# St. Joseph Booster Organization Director and Coaching Guidelines

# **Table of Contents**

PURPOSE STATEMENT	3
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ST. JOSEPH SPORTS DIRECTORS	3
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COACHES	4
FACTORS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION	5
PLAYING TIME	5
CONDUCTING TRY-OUTS	5
DIVIDING TEAMS ACCORDING TO SKILL LEVEL	5
RECRUITMENT OF STUDENT ATHLETES	6
PREVENTION of INJURY	6
AWARDS, RECOGNITION & TROPHIES	6
MONITORING COACHING PERFORMANCE	6
PROBATION, SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM	7
FORMAL COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS	7
ADDENDUM – INDIVIDUAL SPORTS GUIDELINES	8
Soccer Guidelines	8
Basketball Guidelines	8
Volleyball Guidelines	10
Recreational Cheerleading Guidelines	11
Competitive Cheerleading Guidelines	11
Cross Country Guidelines	12
Golf Guidelines	12
Track & Field Guidelines	12

# **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

This document outlines the minimum operating guidelines for team formation, coach selection, and playing time for directors of the athletic programs sponsored by the St. Joseph Booster Organization ("Boosters"). Any modifications to these guidelines must be submitted to the Executive Committee and general membership for approval. This document is intended as a supplement to the St. Joseph Booster Organization's Handbook for Athletics and does not supersede the handbook in any manner.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ST. JOSEPH SPORTS DIRECTORS

The Booster Organization shall maintain a Sports Director for the following sports:

- o Boys Soccer
- o Girls Soccer
- Boys Basketball
- o Girls Basketball
- Volleyball
- o Cheerleading

- Cross Country
- o Golf
- o Track & Field
- Dance
- Micro Soccer
- Micro Basketball

#### **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each Sport Director shall:

- 1. Be elected by the membership and become a Good Standing member.
- 2. Oversee athlete sign-ups, including registration and payment for all participants.
- 3. Identify and report all coaching selections to the Boosters Officers before communicating them to the coaches for their review and approval.
- 4. Submit a list of coaches to the school administration to ensure timely compliance with Virtus requirements.
- 5. Act as a mediator between the Booster organization, leagues, and coaches.
- 6. Ensure that coaches conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on St. Joseph Parish, School, and the Booster Organization.
- 7. Verify that the Head Coach is at least twenty-one years old. If the Head Coach is between 18 and 21, Pastor approval is required due to Diocesan guidelines. No individual under 18 may be considered for any coaching position.
- 8. Be responsible for publishing notices related to their sport.
- 9. Serve as the purchasing agent, which includes:
  - Assisting with the disbursement of all equipment.
  - Submitting a proposed detailed budget of expenditures (including league fees, equipment, etc.) at the April meeting, which will be voted on in May or August if necessary.
  - Obtaining approval from the President and Treasurer for any purchase exceeding fifty dollars that has not been included in the current year's budget. Anything not deemed essential will wait for quorum approval at the following Booster meeting.
  - Maintaining a complete inventory of all equipment and supplies, ensuring proper storage, and collecting fees for uniform deposits.
- 10. Serve a two-year term, defined as July 1 to June 30.
  - A Director cannot serve more than six consecutive years unless no other volunteers are available for the position.
- 11. No individual may hold both an Officer and a Sport Director position simultaneously unless there are no other volunteers.
- 12. Submit all written complaints to the President for review.

## **COACHING SELECTION CRITERIA**

Sport Directors are responsible for selecting coaches for each grade level. Coaching selection considerations should include the following:

- Adherence to the Diocesan Elementary School Coaching Guidelines
- The ability to model positive values
- The ability to articulate and model the school's mission, philosophy, and program goals

- The ability to responsibly supervise and instruct youth
- Previous coaching experience at St. Joe or other school
- Previous playing experience at high school or college level, or similar training level/experience.
- An understanding of the basics of the sport to be coached
- The ability to develop the potential, confidence, and skills of each athlete
- The ability to prioritize important goals and values over winning
- Compliance with safety and ethical standards
- Active participation in the Boosters Organization; attending at least 2 Boosters meetings per school year
- No prior incidents or bans from coaching at the school during the previous 2 years.

