

St Williams Dads' Club Athletic Department  
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Visit St. William Crusader Athletics at [www.saintwilliam.net](http://www.saintwilliam.net)

# *St. William Parish Athletic Participants Guide*

*Prepared by the St. William Dads' Club for players, parents,  
and coaches involved with parish-sponsored athletics.*

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# St William Parish Athletic Participants Guide

## Athletics as a Component of the Parish Mission

One potentially significant contribution to the life of a community is the Catholic Youth Organization's athletic program. Youth are allowed to express themselves through athletics while developing harmony of body, mind, and spirit. By participating in the CYO Athletic Program, young men and women develop self-confidence, discipline, and a sense of perseverance which serve as a foundation for them to build upon. Any student of a sponsoring parish elementary school or any registered member of a parish is eligible to participate in CYO athletics.

The Athletic Program meets the needs of many youth by providing an environment that satisfies the needs of stability, friendship and meaning to its participants. With its young athletes in mind, CYO athletics strives to associate the competitive spirit of athletic events with the spirit of struggle corresponding to spiritual growth. With the appropriate adult interest and supervision that CYO provides, athletic competition can accomplish these objectives.

The Church's approach to athletic competition reflects the view that Christian maturity comes as a process of inner growth. The accumulation of symbols indicating victory or defeat is insignificant in relation to the lifetime gains of athletic experience. The Church is involved with an athletic program in witness to a community that values individual and communal efforts above victory or defeat.

The history of the youth movement in the Church in America seems to verify the many worthwhile benefits that have come from Church sponsored athletic programs. These programs have been a beginning point of contact and source of identity with the Church, for the young people involved. Many adults have athletic abilities to offer CYO athletics by coaching & volunteering to work with the kids. Through their volunteer work, adults have a tremendous influence in the physical and Christian development of youth.

For millions of young people, CYO athletics has served as the contact point for further forms of ministry, such as involvement in parish youth groups, retreat movements, prayer groups catechetical etc. Yet, CYO athletics is also reaping another remarkable fruit. Young people who have participated in sports programs are now returning as adults to share what they have received. This involvement in the Church's apostolate to youth, in the role of coaches, adult advisors, board members, and interested parents is a sign of true ministry.

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Dear Parents, Coaches and Athletes,

The St. William athletic program prides itself on the sportsmanship, consideration, and the Christian character of its players, parents, coaches, and supporters. Our philosophy is the personal improvement and development of every participant, emphasizing our appreciation of sportsmanship and team play in a Christian atmosphere.

The goal of our program will not be to win at all cost, sacrificing the Christian principles that are being propagated at St. William Parish. Our goal is to blend Christian values, along with fundamental instruction and teamwork. We will attempt to build self-esteem and confidence in all of our athletes within the context of competitive athletic events. We will encourage and expect our athletes to compete to the best of their ability, while at the same time fostering in these athletes a genuine joy of the game and mutual respect.

Parents and/or Guardians are encouraged to participate in the program whenever possible. We strongly discourage involvement to the point of outbursts during games, which send the wrong message to our children. Parents' attendance at games is strongly recommended in order to show your child the support they need.

The Athletic Department at St. William is providing these guidelines to all people involved in the program. The guidelines outline expected responsibilities, behaviors and corrective actions. These are only guidelines; therefore the Athletic Department reserves the right to change the guidelines if adjustments are deemed necessary.

Failure to comply with the guidelines stated in this document will result in disciplinary action that will be corrective in nature. There will be no right to appeal if an infraction occurs, so that consistency may be achieved throughout the entire program. Special treatment of individual athletes, regardless of the situation, will not be allowed. If an infraction of the St. William Athletic Program Guidelines does occur, we will invoke the corrective actions as stated within this document.

The following pages explain the guidelines in more detail. Please read them and go over them with your child. All of us who are involved in the St. William Athletic Program want it to be the best. Let's work together to make it happen.

