

## SJAA Handbook- 2003

### Introduction

This Handbook serves as a guide for the coaches, parents and participants of the St. Jude's Athletic Association (SJAA). The Handbook is designed to provide information on the structure, purpose and current philosophy of the SJAA. Furthermore this Handbook will provide information concerning participant eligibility, the sports and activities sanctioned by the SJAA, the role of coach, coordinator, parent/guardian and participant. It is important that all participants and parents/guardians receive a copy of this handbook and have an understanding of the roles carried out by all involved.

### Structure

The SJAA is an established Parish organization, sponsored by The Shrine of St. Jude (the parish), operating under the Pastor and approved by-laws, and functioning under an elected Board of Directors. The Pastor exercises responsibility for the SJAA and its activities. Membership in the SJAA consists of:

The Pastor (and an appointed moderator if so deemed by the Pastor)

SJAA Board Members

SJAA Athletic Director

SJAA Assistant Athletic Director

SJAA Program Coordinators

SJAA Coaches

Parents/Guardians of children currently participating in SJAA programs and activities

Persons assisting and supporting the SJAA through volunteer service

The SJAA Board consists of nine Board members who are elected by the membership to three year terms (commencing in July of the year elected and ending in June 3 years later), the Athletic Director (who is appointed by the Pastor and is a non voting member) and the Pastor or his appointed moderator . Normally there are three board seats each year that are vacated. Nominations for board membership are solicited annually, in the spring, in accordance with the SJAA by-laws, with notification to the membership two weeks prior to elections. Anyone within the membership is eligible to run for a board seat.

The Board is responsible for the policy, planning oversight, guidance and fiscal management of the SJAA.

From the nine elected Board members, a Chairperson is appointed by the Pastor (or moderator). A Secretary and Treasurer are named by a simple majority vote of the board members.

The current Board (as of February 2003) consists of :

Cal Bowser (Athletic Director)  
Dan O'Brien (Chair, term ends 6/03)  
Bryan Whittington (Secretary, terms ends 6/04)  
John Sella (Treasurer, term ends 6/03)  
Pat Bowman (term ends 6/05)  
Jim Clifford (term ends 6/05)  
Frank English (term ends 6/04)  
Kay Kay Joseph (terms ends 6/05)  
Lou Kratz (Assistant Athletic Director, terms ends 6/04)  
Eileen Natalie (term ends 6/03)

### Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of the SJAA is to coordinate, organize, foster and encourage athletic activities in a fair and equitable manner. The SJAA Sports Programs are designed to reach for Catholic spiritual ideals through sports while developing good manners and sportsmanship.

The philosophy of the SJAA is to assist the Parish in its administration of a well rounded athletic program, developing Catholic men and women through sportsmanship. The SJAA Program is structured to provide early participation and exposure with gradual transition to competitive play. Competitive play provides the opportunity to develop commitment and teamwork while learning how to succeed.

### Policy

The SJAA policy is to provide a well- rounded sports program for Parish children. The SJAA will continue to stress participation, first and foremost, in whatever sports are offered by the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). The SJAA has the ability to support other programs that are deemed suitable by the board (examples would be MSI, MCBA, Montgomery County Recreation). The SJAA will continue to strive to compete at all levels of competition provided by the CYO and to choose the appropriate teams necessary to compete as representatives of The Shrine of St. Jude. The SJAA will continue to follow the motto, "so that every child has a place to play."

### Participant Eligibility

The following details the list of participants who are eligible to participate on SJAA sponsored teams. Please note that the applicable league rules for participation are also applicable to any team sponsored by the SJAA.

Children of St. Jude's Parish  
Children who attend St. Jude School  
Children who attend St. Jude School but belong to other parishes  
Children from neighboring Catholic Parishes (without teams in the CYO) based upon approval

by CYO and the SJAA

Other non-neighborhood children (Catholic or non Catholic) recommended to the SJAA coordinators and approved by the SJAA Board.

Non-Catholic children approved by the SJAA who are eligible for league in which St. Jude participates.

Sports sponsored by the SJAA

Fall:

Cheerleading- There are currently three cheerleading squads sponsored by the SJAA. They are divided into groups of 7-8 grade, 5-6 grade and 3-4 grade. All groups will participate and cheer at appropriate fall sports, usually respective football teams. The 7-8 grade and 5-6 grade are also eligible to participate in competition.

Soccer - The SJAA sponsors soccer programs for boys and girls in the following age groups:

7-8 grade boys and girls

5-6 grade boys and girls

3-4 grade boys and girls

1-2 co-ed.

These teams will all participate in the appropriate CYO leagues.

Football - SJAA will participate in various football leagues that best meet the competition level of the children. The number of children participating, league availability, and competition level will all be considered when choosing the appropriate leagues in which to participate. The teams will usually be broken into groups based on age and weight.

Spring Sports

Basketball- The SJAA sponsors basketball programs for boys and girls in the following age groups:

7-8 grade boys and girls

5-6 grade boys and girls

3-4 grade boys and girls

1-2 grade co-ed intramural.

The following will participate in the appropriate CYO leagues. For the Mid Atlantic teams (boys and girls) and the Tournament teams (boys and girls) will also participate in the Montgomery County Rising Stars leagues.

Baseball- The SJAA sponsors baseball programs for boys in the following age groups:

7-8 grade boys

5-6 grade boys

3-4 grade boys

These teams will participate in the CYO and may also participate in additional county or city leagues.

Softball- The SJAA will sponsor girls softball teams in the following age groups:

7-8 grade girls

5-6 grade girls

3-4 grade girls

These teams will compete in the CYO and may also participate in additional county or city leagues at the discretion of the coordinator.

