

2025-2026 ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

St. John Paul II
FALCONS



JPII Athletics

JPlI Parent Notes

PURPOSE OF THE HANDBOOK

To achieve excellence in our athletic program, policies and procedures must be established and followed. The Athletic Department has defined these policies and the principles upon which they are based. The handbook is used as a reference and resource for those involved in athletics at JPll. Heartfelt thanks to all who contribute their time, talents, enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment to supporting our sports program.

“And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17

GENERAL STATEMENT OF MISSION

Inspired by our patron, St. John Paul II Catholic High School develops students in spirit, mind, and body through a Christ-centered, college-preparatory education. As a welcoming community of faith, we encourage, challenge, and support our students to learn enthusiastically, lead honorably, and live responsibly so they will improve themselves and society through their faith and vocation.

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

St. John Paul II Catholic High School is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) for Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Middle School sports. As a member in good standing, we recognize and adhere to its guidelines, and we submit to its authority. The AHSAA rules and regulations are outlined in its members' handbook, copies of which are kept in the High School Office and the Athletic Office. We are classified as a 4A member for most sports for the 2025-2026 school year.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Interscholastic sports offered for JPll for the 2025-2026 school year are shown below. All are contingent upon having the number of students required to field a team.

FALL

Football- Varsity, JV/MS

Flag Football- Varsity

Volleyball- Varsity, JV, MS

Cross Country- Varsity

Swimming- Varsity

FALL/WINTER

Varsity, JV Cheerleading
Esports- Varsity

WINTER

Basketball- Varsity-Boys and Girls, JV Boys, MS-Boys and Girls
Wrestling- Varsity, JV
Indoor Track- Varsity

SPRING

Baseball- Varsity, JV
Golf- Varsity
Softball- Varsity
Soccer-Vars- Boys and Girls
Soccer- MS, JV Boys
Track & Field- Varsity
Tennis- Varsity

COACHES

A goal of JPll athletics is to provide coaches of integrity who love young people, possess high-level coaching skills, and have experience in and passion for their respective sports. Whenever possible, faculty or staff members are used to fill coaching positions. The varsity head coach in each sport is responsible for the overall program for that sport and supervises the assistant coaches and junior varsity or middle school coaches involved.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is expected of everyone who is involved in athletics at JPll.

Coaches, players, and fans must consistently demonstrate a commitment to fair play and respect for their opponents, officials, and one another. We are to approach athletics with integrity and a concern for our witness as Christians, as well as a concern for the school's reputation.

Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of our coaches, players, and fans should not be part of our athletic experience. All must refrain from making derogatory comments toward any athletes, officials, coaches, or fans. We expect everyone representing JPll to treat other players, coaches, officials, and visiting fans with respect, showing courtesy and hospitality at all times.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Falcon Booster Club (FBC) is an organization of parents and other supporters of JPII formed to support the school's athletic programs. The Booster Club provides financial support to the athletic department through booster club membership drives and fundraisers. It also assists the athletic department with athletic events and supports the athletic department in raising awareness of our athletic programs, teams, and events. Membership in the FBC is open to the parents and extended family of all school students, as well as friends and supporters of JPII.

ELIGIBILITY

Academic and behavioral eligibility for athletics will be based on the outline in the Student Handbook. There are other eligibility requirements associated with our participation in the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). These are available from the Athletic Director.

TEAM SELECTION

Team selection for the various sports may involve tryouts and cuts. The first day of tryouts will be announced by email and on our athletic website, jp2falconsathletics.org. In addition to eligibility rules, criteria for team selection will involve factors such as:

- A possible maximum number of players for a particular team
- Skill/experience level of an athlete (particularly at higher levels of competition such as varsity play)
- Safety issues, e.g., playing younger athletes on a varsity team, where the risk of injury might be increased

It should be understood that team selection is the responsibility of the Head Coach. Students selected for a team will be notified privately by the coach. Students who try out but are not selected will also be notified privately by the coach, who may suggest skill development for future team selections.

EJECTIONS

Players or coaches who are ejected from games must attend a mandatory meeting with the Athletic Director and Principal. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the cause of the ejection and the possibility of further disciplinary actions by the school. The Alabama High School Athletic Association governs the conduct of our coaches and athletes in school athletic contests, and places monetary fines and game suspensions on ejected players & coaches. An ejected coach or player is responsible for a monetary fine assessed to the school by the AHSAA and will be required to reimburse the school for those charges.