#### **COACHING SELECTION PROCESS**

Sport Directors oversee the sport sign up process. Once the sign-up window closes, the Director will compile a list of those individuals who have volunteered to coach that sport. If the number of athletes registering exceeds the available coaches, the Director shall reach out to additional parties to fulfil those coaching roles, using the coaching selection criteria above. Where a conflict of interest arises, that officer/director must remove themselves from the decision if it involves their child or child's grade level.

In instances where there are more coaching volunteers than required, the Director will consult with the Booster Officers to select the appropriate coaches for each grade and sport. This collaborative approach ensures that both Officers and Directors can deliberate and arrive at a mutually agreeable decision, which they can uphold if queries arise.

Once coaching staff is agreed upon by Officers and Director, the Director will then communicate the selected Coach(es) to the school administration to validate Virtus compliance. After proper validation, the Director will send the list(s) of Head Coach(es), and if applicable team rosters, to the selected Head Coaches and copy the Officers on the email. Team formation will occur prior to assistant coaching selection. The Head Coach, once appointed, may then choose any necessary assistant coaches. Any individual not selected for a head coaching role, except in cases of prior disciplinary action, should be given priority for an assistant coaching role. All assistant coaches must also comply with Virtus requirements, with a maximum of two assistant coaches per team.

Directors should make every effort to appoint non-parent coaches as Head Coaches for older student-athlete teams. For 6<sup>th</sup> - 8th grade teams, non-parent coaches will be prioritized over parent coaches, assuming the coach is properly vetted, regardless of past precedent or prior appointments. While coaching experience remains an important factor in selection, the emphasis on non-parent coaches is also intended to help prepare students for their athletic experiences beyond St. Joseph.

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COACHES

Refer to Catholic Elementary School Coaching Guidelines as well as the following Booster Organization requirements.

To qualify as a Head Coach for any sport under the Diocese of Covington and the Booster Organization, the individual must be up-to-date and compliant with Virtus training according to the Virtus Coordinator, and must read and sign the coach's code of conduct.

St. Joseph Parish and School prioritize sportsmanship and its promotion and practice. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that team participation fosters good character development. This code applies to all coaches involved in interscholastic sports at St. Joseph Parish and School. Coaches are required to:

- 1. Teach, enforce, advocate, and model the development of sportsmanship.
- 2. Adhere to the St. Joseph School Director and Coaching Guidelines.
- 3. Support the mission, vision, and values of the parish and school, recognizing that athletics contribute to them but do not supersede them.
- 4. Promote academic excellence and the educational process.
- 5. Respect participants, officials, opponents, parents, spectators, and all others involved in the activity.
- 6. Promote fair play and uphold the rules of the activity.

- 7. Always model appropriate behavior.
- 8. Refrain from any physical or verbal abuse of the players.
- 9. Learn the rules of the sport and teach them to the players.
- 10. Strive to teach the skills of the sport to all players.
- 11. Ensure that all players have equal opportunities to learn and demonstrate skills in practices and drills.
- 12. Abide by the playing time and participation guidelines specified for the sport and age level as outlined below.
- 13. The priorities in coaching are as follows:
  - Player safety
  - Sportsmanship
  - Teamwork
  - Skill development
  - Participation and camaraderie
  - Team achievement

# **FACTORS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**

Each sport has specific participation requirements based on grade level, skill, and competition. Students enrolled in the program who meet eligibility criteria should be allowed to play according to the playing time guidelines. The scheduling of practices and games, including their frequency and timing, should consider the student athlete's age, physical development, academic responsibilities, and opportunity for family life.

# **PLAYING TIME**

Playing time often leads to misunderstandings and conflicts among coaches, students, and parents. Detailed guidelines for playing time have been established by the Booster Organization and approved by the pastor. These guidelines should be clearly communicated to all parties prior to each season. Specific playing times are outlined for each sport in the Addendum. Please refer to the St Joseph Athletic Handbook for proper steps to address concerns.