Spring Soccer- The SJAA will sponsor this sport for the following age groups:

1-2 grade boys and girls (co-ed). These teams will compete in the CYO.

Track and Field- The SJAA will sponsor CYO track for boys and girls in grades 1-8. This team will be compete in CYO sponsored track meets.

Intramural T-Ball

The SJAA will sponsor co-ed T-Ball to be played on the Plateau at St. Jude's School for children in grades K-2. This will be a purely instructional league.

Summer League Basketball- The SJAA will sponsor basketball for the following age groups, both boys and girls;

rising 7-8 graders

rising 5-6 graders

The teams will play in the CYO league for the summer. In the event the CYO does not have a program the decision of where to participate will belong to the coordinator.

Team Selections

The SJAA, as previously noted, espouses the notion that every child has the right to play and participate in any sport that child selects. The SJAA, along with the coordinators of each individual sport, will attempt to properly place a child with a team that best suits that individual. Each group of athletes will be evaluated individually by the coaches and coordinators. Additionally, in keeping with doctrine set forth in the CYO handbook, teams will be divided to match the league's prescribed criteria. In Mid-Atlantic competition as well as Tournament teams the CYO suggests that the teams be divided by skills to match the prescribed league. In non-Tournament and instructional leagues it is suggested that teams be evenly distributed. In any

effort to make the experience enjoyable for everyone involved these guidelines suggested by CYO will be followed.

It is the responsibility of the coordinator and coaches to decide how the players will be selected for each team. It is the responsibility of the parents to find out how the teams will be divided **before the teams are selected**. It is highly suggested that the coordinator for each group have a parents meeting before the teams are divided to address all questions that parents or guardians may have.

Coordinators- Every sport that is sponsored by the SJAA has a coordinator for that sport. The responsibilities for each coordinator are as follows;

1. The selection of coaches.
2. Supervise the registration of participants
3. Coordinate league placements with the SJAA
4. Assignment of coaches to selected teams.
5. Establish practices schedules and field/gym assignments.
6. Obtain practice facilities.
7. The disbursement and collection of uniforms and equipment for each sport. Coaches chosen by the coordinators are responsible for the return of uniforms.

Coordinators are selected by the athletic director for two year terms. The Athletic Director may extend a Coordinator for an additional two years. Any further appointment requires the approval of the Board. The following is a list of current coordinators (as of February 2003).

Keith _____	Football	301-555-1212
_____	Cheerleading	301-555-1234
Larry Kilmer	Soccer	301-962-7979
Jack Campbell	Basketball	301-770-4055
Cindy Noto	Softball	301-871-1429
Jerry Miller	Baseball	301-587-1658
Regina Flagg	Track	301-929-0799

Coaches- The selection of coaches for each particular sport is a difficult process because the choices are made from volunteers having a variety of experiences and qualifications. Coaches are selected by the Coordinator of each sport. The Coordinator can then have “sub-coordinators” (for example a coordinator for 3-4 grade girls basketball) who will select the additional coaches that are needed. All coaches are required to complete the coaches’ certification course required by the CYO. Currently a coach can coach for one season/ one sport before this certification is completed. The coaches are required to adhere to the rules and regulations for their particular sport. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the coach to act in a sportsmanlike manner and to instruct the participants to do likewise. Being that the coaches will be instructing CYO teams it will also be necessary to include religious thoughts and teachings throughout the season. Specifically the coach must adhere to the guidelines set forth by the CYO Athletic Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities- The SJAA realizes that a positive experience for your child is our most important goal.

1. Obtain a physical examination to confirm that your child is physically able to participate.
2. Please be prompt when arriving for practices and games. If a player cannot attend a practice or a game please communicate that with the coach ahead of time. Also, please realize that you and your child are making a commitment to a team. The participant should try and attend all prescribed games and practices.
3. Communication with your coach is encouraged. If you have a problem or a concern please address that with the coach. If you are not satisfied with that discussion please direct issue to the coordinator of that particular sport.
4. Parents should have knowledge of what is happening at practices and games. Parents are invited to attend practices to observe the practice regime. Parents should be satisfied that the best interest and welfare of the participants are being protected. In that same vein, if you are satisfied with the coach and practice schedule please allow the coaches to coach the teams during practice and games.
5. The SJAA assumes no financial liability for any injury incurred by a participant during practice or games. We strongly suggest that you make sure your child has the proper insurance.

#### Revenue and Fee Structure

All funds for the SJAA are garnered through participation fees, an annual second collection and volunteer efforts. The current participation fee is \$50 per participant per sport. Additionally, if a child participates in a sport where there is team participation in more than one league the fee will be \$80. Additional funds for the SJAA are created by the rental of the Blue room and Thadeus room by parishioners. The scheduling of the room is currently handled by the Athletic Director. Volunteers work at these events. If you have a child who participates within the SJAA sponsored programs it is suggested that your volunteer for these events. The funds that are raised are used to pay for the various leagues, facility rentals, uniforms and equipment. Additionally, the Association, from time to time, will pay for facility improvements on St. Jude School property.

## Awards and Recognition

The SJAA will sponsor two Awards Banquets, one in December to celebrate the participants of the fall sports and one in May to celebrate the participants of the spring sports. Each child will be presented with a certificate that notes the team and the participation.

The SJAA Board hopes you find this Handbook useful. It is designed to provide insight into how the SJAA Board is selected, the duties the Board has been entrusted to follow, the philosophy of the SJAA, how the SJAA works and the benefits presented by the SJAA for all those who participate. Please know that the SJAA has the best interest of your child and the athletic programs in mind. Like any organization, we are always open to suggestions that would improve the association. If you have any input that you would like to share with the Board, or any concerns that you would like addressed, please contact a Board member.

May God bless you.