

St. Ignatius Wildcats

Football Handbook

**“If you are going to be a champion, you must be willing
to pay a greater price than your opponent”**

**Parent
Signature:** _____

Child's Name: _____

Mission Statement:

We are here to educate your child in how to play the game of football. Our coaching staff will challenge each athlete mentally, physically and spiritually. At all times we will strive to teach our athletes respect, integrity, sportsmanship, and discipline. St. Ignatius football emphasizes the principles of teamwork, fostering a sense of family and community, always relating Catholic values and dedication to God. Our belief is that good Catholic athletes make productive, healthy adults.

Principles:

RESPECT for God and mutual respect from parents, teachers, coaches, peers, teammates, opponents, and officials.

INTEGRITY – Strict adherence to the standards and values established by St. Ignatius, the Athletic Association, coaches and teachers is expected.

SPORTSMANSHIP – Coaches, parents and players will abide by the rules of the game and conduct themselves with humility and grace, win or lose.

DISCIPLINE – All practices and games will demand a work ethic, respect for teammates and opponents. We will demand a commitment to observe all rules and a conduct code of good sportsmanship.

CHRISTIANITY – We as volunteers are here for the student athletes. Our goals, decisions and action revolve around teaching good ethics and values.

COMMUNITY – We will instill in our players a sense of community by making them aware of the fact that their deeds and actions directly reflect upon themselves, their family and St. Ignatius.

Selection of Coach (es):

Effort will be made yearly to solicit and publicize need for coaches. Based upon response and program needs, a pool of coaches will be reviewed and selected by the coordinator (s). Coordinators will do their best to find the most technically qualified and competent coaches to provide the student athletes the best possible learning experience.

While we appreciate the time commitment a coach invests, there is no guarantee that a coach will be selected to coach the following year based on previous years' coaching. The criteria below will determine coach selection from year to year.

HEAD COACH and ASSISTANT COACH SELECTION:

The Coordinator (s) will make the final decision regarding coaches, based upon the criteria below:

- Long term commitment to the program for a minimum of 2 years.
- Preference to coaches who do not have a child participating at the respective level
- Knowledge of the sport fundamentals and rules
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate with children
- Time availability and dependability
- Ability to communicate with parents
- Fairness to children and the program
- Completion of the required Archdiocesan Child Abuse Training
- Adherence to the Athletic Association policies
- Parental feedback from previous coaching experience
- Ability to follow rules
- Character and sportsmanship

Each head coach will have the opportunity to be involved in the selection of his coaching staff. This latitude is with the sole purpose as to promote fellowship and a positive environment for the players. Coordinators will have final approval of all selections.

*** A maximum of 4 coaches will be allowed. Coordinators will consider additional coaches should players exceed 25 or as deemed necessary. *****

PLAYING TIME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOYS

Grade	CYO Rules	St. Ignatius
K-1-2	None	As equal as possible
3rd	None	2 series
4 th	None	2 series
5 th	None	1 series
6 th	None	None*
7/8 th JR Varsity	None	None**

* Coaches should attempt to make every effort to get all players in the game, particularly in lopsided games.

* * Players and parents should participate with the expectation that playing time is subordinate to winning.

Playing time is at the discretion of the head coach.

TEAMS

Bandit

- Grades K-2
- All instructional
- Children are coached on positions and introduced to physical contact
- Emphasis placed on basic skills such as:
 - Stance
 - Tackling
 - Hand Off
 - Running and Agility
- Coaches are present on the field and assist with formations and plays
- SCORE IS NOT KEPT NOR IMPORTANT
- Football is fun and coaches focus little on competition
- Every attempt is made to have players play as many positions as possible as long as it does not impede the overall ability to execute basic plays.

Pony

- Grades 3-4
- Players begin competitive play
- Score is kept and games are played with referees and time clock
- Coaches are not permitted on the field during play
- Players learn to call plays in a huddle, have special teams and play to whistle.
- Emphasis is placed on basic skills such as:
 - Stance
 - Tackling
 - Hand Off
 - Running and Agility
 - Positions
 - Formations and play calls
 - Players are introduced to discipline (on time, prepared, responsibility to team).
- Players are expected to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense, formations and play calls.
- Playing time is emphasized over winning and is directly commensurate with players' ability to know roles, responsibilities and effort in practices and games.
- Contact is expected and players are challenged.

Reserve

- Grades 5 &6
- Competitive play
- Coaches **require** players to know roles and responsibilities as they relate to offense, defense, formations and play calls.
- Coaches **require** effort and discipline
- Physical nature of football begins to separate players in terms of desire and skill.
- Emphasis is placed on building football minds, attitudes and mentality.

Varsity

- Grades 7 & 8
- Play to win
- Prepare players for high school football

Parents will be asked to sign a copy of the code of conduct, a copy of the football program and their attendance at their respective coach meeting prior to their child being allowed to participate.

Communication You Should Expect From Your Coach

- Coach's perspective on the game of football
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all players on the squad
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements (fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning)
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Discipline that impacts athlete's playing time or position

Communication Coaches Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations

Appropriate Concerns To Discuss With Coaches

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches

- Other student-athletes

Issues That Are Advised Not To Be Discussed With Coaches

- Team strategy
- Play calling

Appropriate Procedures for Discussing Concerns with the Head Coach

- Call to set up an appointment with the coach (contact the athletic coordinator to set up the meeting if unable to reach the head coach)
- Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
- Discussions with coaches are on an individual basis, not by committee
- Playing time discussions are asked to be scheduled according to the above criteria with a **minimum of 24hours** following the activity / game in question.

If The Meeting with The Coach Did Not Provide A Satisfactory Resolution

- Call to set up an appointment with the coordinator (s)
- Determine the appropriate next step at this meeting

