

St. Christopher School Sports Philosophy

The athletic department at St. Christopher School recognizes the importance of participation in athletics as a means to providing a well-rounded educational experience for our students. A sound athletic program improves the quality of student life, promotes school spirit, and helps attract students to the school.

The primary focus of the athletic program is to have our students learn new skills and develop their talents in a fun, competitive atmosphere. We acknowledge the desire to provide opportunities for as many students as possible to participate, while at the same time recognize the need to limit the size of teams in the interest of safety and fairness in playing time. There is also recognition that many of our students will continue their athletic endeavors in high school, and we have a responsibility to prepare them for that higher level of competition. We will always teach and support an atmosphere of good sportsmanship and respect for our opponents.

1. Number of Teams Available for Our Students

4th Grade & Junior Varsity: There will be a possibility of a 2nd team to satisfy demand as long as:

- Qualified coaches are available to coach the teams
- If more than one team is populated, they will be divided up by grade level. Each team will then be put in a division or league, based on ability levels, which is appropriate and allows them to be both safe and competitive.

Varsity: 1 team per sport

- Team rosters are limited, (for purposes of safety and fairness in playing time), by sport as follows:

Basketball 12 max
Baseball 13 max
Softball 13 max
Volleyball 12 max

2. Tryouts: At least 2 days of tryouts & all cuts will be made on the phone

- Tryout forms must be turned in by the date on the form. There will be no tryout forms allowed after the deadline.
- Will be opened to parents to watch if they choose
 - There will be no talking to coaches or children (including your own) during the tryout
- 4th Grade there will be no cuts
 - If the team is overpopulated, and a second coach cannot be secured, the players will rotate the games dressed. This will be decided by administration and coaches before the season.
- 5th/6th Grade there will be cuts, and any player cut can practice with the team to continue their development
 - Practice players will not be allowed to dress for games

These guidelines for playing time are at the coach's discretion based on players' commitment to their teams, behavior, and effort in practices and games. The guidelines are also consistent with the school's policy to limit team sizes for the purpose of safety and fairness.

3. Playing Time

Overall, a student's playing time will be based on student's commitment towards the team, behavior, and effort at practice and in games. All teams will always enter each game with the goal of winning, but the following parameters will apply:

4th Grade – All players get equal playing time, with the rare exceptions of the final minutes of playoff or championship games, if applicable.

Junior Varsity (5th/6th Grade) - Every effort will be made to provide playing time to each player in every game, although not necessarily equal time. Exceptions may be made for playoff, tournament, or championship games.

Varsity (7th/8th Grade) - There is recognition that the level of competition is often higher for Varsity sports, and playing time may not be available for all players in every game. However, coaches will make every reasonable effort to provide playing time for all players.

4. Coaches & Parents Meeting

Coaches will be obligated to hold a parent meeting before the start of that particular sports season. The purpose of the meeting will be to explain the above policies and answer any questions parents may have.

* If necessary, adjustments can be made by school administration and sports committee

Guidelines:

- 1. Must turn in the tryout form or registration form in by deadline per sport**
- 2. An updated physical is on file with school nurse**
- 3. Player/Parent contract & activity fee are turned into coach or Mr. Hoover per sport**
- 4. Students must follow Diocesan Athletic Eligibly guidelines.**