OUTSIDE COMPETITION DURING SCHOOL SEASON

An athlete who is a member of a JPII school team may not practice or play with an outside team in the same sport until the school team's season has ended. Violation of this rule renders the

athlete ineligible to participate on the school team for the remainder of the season in that sport. Other AHSAA rules apply per sport. Please contact the Athletic Director for more information.

ABSENCE/TARDY POLICY

Two standards must be upheld when making and administering policies regarding excused and unexcused absences from practices and contests. The first is that the athlete makes a commitment when he/she joins the team and is responsible for fulfilling this commitment by attending required team practices, contests, and any mandatory preseason training sessions. The second standard is that the athlete must communicate with the coach as early as possible when an absence is anticipated or a problem arises. All situations in which an athlete fails to show up at a practice or contest and the coach is not notified in advance will be considered unexcused absences.

An excused absence begins with informing the coach in advance, except in emergencies that render early notification impossible. Each coach determines excused versus unexcused absences. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach and may be affected by tardiness or absences.

Each athlete must attend **2 blocks** of school on the day of the contest to participate that day, except for excused absences, such as field trips, doctor appointments, funerals, etc. A student may not practice or play in a game if he/she has missed all or part of the school day due to illness.

TRANSPORTATION

Practices-It is the parent's responsibility to arrange for transportation to and from practices. Athletes are expected to be picked up immediately after practice.

The school will make every effort to provide transportation to and from games that require students to leave before school is out for the day. If the school is unable to provide transportation due to a bus and/or driver being unavailable, the Coach will notify the players and parents and work with the parents to make other transportation arrangements. Athletes are required to ride with their team to these contests when the school provides transportation. Exceptions must be cleared with the Athletics Director and Head Coach. Players are permitted to ride home with their parents after a game but must notify the coach of transportation arrangements.

For contests played in the evenings or games that do not require the students to leave school early, the school will make every effort to provide transportation if the contest site is outside of Madison County. As a general rule, transportation to sites in Madison County will NOT be provided by the school except for contests requiring players to be checked out of school early.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The success of our athletics program depends heavily on parent volunteers and supporters. Parents of student-athletes are expected to help with transportation, concessions, tickets, and pass gates, as well as clean-up after home contests.

REQUIRED FORMS

To practice or participate in athletic contests, all athletes must upload or electronically fill out several specific forms on file in Dragonfly Max. These forms are described below:

AHSAA Pre-participation Medical Evaluation (Page 1 front side of Physical form)

- AHSAA form must be used. Forms can be downloaded and printed from the Dragonfly Max website.
- Required to try out, practice, or play
- Must be filled out completely and signed by both student and parent.

AHSAA Physical (Page 2, the back side of Pre-participation)

- This physical must be performed and signed by a D.O. or M.D only. clearing the athlete for participation.
- The signed form is valid one calendar year from the last day of the month in which the form was signed by the physician. The AHSAA *Revised 2018 Form* is required to try out, practice, or play.

AHSAA Participation/Medical Release Form

- Required for all high school sports to try out, practice, or play
- Must be renewed annually

AHSAA Concussion Form

- Required to try out, practice, or play for all sports
- Must be read and signed by the player AND the player's parent
- Must be renewed annually

NFHS Sportsmanship Training

- Required to play all school sports
- Does not have to be repeated

Birth Certificate

- must show the registration number

JPII Forms

- Completed CH-1 Diocesan Form
- Transportation Waiver
- Handbook Acknowledgment

Overnight trips- Head Coaches must fill out the Diocesan FT-1(field trip) form at least 2 months before any planned trip. Final approval will be made by the Diocesan Superintendent. Student-athletes who are not current with athletic fees will not be eligible for overnight trips.

ATHLETIC FEES

A team fee will be charged for all sports. The fees must be paid in full before participation in regular-season play. The fee will be determined by the Athletic Department at the beginning of each school year. If a player is removed from the team by the coach or voluntarily quits any time after one game, the fee will not be refunded. Any money fundraised will also not be refunded.