For grades 6, 7 and 8, playing time should reflect ability, effort, attendance at practices, and commitment to the team. Coaches at these grade levels should work collaboratively with parents to help student athletes understand that not every team member will play equal amounts of time. However, playing time for all players is expected at all levels, given that the player is making efforts to improve during practice. For instance, playing a student for only two minutes and considering it adequate playing time is discouraged. "Winning at all costs" or excluding eligible players from participation is not supported. It is the coach's responsibility to develop all players so they can contribute during games.

Consequences are in place for coaches who repeatedly disregard playing time guidelines. Instances of non-compliance must be carefully documented, with written notices given to the offending coach.

Missing practice without valid reasons or excessive absences may result in reduced playing time. Additionally, playing time may be reduced as a disciplinary action, particularly when a player loses self-control or engages in conduct unbecoming of a Catholic/Christian student athlete. Generally, however, every eligible athlete is expected to participate in every game, including tournaments.

## CONDUCTING TRY-OUTS

The Booster Organization does not cut players based on athletic ability. The focus of St. Joseph athletics at the 1st-8th grade level is on development rather than winning. Coaches are encouraged to find a spot for everyone who demonstrates the willingness and desire to be part of a team. Participating in an interscholastic athletic team is considered an important aspect of the school experience. Preventing any student athlete from participating may deprive them of this opportunity.

# **DIVIDING TEAMS ACCORDING TO SKILL LEVEL**

Dividing teams based on skill level is not permitted until the 6th grade. When St. Joseph has a large number of participating student-athletes at the same grade level, it may be necessary to create two teams to ensure that all students

receive a significant amount of playing time.

If teams are formed by skill level—that is, an "A" team consisting of more game-ready players and a "B" team consisting of players who need additional skill development—this is permitted only for grades 6, 7, and 8. It is expected that students will have a fair amount of playing time on either of the teams for which they qualify.

Additionally, parent/guardian coaches, particularly those coaching their own children, should not be responsible for dividing teams based on skill level. Independent evaluators, selected by the sport Director, should oversee team division to ensure a fair and unbiased selection. Additionally, if any conflict of issue is presumed, the Booster Officers should review and approve the final team placement decisions to maintain impartiality. These teams should be identified by a name such as a color, rather than being referred to as "A" Teams and "B" Teams.

Talented athletes should not be asked to play with older players unless there is a necessity due to a lack of participating athletes at that level.

# RECRUITMENT OF STUDENT ATHLETES

The Booster Organization is prohibited from offering tuition, special considerations, or incentives to recruit student athletes. Any improper activities should be reported to the principal or pastor.

# PREVENTION of INJURY

Coaches are expected to understand the basics of injury prevention. Proper information and knowledge can possibly reduce the severity and frequency of the injuries.

Student athletes should receive the following:

- Proper stretching and conditioning before and after practice; being physically prepared
- Educated coaches, instructors, and/or advisors in the rules and procedures of the sport
- Adequate equipment and facilities (mats, practice area free of obstructions, etc.)
- Access to water during practices and games, and an appropriate number of breaks designated to hydrate

# **AWARDS, RECOGNITION & TROPHIES**

Awards will be presented to teams based upon the director's recommendation and membership vote. State or diocesan champions will receive a banner. In the case of a split season, teams winning the lower division will not be eligible for an award.

Special trophies for "Most Valuable Player," "Most Improved Player," "Leadership" or other individual awards after games are highly discouraged. An exception would be end-of-season awards. Coaches and parents are reminded that ultimately, handing out individual awards or recognizing individual accomplishments is inconsistent with the team-first concept that coaches demand from their players.

## MONITORING COACHING PERFORMANCE

If a coach is unable to perform his/her duties according to the spirit and guidelines of the Booster Organization, the grievance process should be initiated. Coaches who have been negligent or deficient in carrying out their responsibilities should not be retained. Ordinarily, coaches who have been removed from their position should not be involved in any other aspect of the athletic program for a minimum two-year term. Reinstatement will be granted by the Booster Organization through coach selection process outlined above.

