyville, Illinois 62274

Forward

This handbook is designed to provide you with the information that you need to understand the rules and regulations that govern St. Bruno School. The handbook is intended to be in harmony with Belleville Diocesan policies and regulations, but is not intended to supersede them. Changes in policy that affect this handbook will be communicated to students and parents. Policy changes during the year supersede the provisions found in this handbook. It is the parent and student responsibility to read and abide by the policies contained in this handbook. Interpretation or areas of concern should be brought before the athletic director.

Philosophy

The tradition of Catholic Education has its roots in the mission of the Church to reach out to people where they are and to teach Christian values in the context of real life. Few better opportunities exist for doing this than in our Catholic sports programs. It is the mission of our sports programs to use the experiences of: challenge, failure, victory, defeat, excellence, limitation, growth, stagnation, competition, participation, and self-esteem, to further the objectives of the church, to form our young men and women, players and coaches alike, into authentic Christians. This purpose directs all our decisions and actions. We ask God's grace to help us act in accordance with the fundamental principles that form the basis of our faith. Our program sets out to accomplish the following goals:

1. *To act as a catechist.* This is to provide opportunities to teach Christian values in the context of a sports environment.
2. *To promote Christian sportsmanship.* To teach and model what it means to be a Christian athlete. One who can win with humility, accept defeat with grace, and respect always the human being behind the opponent.
3. *To develop skills that enable competitiveness.* To teach the lower grade levels the fundamentals and to develop competitive skills at the 7th and 8th grade levels. When you and your child make the commitment to participate in athletics at St. Bruno School, you are entering this competitive environment. This includes competition with other schools, as well as competition within the teams themselves. The competitiveness is part of nature of sport and integral to the successful enjoyment of any sports program.

Sport Descriptions

All St. Bruno sports teams will follow Diocesan, SIJHSAA and conference rules.

Baseball: This is a 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boy's fall sport.

Softball: This is a 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girl's fall sport.

Cross Country: Offered to both boys and girls in grades 4-8. Practices generally begin in August and finish in October at the SIJHSAA State Cross Country Meet.

Basketball: The 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade programs are for both boys and girls. All team members will dress unless there is a limit established by one of the aforementioned governing bodies. Practices generally start in September or October and run to mid to late January. The 7th and 8th grade boys and girls can play in the 8th grade Diocesan Tournament. The 6th grade boys and girls can play in the 6th grade Diocesan Tournament.

Peewee Basketball: The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade programs are for both boys and girls. Practice generally starts in September and the season runs into November.

Volleyball: This is a 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girl's only sport. Practices may start in the beginning of January, with the season ending in early April.

Peewee Volleyball: There is a 3rd and 4th grade program available for girls only.

Track: Track is offered for both boys and girls in grades 4-8. Practices generally start in March and the season runs through the second week of May. The team may enter both the Juvenile and Parochial divisions of the Diocesan Track Meet and in the SIJHSAA Regional and State Track Meet.

Archery: This is offered to both boys and girls in grades 6-8. Practices will start in February and the season ends in mid-March at the State Archery competition.

Playing Time and the Role of Competition:

A trouble spot in nearly all sports programs is the amount and quality of playing time allotted to each player. Diocesan rules require that, for 5th and 6th grade teams, each child listed on the team roster plays by the end of the game. This Diocesan was of ensuring that coaches at that level strike a proper balance between competing to win and participating to play and learn, a balance appropriate to the children's age and ability. It is the position of our program that we should do whatever we can do to provide positive, competitive, age- and ability appropriate playing experiences for as many of our children as we can. Competition both to win games and to earn playing spots on a team is an integral component of sports. It is our responsibility not to deny the existence of competition, but to keep it in its proper place. We expect our coaches to base their decisions upon awareness of the individual child's motivation, dedication, attendance, and behavior at practice, as well as the child's skill level. We also expect the coaches to base their decisions during the game on what the game conditions are. Coaches should provide quality time to the largest number of players possible, especially at the 5th and 6th grade levels. Parents and players are reminded that this does not mean equal playing time. (Diocesan Regulation 6145.2)

The policy at St. Bruno for the 7th and 8th grade teams shall be that all players may dress, unless there is a conference, state or Diocesan rules on the number that can dress. When team rosters exceed the recommended roster limit, additional teams may be added. The decision to add additional teams is based on Diocesan policy, the availability of teams to play, coaches to coach and the availability of gyms in which to practice and play games.