Good Luck during the upcoming season. GO CRUSADERS!

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## SECTION I: PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS

### A. DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES TO ENSURE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

*St. William is a Catholic parish where Christian principles are integrated into all academic and athletic programs. Each player at St. William should demonstrate the value of these Christian principles.*

1. Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing the parish, school, and community.
2. Refrain from making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game. Abusive language will NOT be permitted while at games or at practices.
3. Perform well at school. Disciplinary actions taken at school may impact your eligibility for sports. A suspension from school is an automatic suspension from a game!
4. Never criticize another member of the team.
5. Control your emotions at practice and games; be a good sport, no physical confrontations will be tolerated.
6. Never destroy, damage, or abuse any of the parish's athletic equipment or any other parish property. If you are guilty of deliberate destruction or vandalism, you and your parent or guardian will be held responsible for the cost of repairing or replacing the damaged item or equipment, and you will not be allowed to participate in your team's games or practices until the situation is resolved to the satisfaction of the pastor and/or the athletic director. You may also be held financially responsible if you accidentally or unintentionally damage or destroy parish property as the result of horseplay, carelessness, or other irresponsible behavior. (Involvement in athletics is supposed to make you more mature and responsible, not less.) You will not be held responsible for normal wear and tear of athletic equipment, nor for damage to parish items or equipment resulting from an honest mistake or accident on your part. However, as a way of demonstrating your appreciation for the sacrifice of St. William parishioners (who've made our athletic program possible), you are expected to exercise reasonable care and common sense at all times.
7. Treat all officials, opposing players, and spectators with dignity and respect.
8. If you quit a team, you may be allowed to rejoin the team only if the coaching staff and Program Director agrees.
9. Attend mass with your team on designated Sundays.
10. Learn the skills and rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with teammates, parents, friends and fellow students.
11. Wish opponents good-luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat. Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity.

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## **B. STRESS ACADEMICS ABOVE ATHLETICS**

*All St. William student athletes are students first and athletes second. Make sure you set aside time in your day for homework and study.*

1. Organize your day so that there is time for both practice and homework. If you get behind in your work or have a special project that needs extra time, talk it over with your coach and work something out before you get too far behind.
2. With the understanding that each athlete's academic level is different, it will be the responsibility of the parents and teachers to enforce a satisfactory level of academics for participation in our program.

## **C. COMMUNICATE WITH COACHES**

*All of the coaches at St. William are concerned about you and your future. Feel free to discuss with them anything that is bothering you and ask them for help if you need it.*

1. Notify your coach in advance when you are unable to get to a practice, game, or mass. Legitimate excuses will be accepted and no disciplinary action will be taken. If you miss a practice, game, or mass without notifying the coach, you will be disciplined according to the corrective action schedule in Section IV.
2. Talk to your coach if there is something you don't understand or if something is bothering you. They want to help you be the best you can.

## **D. EFFORT AND PARTICIPATION**

Remember that your coaches are giving maximum effort and are here on a volunteer basis, taking time away from their families and private life. You will be required to give the same level of effort.

1. You are expected to give 100% of your attention to your coaches and 100% effort during practices and games. Remember that your playing time will depend on it.
2. Be timely for all events. Show up for practice and games early. Don't be late.
3. Bring a good attitude to the field and show an eagerness to learn the sport.

## **E. CHEERLEADERS**

*Cheerleaders have a unique role in our athletic program. Whether they are in competition or when they are in a sideline support role, they are our voice and are heard by everyone in attendance. It is because of this visibility that they take special note of the following guidelines.*

- Understand the seriousness and responsibility of your role, and the privilege of representing the parish, school, and community.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly & discuss them with teammates, parents, fans, & fellow students.
- Treat opposing cheerleaders and fans the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or friend.
- Wish opposing cheerleaders good-luck before the game and congratulate them in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.
- Establish standards of desirable behavior for the squad and attempt in a cheerful manner to transfer that to your spectators.
- Select positive cheers that praise your team without antagonizing the opponents.
- Encourage a positive crowd alternative by starting a popular positive cheer.
- Give encouragement to injured players and recognition to outstanding performances for both teams.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.