# PROBATION, SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION FROM THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Consequences of disrespectful behavior may include a reduction in playing time, suspension, or expulsion from the team. Student-athletes may be placed on probation, suspended, or terminated from practicing with the team and/or participating in interscholastic competition for the following behaviors:

- Using inappropriate language as determined by the coach, officials, or school administration
- Engaging in physical or emotional abuse of teammates, opposing players, coaches, spectators, or officials
- Causing damage to school facilities and equipment
- Violating any "Code of Ethics"

#### Disciplinary actions include:

- PROBATION: continued participation in the sport along with reasonable improvement requirements
- SUSPENSION: no participation in the sport for a specified period
- TERMINATION: no participation in the sport for, at minimum, the remainder of the season. Termination lasting longer requires approval by the Pastor.

The Parent/Guardian of the athlete will be notified and given the opportunity to provide input if there is the possibility of suspension or termination from the program. Any athlete at risk of suspension or termination will be provided the opportunity to have a hearing with the Parent/Guardian, the Pastor, Principal, Head Coach and a Booster Officer. The final decision rests with the Pastor.

# FORMAL COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS

In the event that a player, parent, fan, coach or director has a complaint that needs addressed, the following steps must be followed in order to resolve. Grievances related to the implementation of these guidelines may only be presented to the general membership of the Booster Organization after these steps have been followed:

- 1. The grievance should initially be discussed privately with the head coach or parent in a one-on-one conversation 24 hours after the situation occurs. It should not be mentioned publicly, especially not "on the field" or "on the court". If the individual is unable or unwilling to resolve the issue, an appeal may be made to the Director of that sport. The Director may request that the grievance be written and signed.
- 2. Decisions made by the Director are considered final but can be appealed to the Officers through the President of the Booster Organization. To appeal a decision, a signed written description of the issue(s) must be submitted to the President.
- 3. If the President accepts the appeal, a meeting will be scheduled with the Officers, the Director (and coach if necessary), and the person filing the grievance. Any information provided by an individual who is not present at the meeting must be signed, dated, witnessed, and submitted to the President at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- 4. The Officers will attempt to resolve the grievance and will determine whether any issues should be brought before the general membership, or go straight to Father for final ruling. The Officers have the final authority to present issues related to the implementation of these guidelines to the general membership.

# Addendum - Individual Sport Guidelines

#### **Soccer Guidelines**

#### Micro Soccer

St. Joseph's micro soccer league aims to teach basic soccer fundamentals to all students. Parents, coaches, and participants should note that skill level is not a focus at this age, and game play may differ from standard soccer. No other soccer leagues for P3 – K will receive Booster support.

#### Team Formation:

- 3-4 year-olds: Practice and game on the same day, with practice before the game.
- 5-6 year-olds: Option for one practice per week (max 1.5 hours) or practice before the game, based on the Director's decision and field schedule.

The Director, with support from Booster Officers, will determine practice and game times, considering sibling and family accommodations on team formation when possible.

## Ages 8 and up

St. Joseph plays in the Campbell County Youth Soccer League (CCYSL). Team selection, playing time, and allowing players to play in upper age groups follow CCYSL rules. The cut-off for age groups is August. The Director will work with CCYSL to implement the below St. Joseph standards:.

- 1. Playing Time requirements are as follows:
  - U8-U10 50% of the game
  - U12 35% of the game
  - U14 25% of the game
- 2. Roster sizes must adhere to these limits. If exceeded, approval from the Director is required or an additional team should be added:
  - 7 vs. 7: 7-12 players
  - 9 vs. 8: 9-16 players
  - 11 vs. 11: 12-20 players
- 3. If there are enough players for two teams, the Director and coaches will split the teams based on known skill levels, in effort to make the teams evenly matched.
- 4. For an odd number of sign-ups (enough for 1.5 teams), the Director will decide how to proceed.
- 5. Teams will be known as 'ST. JOSEPH BLUEJAYS' in all leagues and tournaments.
- 6. Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Trainers must be Virtus certified. If a Non-Virtus certified guest coach is present, at least two Virtus certified coaches must also be there.
- 7. Participate in a single league.
- 8. League rules override the above guidelines.
- 9. Anything not covered will default to league rules.

