

## ***Athletic Department Policies***

Athletics are an important component of the overall mission of St. Augustine High School. To help student-athletes, parents, and coaches better understand and navigate the athletic process, some general information and policies are listed here.

Participation in athletics requires a current year physical signed by a doctor be on file with the athletic trainer, acceptance of the “permission to treat”, and completion of all online forms found within the MySchoolApp registration process, and registration and deposit are paid.

- **Academic Eligibility**

For both our CIF and club sports, athletic eligibility at Saints is determined at every grading period (each quarter). Student-athletes must have a 2.0 grade point average. In such a case, the student-athlete is unable to compete in all interscholastic competitions until the end of the next official grading period, assuming a 2.0 grade point average has been achieved. Each head coach is allowed to make their own decision to allow academically ineligible student-athletes to continue practicing.

Academics is a top priority for all Saints athletic teams. Additional explanations and criteria can be found in the CIF Greenbook.

- **Athletic Calendar & Seasons:**

Saints athletic seasons are defined by the CIF Master Calendar, which defines Fall, Winter and Spring seasons, including tryout periods. All student-athletes who are interested in participating on a Saints team will be allowed to try out during the official tryout period. Tryout periods may vary due to injury, or involvement in a previous season of sport. If there is a need for a tryout time outside of the designated time scheduled by the coach, the student-athlete and/or his parents are asked to arrange with the coach in advance for a later tryout period.

Particularly at the varsity level, the 3 seasons of sport often overlap due to playoffs. The current, in-season sport is the expected priority. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to have these discussions with the coaches involved in the overlap, so that a sufficient tryout can be arranged and both players and coaches can properly balance the relationship between sports and seasons.

- **Club Sports:**

Saints does sponsor three club sports throughout the year. The club sports are held to the same standards as our CIF Sport offerings. All the policies and guidelines within this document include our three Saints-sponsored club sports (beach volleyball, rugby, and surfing).

The three club sport seasons are defined by the school and the coach. The season of sport and first allowable practice dates are defined by the Asst. Principal, the AD, and the coach, and in conjunction with the CIF calendar and sports. Club seasons will use a “normal” period between the first practice and first allowable contest (typically 10 days, not including Sundays). End dates are defined before the beginning of that season and will have been cleared by the Asst. Principal and AD.

The policies and guidelines here do not pertain to external club sports (non-Saints affiliated teams). Student-athletes or parents should contact the Asst. Principal or AD if they have questions about external club sports coinciding with CIF athletic participation. Participating in an external club sport/team, “showcase” event, or camp may affect CIF eligibility. Student-athletes are responsible for openly communicating with their coaches.

- **Name, Image, Likeness (NIL):**

NIL stands for Name, Image, Likeness and has greatly impacted the landscape for student-athletes and schools, first at the NCAA level, and now, in the California high school environment. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all stakeholders (student-athletes, coaches, and families) understand the current rules related to NIL and avoid any situation where the eligibility of a Saints student-athlete, or team, is compromised due to violations of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Bylaws. NIL agreements entered by a Saints student-athlete and his family must follow civil law, CIF Bylaws (212, 510) and be with organizations whose products and values are consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Saints Student Handbook as well as the teachings of the Catholic Church. Participation in NIL activities is a personal decision and is independent of St. Augustine High School. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete and his parents/guardians to ensure that a student-athlete's CIF high school eligibility is never compromised by involvement in NIL activities.

For further explanation with respect to applicable guidelines regarding CIF and NIL visit the CIF San Diego website at [www.cifsd.org](http://www.cifsd.org) and/or the CIF State website at [www.cifstate.org](http://www.cifstate.org).

- **Quitting a Team:**

Quitting a team is not an acceptable practice at St. Augustine High School. Student-athletes are encouraged to honor their commitment and finish what they started. There are valuable life-lessons to be learned through athletic and team involvement.

Quitting prior to a team's first official competition (or an equivalent timeline when there has been an approved delay in the tryout period) is not in violation of any policy. Below are the procedures for when a student-athlete quits a team after the first competition: When a student-athlete quits a team after the first competition, two things will happen:

1. The student-athlete will be ineligible to train, tryout, or participate in other team-related activities with another sport until the original sport season has concluded. It is the student-athlete's responsibility to keep the upcoming sport coach informed to coordinate an appropriate and approved tryout period once eligibility is reestablished. This is a separate policy from any academic eligibility rules.
2. The student-athlete must attend a meeting with the Asst. Principal and/or AD. At this meeting, the policy here will be reviewed, and the student-athlete will have a chance to share in his decision-making process. Failure to meet will remove any possibility of appeal (see below).

Following the student-athlete's meeting with the Asst. Principal and/or AD, the family may request an appeal with the Athletic Panel. Only one appeal will be heard, and the appeal must be requested within one week of the student-athlete's meeting with the Asst. Principal and/or AD. The Athletic Panel will consist of the Asst. Principal, AD, and a varsity head coach (of a sport not involved in process). The student-athlete at least one parent/guardian must attend. The student-athlete can also request a faculty member of his choosing to attend on his behalf. The Athletic Panel will hear the case, review, and then determine if the circumstances dictate the consequences for quitting remain, be altered, or removed. If the consequences remain, the student-athlete will not receive a varsity letter for that season and be ineligible for consideration for the Gold Medal for Athletics

- **Team Cuts & Playing Time:**

While Saints does offer some sports that do not have cuts, there are some sports that do have to make cuts at the end of the tryout period. When an athlete is cut from a sport, we encourage the student-athlete to meet with his coach to gain an understanding of why he was cut. Parents/guardians can contact the coach about the cuts after the student-athlete has had an opportunity to meet with the coach.

It is a privilege to be on a Saints athletic team; there is no guarantee of playing time.

- **Varsity Letters**

All varsity head coaches will define their standards for what constitutes the earning of a varsity letter. The standards for one sport may be different for another sport. For varsity sports, this will be outlined by the varsity coach at the pre-season parent meeting.

Once a varsity letter has been earned, student-athletes can see the AD for the ordering instructions for a letterman's jacket.

For junior and senior students on varsity rosters, a "Scholar Athlete" patch will be awarded for those students who have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in the most recently completed official grading period, relative to their season of sport. This award is only given once.