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## SECTION II: COACHES / PROGRAM DIRECTORS / ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

### A. DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES TO ENSURE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

*St. William is a Catholic Parish where Christian principles are integrated into all religious, academic, and athletic programs. All Athletic Leaders at St. William should demonstrate the value of these Christian principles.*

1. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong Christian, ethical and integrity standards.
2. No use of abusive language will be tolerated.
3. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual student athlete. Never humiliate or belittle a player.
4. Use proper decorum during games and practices.
5. Set a good example for players and spectators to follow. Please refrain from arguments in front of players and spectators; no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach does not know what he/she is doing or talking about; no throwing of any objects in disgust; treat officials with dignity and respect. Demand the same of your players.
6. Abide by and teach the skills of the game in letter and in spirit.
7. Attend mass with the team on designated Sundays.
8. Lead the team in prayer before each game.
9. Coaches have the responsibility to ensure that games are conducted in a safe manner. If a coach feels that an unsafe environment exists, the coach has the authority to pull their team and file an official protest with the league. Any such occurrence will be subject to review by both the Athletic Department and the Executive Board of the St. William Dads' Club.
10. Coaches must foster the attitude that winning by the rules and losing with pride are part of being an athlete. Insist that all players represent the ideals and values of our parish community.
11. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
12. **All coaches and other persons who are in a leadership role or volunteer for a program must have attended a “Protecting God’s Children” course.**

### B. COMMUNICATE WITH PARENTS

*Parents at St. William want to be involved in the program. Allow them to feel a part of the team by including them whenever possible.*

1. There will be a **mandatory meeting** with the players and parents prior to the start of the season. This meeting should include discussions about chain of communication, coaching philosophy, the coach's expectations of the players, this participation guide and all required paperwork. It is also recommended that a second meeting be held with parents as a group at the halfway point of the season.
2. Notify players and families of practice times, game times, and upcoming special events as soon as possible or at the earliest convenience. If possible, give at least one-week lead-time.
3. Honor reasonable requests for individual parent meetings.

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4. Respect the parents concern for their children and do your best to communicate your reasons for any actions you take which affect their child.
5. Provide directions to all players showing the location of away games. The SWDC website has directions to game locations.

## C. TEACH ALL PLAYERS THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GAME

*The number of wins and losses accumulated during the season will not judge success at St. William. Success will be based on the character of a team and the progress every member of the team makes during the season.*

*The purpose of CYO Athletics, especially at the 5th and 6th grade level, is to provide a program that is in the best interest of the participants and exemplifies Christian principles. The CYO Athletic program is designed to give the opportunity to each student-athlete to develop and use skills in a chosen sport.*

*Each coach must be committed to instruct each child participating on a team and must provide each child with the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the team. Each coach must help all student athletes learn the fundamentals of the sport, develop their skills, give their best efforts at all times, work together as a team, and demonstrate good sportsmanship. All of this can be accomplished through a participatory or instructional program. All CYO coaches at this level should strongly emphasize participation and skill acquisition. This can be accomplished by the following:*

1. Provide equal amounts of practice time for all players.
2. Spend at least 1/3 of all practice time on fundamentals using specific drills designed to improve fundamentals.
3. Do your best to provide playing time to all players on the team.
4. It is **strongly suggested** that when the score of any game reaches the following leads, make substitutions so that all players get a chance to play:
  - Basketball 15 points, CYO rules will apply (if applicable).
  - Baseball/Softball 7 runs, league rules apply (if applicable).
  - Football 21 points (CYO league rules)
  - Soccer 5 goals, league rules will apply (if applicable).
  - Volleyball CYO rules will apply
  - Cheerleading N/A
5. Recommendations for providing maximum participation:
  - Substitute evenly.
  - Give each player the opportunity to be a starter at least once.
  - Divide the number of minutes by the number of players and substitute appropriately.
  - Coaches for both teams could mutually agree that substitutes will play the last half of the game.
  - Always have a plan in mind and allow the assistant coaches to help manage playing time.