## **Basketball Guidelines**

#### Micro Basketball

St. Joseph's micro basketball league is supported by the Booster Organization. No other basketball leagues for P3 – K will receive Booster support. Micro basketball is to have a Director separate from other basketball divisions.

The purpose of the micro basketball league is to introduce students, including those who are not St. Joseph students, to the fundamentals of the sport. It is important that parents, coaches, and participants understand that ability level at this age is not a priority, and that game play may sometimes differ from standard basketball.

#### Team Formation:

Age-based grouping:

- o Children aged 3 4 years: Practice sessions are held prior to the game on the same day.
- o Children aged 5 6 years: Practice sessions are held prior to the game on the same day.
- The Director will make efforts to accommodate siblings and family members playing together, when possible.

#### First and Second Grade Leagues

Players should be competitively balanced when selecting teams. If there is an imbalance in team competitiveness, the Director will address the situation, likely after the season, in consultation with the coaches. First and Second grade basketball is to have a Director separate from other basketball divisions.

- Players in 1st and 2nd grade require a minimum playing time of two quarters per game.
- No more than 10 players to a team as this can limit playing time for each student.
  - Substitute players should be from the same grade and same skill level when possible.
- Participate in a single league and up to 1 tournament.
- One practice per week (not to exceed 1.5 hours per week).
- Games and practices should start no later than 8:00 PM on days when there is school the following day and no later than 9:00 PM on other days.

### Third through Fifth Grade Boys and Girls Leagues

Players should be competitively balanced when selecting teams. If there is an imbalance in team competitiveness, the Director will address the situation, likely after the season, in consultation with the coaches.

- Players in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade require a minimum playing time of two quarters per game.
- Players in 5<sup>th</sup> grade requires a minimum playing time of 9 minutes per game.
- No more than 10 players should be assigned to any team as this can limit playing time for each student.
  - Substitute players should be from the same grade and same skill level when possible.
- Grades 3 and 4 play in a single league and 2-3 tournaments.
- Grade 5 plays in a single league and 3-4 tournaments.
- 1-2 Practices per week (not to exceed three hours per week).
- Games and practices should start no later than 8:00PM on days when there is school the following day and no later than 9:00 PM on other days.

#### Sixth through Eighth Grade Boys and Grade Girls Leagues

At this age level, girls and boys may have an A and a B team as described in the Dividing Teams According to Skill section above. However, depending on the skill level of the total group, number of players, and available leagues, the following options for team separation will be available. This will allow the Director and Officers to decide which is the most suitable option for full team improvement.

- If only one team, the Director with coach's support can determine which league (competitive, non-competitive) is best to compete.
- If two or more teams, they can be split to make evenly competitive teams and play in the same league.
- If two or more teams, they can be split based on skill level to have a higher level competitive team and a more recreational team. Teams must play in separate leagues/divisions.
- If two or more teams, they can be split to make evenly competitive teams and play in the same or different leagues, and a higher-level competitive tournament team may be formed to compete in higher level tournaments.

#### Additional St. Joseph standards:

- Minimum playing time is at the coach's discretion. However, it is expected that all athletes play in each game unless disciplinary actions are in place.
- No more than 11 players should be assigned to any team as this can limit playing time for each student.
  - O Substitute players should be from the same grade and same skill level when possible.
- 1 2 Practices per week (not to exceed 4 hours per week).
- One league per team and 7-8 tournaments. Grades with split teams based on skill level cannot compete in the same division of a league.
- League playoffs following the regular season are considered one tournament. Teams are allowed to participate in only one league per season, unless approved by the director with a predetermined maximum number of games

- established before the season begins.
- It is recommended that no more than three games, occasionally four if circumstances require, should be scheduled per week. Practices and games should start no later than 8:30 PM on days when there is school the following day and no later than 9:00 PM on other days.
- Practice games before the season should be limited to two, and scrimmage games prior to or during the season should be limited to three. These games count toward the maximum totals if participating in two leagues.
- Tournament participation should consider travel distance and whether tournaments occur within the regular season. Efforts should be made to ensure participation expectations remain family-friendly.