Athletic Team Fees:

Program	Fee	Program	Fee
Tennis (JV/V)	\$700	Cheer (JV/V)	\$350
Golf	\$350	Football (JV/V)	\$700
Softball	\$700	Volleyball (JV/V)	\$700
Baseball (JV/V)	\$700	XC/Track	\$275
Football (MS)	\$475	Swim & Dive	\$225
Volleyball (MS)	\$275	Girls Basketball (JV/V)	\$700
Girls Basketball (MS)	\$275	Boys Basketball (JV/V)	\$700
Boys Basketball (MS)	\$275	Wrestling	\$700
Boys Soccer (MS)	\$475	Girls Soccer (JV/V)	\$575
Esports (per season)	\$175	Boys Soccer (JV/V)	\$700
Girls Flag Football	\$350		

UNIFORM POLICY

Students are responsible for the upkeep of their uniforms, warm-ups, or any other team equipment. A replacement cost will be assessed for any school property that is issued for items that are not returned in usable condition.

INSURANCE

Parents are responsible for providing health insurance for their children participating in athletics. Athletes participating in middle school, junior varsity & varsity sports are covered under AHSAA's catastrophic coverage. This coverage has a \$10,000 deductible and a \$2 million ceiling. It is for accidental injury medical expenses and can only be applied for injuries that occur during participation in athletic practices & contests. The AHSAA insurance coverage explanation can be found at <https://www.ahsaa.com/Insurance-Information>

INJURIES AND SICKNESS

All injuries must be reported to the coach so that proper aid may be given. This includes injuries or problems that occur outside of practice and games. Please inform the coach of any allergies, medications, or other ailments that may require special attention. For safety concerns, a student-athlete may not practice or play in a game if he/she has missed all or part of the school day due to illness or injury. An athletic trainer is available through SportsMED for our athletes at no charge. Please contact the AD if a trainer is needed.

QUITTING A TEAM

One of the character traits stressed in athletics is honoring commitments. For this reason, quitting should not be common in the JPII athletic programs. If an athlete contemplates quitting a team, for reasons other than injuries, the coach will counsel and encourage the athlete as the decision is being made (if the coach is aware of the situation). Athletes who quit a sports team will not be recognized with the team when awards are given, and those who quit a team after the first two weeks of practice will not be allowed to participate in another JPII sport until the season ends for the team that the student quit.

ATHLETIC AWARDS

An awards night may be held at the end of the season to recognize the team. The coach or a designated parent volunteer is responsible for setting up the time and place. Student-athletes who quit or are removed from a team for academic or behavioral reasons will not be recognized

Varsity Letters: There are specific criteria for each sport for earning a Varsity letter. The purpose of this criteria is to provide a fair and balanced method of selecting athletes to receive a varsity letter for their sport. The criteria are published in the coach's handbook. Please ask your coach for details regarding your sport. NOTE: Although earning a Varsity Letter is a high goal for many athletes, it shouldn't be a player's ultimate reason for playing a sport. Competing, participating, striving for improvement, having fun, being part of a team, and playing for the mere love of the sport should be the focus. The Letter isn't a life or death issue, nor does it determine a person's character. So if a player doesn't earn a letter in any given year, it shouldn't be viewed as a failure. After all, there is no such thing as "just a JV" player. All players are important to a program, and we will treat them accordingly.

MULTI-SPORT ATHLETES

Sometimes there will be overlapping seasons for multi-sport athletes. A player committed to one sport may not quit during the season to begin practice in the next sports season. A player committed to a sport may not practice with another sports team until the season is over for the sport he/she committed to first. Alternative arrangements may be made between the Head

Coaches of the two overlapping sports. Athletes must declare which will be their primary and secondary sport. The coach of the secondary sport will not allow the player to practice with his/her team or participate in contests if the player does not have permission to do so from the primary coach.

FILMING GUIDELINES

AHSAA requires that the visiting team request permission from the host team to videotape an athletic contest. This regulation applies to parents, coaches, and faculty. The head coach of the team should request permission from the host team to videotape. If permission is granted, the head coach can notify the videotaping crew. This can be done before the game starts. Violation of this rule can result in fines and loss of filming privileges.

PLAYING TIME

For MS/JV/Varsity teams (7-12th grades), playing time is at the discretion of the coach.

STUDENT-ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in athletics at JPII is a privilege, not a right. If you choose to participate in athletics, you willingly accept the responsibility of being a leader, both in and out of the classroom and on and off the court. You also understand you are representatives of our Lord and school. Those who choose to participate must make sacrifices and establish priorities.