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## D. REQUIRE PLAYER DISCIPLINE AND RESPECT

*Our young people need to learn to respect authority and to get along in a team environment. No disrespect of coaches will be allowed from any player and no preferential treatment will be allowed at St. William.*

1. Each player will be required to participate in practices at the same energy level. Those who work the hardest should get the playing time.
2. No player will be allowed to argue with or swear at a coach, official, teacher, parent, authority figure, or another player.
3. Players will not be allowed to criticize their teammates.
4. Any player who misses a practice, game, or mass is required to notify the coach and explain the reason for the absence in advance. Legitimate excuses are acceptable and no disciplinary action should be taken. Unexcused absences should be disciplined in accordance with the St. William corrective action schedule as outlined in Section IV of this document.

## E. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

*Coaches will handle all administrative responsibilities as assigned by the Program Director or Athletic Director in a timely and efficient manner.*

1. Provide digital or hard copies of the Athletic Participation Guide to each player and their parent(s).
2. Collect, Registration forms, Athletic Participation Guide acceptance form, CYO forms and Health Physical forms from all players before allowing them to participate in practice.
3. Read and Sign the Player Participation Guide acceptance forms for all players.
4. Collect uniform deposit (if applicable) from all players before distributing uniforms.
5. Collect participation fee (if applicable) from all players before allowing them to participate.
6. Coordinate the distribution of uniforms at the beginning of the season and the return of uniforms at the end of the season.
7. Respond to all CYO inquiries in a timely and accurate manner. Notify the AD of any CYO inquiries.
8. Report all scores to the CYO office per the guidelines established by the CYO.
9. Attend CYO meetings as required.
10. Attend clinics to improve coaching skills whenever possible.

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## SECTION III: PARENTS

### A. SUPPORT THE COACHES

*Parents should support the coaches decisions regarding any disciplinary actions taken and should work with their child to help them understand the reason for any disciplinary action.*

1. If any parent does not understand disciplinary or other actions taken by a coach, talk it over with the coach. Parents should refrain from approaching coaches immediately before, during, or immediately following a game. A separate meeting should be scheduled to discuss these matters.
2. Keep in mind that our coaching staffs are volunteers and they are here because they love working with kids and they love the sport.

### B. COMMUNICATE WITH THE COACHES AND THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

*The best way to avoid any misunderstanding is to get information from the right source. If you have a question or a concern about some aspect of the athletic program, feel free to talk it over with the coach. He or she is the best source of information regarding your child's team.*

1. If the discussion with the Coach is not satisfactory, then please follow the chain of command by contacting the following:
  - Program Director - If that discussion is not satisfactory then continue.
  - Athletic Director(s) - If your concern is still not resolved then continue.
  - Executive Board - If the discussion with the athletic department is not satisfactory, then feel free to discuss the matter with the St. William Dads' Club Executive Board. If you approach them first about your concern, chances are they won't know anything about it and they will ask you if you have spoken to the coach or the athletic administration first.
2. If you hear other parents complaining about something or spreading a rumor, ask them if they have discussed the matter with the coach and remind them that there is a communication chain of command and they are encouraged to approach the St. William Coach with their concerns.
3. Comments and/or suggestions regarding the athletic program are welcome. Please submit your thoughts in writing to the Athletic Director at [ad@saintwilliam.net](mailto:ad@saintwilliam.net). There is a Dads' Club mailbox at the Rectory and the School Office where you may drop off your suggestions. The SWDC website is also another avenue of communication, [www.siantwilliam.net](http://www.siantwilliam.net).