Opportunities to play in upper age groups are provided based on need and are used to balance the number of players on teams in different age groups. Students may be asked to play in a higher age group if there are fewer than 8 (5, 6, or 7) players on a team.

The number of practices and games, as well as the timing of these activities, are determined while considering the student athlete's age, physical development, academic responsibilities, and the opportunity for family life.

#### **Volleyball Guidelines**

General Team Formation Guidelines (All Grade Levels): To maintain balanced team sizes across different age groups, it may be necessary for some players to compete in upper age groups. If a higher age group has fewer than 8 players, younger players may be invited to join that group. No team should have more than 13 players. If more than 13 players register at any grade level, two teams will be formed.

# Third Through Fifth Grade Leagues

Team Formation:

• Teams should be competitively balanced when formed. If an imbalance in team competitiveness is identified, the Director will address the situation, typically after the season, in consultation with the coaches.

Playing Time & League Participation:

- 3rd and 4th Grade
  - o Equal playing time is required for all players.
  - o Teams will participate in a single league, no paid tournaments.
- 5th Grade
  - o Each player is required to have a minimum playing time of 35–40% per game.
  - o Teams will participate in a single league, no paid tournaments.

#### Practice Guidelines:

1–2 practices per week. Total practice time not to exceed three hours per week.

#### Sixth Through Eighth Grade Leagues

## **Team Formation**

At this age level, teams may be divided into an A and a B team as outlined in the Dividing Teams According to Skill section above. However, depending on the overall skill level, number of players, and available leagues, the following options for team separation will be considered. This flexibility allows the Director and Officers to determine the most effective structure for team development:

- If there is only one team, the Director, with input from the coach, will decide whether to compete in a competitive or non-competitive league.
- If there are two or more teams, they may be:
  - o Divided into evenly balanced teams that compete in the same league.
  - o Divided by skill level, with one higher-level competitive team and one or more recreational teams. These teams must compete in separate leagues or divisions.
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade -Combined:

- o If the total number of registered players does not allow for two teams per grade, or there is an imbalance of players, the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade players may be combined to form two teams which may be:
  - Divided into evenly balanced teams that compete in the same league.
  - Divided by skill level, with one higher-level competitive team and one or more recreational teams. These teams must compete in separate leagues or divisions.

## Playing Time & League Participation:

- Minimum playing time is at the coach's discretion. However, it is expected that all athletes will play in each game, unless disciplinary action is required.
- Teams will participate in a single league with the option for 1 tournament per year.

## **Practice Guidelines:**

- 1–2 practices per week.
- Total practice time not to exceed six hours per week.
- Games and practices should start no later than:
  - o 8:30 PM on school nights
  - o 9:00 PM on non-school nights

#### Recreational Cheerleading Guidelines

#### Third through Eighth Grades

All levels of recreational cheerleading should be instructional and balanced by grade level. No minimum participation time. Teams are typically formed based on grade level, but adjustments can be made by the Director due to number of registrations, or for other reasons, with a quorum approval during a general meeting.

Practices should be limited to two session per week: not to exceed 4 hours.

As with all sports, conditioning and physical preparation is important. A portion of each practice is dedicated towards exercises that increase flexibility and strengthen the abdominals, lower back, quadriceps, and upper body (arms and shoulders). The intensity of practices should increase gradually, as should the difficulty of stunts, tumbling and other sport specific skills.

The American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) recommends the following restrictions for elementary, middle school and junior high <u>school</u> teams:

- Basket tosses, elevator tosses and similar multi-based tosses are prohibited.
- The total number of twists in a dismount from stunts cannot be greater than one rotation. Exception: side facing stunts (i.e. Arabesque, scorpion, etc.) may add a one-quarter twist to cradle the front.