Bringing up Underclassmen:

If there are not adequate numbers to make up a team, whereas the AD and coaches determine the number, then underclassmen may be permitted to play on the older team. The Athletic Directors have determined that an adequate number is double the number that is put on the floor to play a game. In that manner, teams can scrimmage at practice (10 basketball, 12 volleyball). The decision to bring up players will be a joint decision

among the principal, AD, and coaches. The coach, not the AD, the final decision on which players are brought up to the recommended number listed above. In the case a student is pulled up to the varsity level (7/8), they forfeit their right to play at the junior varsity (5/6) level for the remainder of the season. St. Bruno School will adhere to the SIJHSAA and Diocesan regulations regarding the six-quarter rule for varsity players (7/8), which refers to players playing no more than six quarters a day. In case of seasonal or tournament participation the decision of playing at your grade level will be based on unforeseen conditions, abiding by our St. Bruno athletic policy.

Registration:

Registration for sports will be held prior to each sport. A \$100.00 athletics fee is charged to each family who has a student participating in a school sport. Raffle tickets can be sold to cover the cost of the athletics fee. Mandatory sports meetings will be announced prior to the start of each sport.

Items Needed Before an Athlete Can Play:

By the first practice of each sport, an athlete must have all of the following:

- 1. Registration completed and all fees paid.**
- 2. An annual sports physical on an IHSA form, completed by a doctor, and turned in to the school office.**
- 3. At least one parent or guardian must attend a mandatory meeting.**

Attendance Policy:

Students must be in attendance for half of the day on the day of an athletic event, in order to participate in that day's event. If a student is absent on a Friday preceding a weekend event, communication between the parents, coach, and school administration must take place to clear the student for participation in the event. Extenuating circumstances will be considered by school administration if necessary.

Uniforms:

Athletes will be issued uniforms. The uniform is to be worn only during games. Care must be taken to keep uniforms in good condition. At the end of the season, all uniforms must be returned to the Athletic Director in a plastic bag labeled with the player's name. Students who leave the team before the end of a season must return their uniform immediately. Basketball and Volleyball players are asked to wear school dress code before and after all games.

Personal Electronic Devices:

Players are expected to adhere to the St. Bruno School Electronics policy as listed on page 23/24 of the Student-Parent Handbook.

Transportation:

Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from both home and away games. In the event that the school provides a bus, the school assumes responsibility for the transportation and management of children; the following rules apply to ensure the safety and security of the children: Any parent may take their children home with them from any game or activity. Parents must, however, notify the coach or supervisor that they are leaving with their child and sign the child out. Someone other than the child's parents or guardian (grandparents, friend, etc.) may also transport a child home from a game, match or meet provided that the school has permission for this to take place from the parent or guardian. The person assuming responsibility should notify the coach and sign the child out as the parent would do before leaving.

Spectators:

Good sportsmanship, like so many things, begins at home. Please remember that parents and older siblings are powerful role models for our young athletes. Out behavior in the stands and outside the gym or playing field, teaches important lessons. Please ensure that what we teach reflects our Christian orientation. Please be as positive and supportive of our athletes as you can. An adult must accompany any student in 4th grade or under to any game, home or away. Any student in grades 5-8 may attend games without specific parental supervision.

Problem Solving:

As with any program, differences of opinion and direction, as well as problems with the execution of the program, are bound to arise. To better facilitate the fair and Christian resolution of these difficulties, we ask that everyone follow the proper procedures outlined below:

1. **Wait 24 hours.** Before beginning any of these steps, we ask that you wait 24 hours. This often allows a person to cool down and look at the problem from another perspective. Please do not confront the coach the night or day that a problem occurred. The one time that you should make immediate contact is if one of the student's safety is involved.
2. **Contact the coach first.** Since most of the difficulties arise on this level, we ask that parents or players talk first with the coach about this problem. Call him or her and arrange a mutually agreed upon place and time. Please do not confront him or her without an arrangement, or in front of the players.
3. **Next Step – Athletic Director (AD).** The AD is responsible for overseeing the entire athletic program. If you are not satisfied with the response of the coach or his or her actions after you talked to that coach, contact the AD. The AD will work with you to resolve the problem as best it can be. Remember, that does not mean that the Athletic Director will always take your side, nor does it mean that he or she will always side with the coach. The AD will listen to your issues and do the best that he or she can.
4. **Final Step – Meeting.** If the AD feels that a meeting is necessary, one will be scheduled. This meeting will include the parents, the coach, the AD and the principal.

The well-being of the athletes enrolled in our program is the joint concern of the parents, coaches, AD and the Principal. We can and will resolve differences most effectively if they are approached in as positive a manner as possible and if the procedures are used as intended.

Harassment of Other Students:

Athletes will not harass others in any manner, verbal or non-verbal. This includes making fun of, ridiculing, name-calling or any physical abuse. Such actions will result in a suspension from participating in athletic activities, the notification of parents and probationary status in the athletic program. Upon the second offense, the athlete will be removed from the athletic program.

Diocesan Regulation 6145.2:

Philosophy and Purpose of Catholic School Athletic Programs in the Diocese of Belleville is available on the Diocese web site. A hard copy can be requested by contacting the St. Bruno AD.