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## C. DEMONSTRATE CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR AT GAMES TO ENSURE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

*The nature of competitive athletics has a tendency to bring out extreme behavior in participants and spectators. In an attempt to put into the forefront the values and ideals of our Catholic Community, we remind you of the following:*

1. The coaching staff deserves your respect.
2. Demonstrate respect for the coaches, officials, and the parents and players of opposing teams. Treat them as you would have them treat us.
3. Have fun at the games and feel free to cheer and make noise, but please do not use foul language or act in an unsportsmanlike manner.
4. Remember that you are at a contest to support and cheer for your team and to enjoy the skill and competition, not to intimidate or ridicule the other team, fans or officials. Never boo, hiss, or vocalize any negative emotions toward opposing players, coaches, or fans. Opposing teams at St. William are our guests and should be accorded every possible courtesy. Opposing teams at their facilities are our hosts and should be accorded the respect which good guests accord their hosts in other circumstances.
5. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
6. Be a positive role model through your own actions at events and by censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming, inappropriate or distracting.
7. Parents who do get out of control during games may be asked to leave the vicinity.

## D. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Obtain a health physical examination for your child before the beginning of the season and submit the physical documentation form to the coach. No child will be allowed to participate without a physical.
2. Submit a CYO form to the coach. No child will be allowed to participate without a CYO form on file.
3. Read and sign the Athletic Participation Guide Acceptance Form, no player will be allowed to participate without a parent's signature in addition to his or her own.
4. Pay any participation fee (if applicable). No child will be allowed to participate without payment of the participation fee, unless a payment plan or scholarship has been established.
5. Take care of the uniform provided to your child. Keep it clean during the season and return it clean to the coach after the end of the season. **Do not allow your child to wear the uniform for anything other than a scheduled St. William game or the Athletic Department Picture Day. Please refer to the Uniform Policy in Section V. of this Document.**
6. Parents are asked to attend all games and will be asked to contribute their time. Check with your coach to get the list/schedule of jobs that are in need of a volunteer parent.
7. Parents are not to drop off their children for practice unless two adults are present. Parents are to pick up their children promptly following practices and games. Walk in to drop off and pick up your player.

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## SECTION IV: EXPECTED BEHAVIOR FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

*Please remember that you are representing St. William Parish and that this privilege comes with a responsibility to exemplify good Christian values at all times.*

### A: UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

The St. William Dads' Club takes pride in its programs and those athletes who represent them. In order to preserve our reputation, unbecoming behavior will not be tolerated. The following is the list of rules governing unacceptable behavior:

1. No use of abusive language is accepted.
2. No unexcused absence from practice, games or team mass is permitted.
3. Player insubordination to a coach will not be tolerated.
4. Conduct unbecoming a representative of our Catholic community is unacceptable.
5. Instigating a fight while participating in St. William sports is unacceptable.
6. No abuse of St. William equipment or facilities will be permitted.

Should any participant exhibit any of the behavior, as listed above, the following corrective actions may apply:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense One game suspension
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense Two game suspension
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense Removal from that sport

Keep in mind that there may be some behavior not listed above where the coaches may want to take corrective action that may be greater or less than the suspensions listed above.

### B: EJECTIONS

Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game will serve a minimum mandatory suspension of at least one (1) game regardless of the circumstances. Any player, coach or spectator receiving a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) ejection will serve a minimum mandatory suspension of at least two (2) games. The suspension will be served during the next regularly scheduled CYO game(s) including playoffs. Ejected athletes will attend the suspended game(s) in street clothes. Ejected adults are not permitted to attend suspended game(s). Any player, coach or spectator receiving a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) ejection will serve a mandatory suspension for the rest of the season.

The Athletic Director is responsible for monitoring ejections and enforcing game suspensions of any kind. Each head coach is responsible for reporting all ejections to the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will then conduct a complete investigation and report the facts and his recommendations for any further disciplinary action to the Executive Board. Any further disciplinary action other than those stated above will come from the Executive Board and will be final.