## **Competitive Cheerleading Guidelines (Trial probation established March 2025)**

# Sixth through Eighth Grades

**Team Structure and Objectives**: The squad will focus on high energy, technical skills, and extended routines, with performances lasting approximately three minutes, as opposed to the current one-minute halftime routines. Game Day competitions emphasize crowd-leading skills, enthusiasm, and precision. The primary objective is to showcase school spirit, sportsmanship, and game-ready performances that authentically reflect a live game atmosphere.

Each athlete plays a crucial role in energizing the performance, and with fewer participants, flawless execution becomes essential. Competitions are evaluated based on crowd engagement, clean stunts and tumbling, and maintaining a strong, consistent presence throughout the routine.

Commitment and Practice Schedule: Participation in this squad will require a higher level of commitment than the recreational cheer program. The competitive team will begin practice in July, with two scheduled practices per week and a potential third optional session. This schedule will continue until the start of the school year, after which practices will be reduced to once per week. Leading up to competitions, additional practices may be scheduled as necessary. While allowances will be made for illness and pre-planned vacations, regular attendance is critical to the team's success.

**Costs**: Parents will be responsible for all associated costs including any personal travel expenses related to attending competitions.

**Team Composition and Roster Management:** The division limit is 15 cheerleaders on the floor per competition. Alternates will be fully informed of their status and given the opportunity to continue participation or opt-out. All participants will also be enrolled in recreational cheer. Those not interested in the competitive team can still participate in regular-season recreational cheer.

#### **Cross Country Guidelines**

All students in grades K through 8 are eligible to participate in Cross Country. All who register will be included on the team; try-outs are not required.

There are no restrictions on the number of team members for a Cross Country meet. All registered students will be placed on either a boys' or girls' team to compete in each meet. Every healthy runner participates in every meet. Race distances are set by the event coordinator and may vary based on grade level.

Some meets limit the number of runners that can score as a team for a specific age group. In these instances, some participants may run in an "open" race for their age group, which allows for unlimited runners.

During the season, certain situations may arise where it is decided that some runners should compete in an upper age bracket. This could occur if there are not enough runners to form a team score or if a runner is not sufficiently challenged by others in their age group. The decision to have a runner compete in a higher age bracket will be made by the coach, with the approval of the runner's parents. All participants will still compete, whether they run in their own age group or an upper one.

#### **Golf Guidelines**

**Team Selection:** The team will include students from grades 5 through 8. All students are eligible to play on the team. In accordance with the Northern KY Junior Golf League, golfers will be assigned to "A" and "B" courses based on their individual playing ability, ensuring they match different skill-level courses. End-of-season tournaments take place on "A" and "B" courses, and players will be chosen based on season performance and coaches' evaluations. Coaches will make the final selection.

**Minimum Playing Time:** The golf team season spans approximately six weeks with at least one match per week and up to one practice every other week. Based on the number of golfers on the team, each golfer should have the opportunity to participate in half of the events per season. Golfers are always encouraged to practice on their own as well. Playing time is ultimately at the discretion of the coaches.

#### **Track & Field Guidelines**

**Team Selection:** Teams will consist of both boys and girls from the 5th and 8th grades. All who register will be included on the team; try-outs are not required. Age requirements can be adjusted each year based on expected number of participants, number of coaches, and previous execution at each grade level. The Director must meet with the Officers and get approval during a general meeting before adjusting age requirements.

There are no restrictions on the number of team members for track and field meets or invitational events. All registered

4011 Alexandria Pike

Cold Spring, KY 41076

students will be assigned to either a boys' or girls' team and will participate in each meet or invitational, provided they attend at least one practice session per week.

**Minimum Playing Time:** All runners can participate in every meet if they attend at least one practice per week regularly. The number of events each runner participates in is based on their individual preferences and ability to compete safely. There will be no more than two meets per week.