With these things in mind, the guidelines on the following pages have been established for those students who elect to participate in athletics at JPII. Please read the guidelines agreement on the next page, sign it, and return it to the Head Coach of your team.

Academic Probation

When school is closed for the day or when school closes early due to worsening weather conditions, the following will apply: All extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, team practices, field trips, after school supervision, and non-school activities in the school building will be canceled unless permission is granted by the school administration.

Starting in the Spring 2026 semester, probationary students will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities. Students who wish to have their extracurricular activities restored may request a meeting with the administration to develop an improvement plan and restoration timeline.

**The version of the Athletic handbook available online is the one that is currently enforced.

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct Agreement

I, _____ as a JPII student-athlete, agree to:
(Please Print the student's name)

1. Model Christ in speech and behavior.
 2. Respect those in authority, including coaches, game officials, parents, and volunteers.
 3. Be a leader in academics as well as athletics.
 4. Demonstrate good sportsmanship before, during, and after games, recognizing the talents and efforts of my opponents and the game officials.
 - a. To congratulate my opponent on his/her effort
 - b. To not argue with calls made by officials
 - c. To practice self-control at all times, including no taunting or other negative behavior, that would bring disrespect to God, my team, and the school.
 5. Support and encourage my teammates at all times.
 6. Be prompt to all scheduled practices, games, and team meetings, and inform my coach of any absence as soon as I am aware that I will not be able to participate on a given day.
 7. Accepting correction and instruction from all authorities, and understanding correction makes me wise and has eternal benefits as well as short and long-term benefits for my teammates and myself.
 8. Represent God, my family, my school, and my team in such a way that brings honor to each whether competing at home or away games.
 9. Understand that being on a team does not guarantee playing time. Instead, it must be earned through commitment, dedication, a positive attitude, good sportsmanship, and skill development in athletics.
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- Verbal violations and disrespect of the property of individuals shall be governed by the coach. If any action continues, the Athletic Director reserves the right to remove such player(s) for an indefinite period.
 - Athletes will abide by school codes and regulations. If an athlete is consistently disregarding school regulations, he/she may be dismissed from participation at the discretion of the coach and Athletic Director

I have read the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to uphold the expectations outlined above will endanger my athletic eligibility. I also understand that these expectations are in place to help me grow spiritually and mature emotionally and physically.

Student Athlete (Printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

- Parents attending athletic contests are expected to speak and act as representatives of the Lord and ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL. Expectations of fans cannot be less than those for players, coaches, and officials.
- Parents are expected to support not only their children but also the coach, the team, and St. John Paul II Catholic High School. Parents are expected to address concerns with the person most directly involved before taking their concerns to those not involved.
- Parents are expected to help their children develop dependability, punctuality, and accountability by being aware of practice/ game schedules, and other responsibilities.
- Parents are expected to have their family accounts up-to-date for their child/ren to participate in athletics

Parent concerns that are appropriate to discuss with a coach are:

- Any unhealthy mental or physical strain that you detect in your child at home, especially when it affects his/her academic performance.
- How to contribute to your child's skill improvement and development.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Any physical/health conditions that affect athletic participation; *Athletic trainers are available at no charge to evaluate your student-athlete if he/she has an injury.

Proper procedures for conflict resolution are:

- Make an appointment to meet with the coach. NEVER approach a coach before or after a game.
- If the meeting with the coach does not produce a resolution, make an appointment with the Athletic Director and the Coach to discuss the situation. The Athletic Director will not meet with you unless you have first met with the coach.

By signing below, you agree that:

- I will not publicly disparage the officials, coaching staff, or other athletes during sporting events.
- I will follow the “24-hour Rule” before contacting the Coach with any grievances. This rule simply allows for a time of reflection and prayer.
- I will follow the spirit of the guidelines for resolving conflicts/grievances outlined above.
- I will be a role model for my student-athletes.
- I understand that I will be expected to occasionally assist with working concessions, ticket/pass gate, or set up/clean up for home games.

Please sign and return to: Tim Miller, Athletic Director
St John Paul II High School

I understand the purpose of the Parent Code of Conduct. I agree with the principles set forth, and I am committed to the growth of my son/daughter at JPIL.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____