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## SECTION V. UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT POLICY

### A. ATHLETE'S and PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

*The St. William Dads' Club will provide a game uniform to each athlete signed up for a sport. In some cases there will be practice uniforms provided. Regardless of what uniform you receive, please remember that once you receive it, it is your responsibility to take good care of it.*

- For all sports, no exceptions, the game uniform provided will be the only uniform worn during any and all games. No variations are allowed.
- Uniforms will only be worn at games and special events designated by the Director of said sport. Uniforms will not be worn at other times.
- At the end of the season or if an athlete leaves the program, they will be asked to return the entire uniform in a clean state and in a timely manner.
- Missing or damaged uniforms will be billed accordingly to the athlete. If uniforms are not returned or the bill has not been paid, the athlete's family will be banned from all St. William sports activities until the uniform is returned or payment arrangements have been made with the St. William Dads' Club.

The following is a list of items that each athlete may receive and must return for each sport:

- Football: Helmet, practice pants, game pants, 2 game jerseys (home and away), 1 set of shoulder pads, 2 knee pads, 2 hip pads, 2 thigh pads, 1 tail bone pad, 1 girdle and 1 belt.
- Volleyball: Game shorts and 2 jerseys (home and away)
- Cheerleading: Uniform top, skirt and carrying bag.
- Basketball: Game shorts and 2 jerseys (home and away)
- Baseball: Game jerseys and pants

Athletes from other sports may get a T-Shirt from the Dads' Club that are yours to keep.

Any additional pieces of equipment and or accessories not listed above are typically the responsibility of the athlete to obtain. (i.e. shoes, socks, extra padding, spunks, hair pieces, body suits...etc)

### B. SPORTS PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 1. UNIFORM PURCHASE

*It is the Program Director's responsibility to completed the process for the purchase of new uniforms for their sport. Keep in mind the following guidelines:*

- At least two bids must be obtained and evaluated prior to ordering. The Executive Board must approve all purchases.
- At least two samples will be presented to the Executive Board for final approval.
- St. William colors are Kelly green and white. (Black trim optional) These colors will be the dominant colors on the uniforms. Any variation of colors must be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.
- Either "St. William" and/or "Crusaders" and/or the St. William "W" will be displayed on all uniforms. The Executive Board must approve any variations of lettering, wording or logos.
- The quality of the uniform is of utmost importance. Each new uniform should be able to last 5 – 7 seasons and be in a style that will not become outdated after a couple of years.

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- Uniforms must comply with the regulations governing each sport (i.e. numbering, home and away jerseys... etc). The matrix of sizes and numbers for uniforms ordered should allow for changes in player sizes and team sizes, which are likely to occur over the anticipated uniform life. The size and number matrix should be approved by the Executive Board prior to the release of the order.
- Replacement of uniforms should be predictable and scheduled on a regular basis. A uniform matrix will be developed and maintained by the Athletic Director so that scheduling of new purchases can be budget by the St William Dads' Club.
- The retirement and/or disposal of old uniforms are necessary when they reach a point where storage or appearance is not feasible or the uniforms are not needed any more. If pre-planned, old uniforms can be given to athletes at the end of the season in lieu of collecting them. Otherwise, old uniforms will be kept as inventory or used as practice equipment.

## 2. INVENTORY

*Inventory management of uniforms and equipment is the responsibility of the Program Director. Keep in mind the following guidelines when doing so:*

- Uniform storage shall be in a central location during the off-season.
- The Program Director will keep a roster that indicates what uniforms and pieces of equipment have been given to each athlete. The roster will be signed by a parent or guardian of the athlete to indicate that they received said equipment.
- Each Director shall manage inventory and the equipment necessary for the function of their sport as directed by the Director's job description.
- Each Program Director budget, due on June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, will be the main approval process for funding needed equipment and uniforms.
- Any other items that are not in the budget, and/or approved, but are needed must be submitted to the Executive Board as soon as possible to expedite the procurement process.

The following is equipment that should be maintained and on hand:

- Football: blocking dummies, cones sleds, helmet covers, footballs (including game balls), kicking tees, water bottles/jugs, weight scale, equipment bags.
- Volleyball: volleyballs (including game balls), nets, stanchion pads, ball carts
- Basketballs: basketballs (including game balls), nets, wall pads, ball carts/bags.
- Cheerleading: floor mats, pompoms, cheer signs.

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## Section VI. Team Development and League Placement

*Program Directors for each sport must keep in mind that the number of wins and losses will not measure success at St. William, but by how well our athletes are able to learn how to play the sport. It is the general consensus of the St. William Dads' Club that in order for an athlete to really learn the sport they must be able to compete at their skill level. It is through hard practice and even competition that athletes are able to test themselves and strive to improve. It is imperative that each athlete reaches their highest potential in order for them to excel in their sport of choice. With proper team development and league placement we can help all our athletes realize their highest potential with the goal of competing at the next level.*

### A. Team Formation -

- All St William CYO teams will conform to CYO team formation and player participation rules.
- Program Directors, if necessary due to team size and or talent pool, shall have a general evaluation session for their sport. This session will be designed for a general analysis of each participant's skill level to determine team formation based on placement or placements with cuts.
- All potential or pre-designated coaches should be in attendance at the general evaluation session so they can have input on team formation.
- **Whether by placement or placement with cuts, teams should be formed to create the best overall program, while providing the best opportunity for each participant. Team Placement is very important to understand. All the most talented players will not be placed on one team, leaving a talent void on a 2<sup>nd</sup> team. Thru the evaluation each player will be placed on a team to create the best program for St William.**
- The St William Athletic Department will strive to run programs without making cuts. In those circumstances when team size is limited and cuts are necessary the following guidelines will be used: Registration will be closed as soon as possible after it is determined that cuts will be necessary, Doing so may alleviate the need to make cuts and a waitlist can be constructed. Group evaluations will take place and each participant will be allowed to perform to the best of their abilities. As many coaches and or qualified evaluators will be used by the Program Director to ensure a fair group is assembled to evaluate the participants. The Evaluators will provide input for team formation and identify those participants that will be cut from the program. It will be the Program Director's responsibility to inform those participants that will be cut.

### B. League Placement

- Program Directors, along with the assistance of the coaches will recommend at which CYO level each team is to play.
- Program Directors will submit to the Athletic Director their recommendations on team placement in the CYO league.
- The AD will then communicate with the CYO to attempt to properly place our teams in league play.
- Other Non- CYO sports that the St William Dads' Club supports, the AD will communicate with that sports league to ensure the Club's standards are met.

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If all participants follow these guidelines the St. William Athletics Program will be one of the most successful in the entire CYO. Good luck and most importantly HAVE FUN!

GO CRUSADERS!

## Prayer before an Athletic Event

Strong and Faithful God,  
As we come together for this contest,  
We ask you to bless these athletes.

Keep them safe from injury and harm,  
Instill in them respect for each other,  
And reward them for their perseverance.

Lead us all to the reward of your kingdom  
Where you live and reign forever and ever.  
Amen.

## Crusader Fight Song

On St. William, on St. William, stand up  
Crusaders sing!  
Forward is our driving spirit, loyal voices ring!  
On St. William, on St. William, fight on for our  
fame!  
Fight! St. William, Fight! Fight! Fight!  
We'll win this game!

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## ATHLETIC PARTICIPANTS GUIDE ACCEPTANCE FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (Print Name)

**We have read and understand the St. William Athletic Participants Guide. We agree to abide by the rules and expectations set forth in this Participants Guide revised January 26, 2011 while competing in any St. William Dads' Club athletic sponsored activities.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date