

Saint James School

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

for

STUDENT ATHLETES

2011-2012



**Saint James School
Trojans**



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Trojans**

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**2011-2012
Athletic Department Contacts**

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Cross Country	Alexia H Henig	782-9980
Volleyball	Amy Patterson	277-8033 ext.147
Boys Basketball	Nigel Card	277-8033 ext.146
Girls Basketball	Katie Barton	277-8033 ext.147
Wrestling	Craig Duncan	277-8033 ext. 146
Golf	Jeff McIntyre	277-8033
Track	Alexia H Henig	782-9980
Tennis	Kim Jackson	277-8033 ext.160
Soccer	Charlie Brightwell	334-657-1420
Cheerleading	Kim Jackson	277-8033 ext.160
Softball	Heather Chinoski	334-201-3437
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Alabama High School Athletic Association 2011-2012 Calendar of Events

JULY

28 First practice date for volleyball

AUGUST

1 First practice date for football, cross country, swimming & diving
18 First contest date for volleyball
19-20 Champions Challenge (Montgomery)
25 First contest date for football, cross country, swimming & diving

OCTOBER

10, 11 Area Volleyball Tournaments
15 Regional Volleyball Tournaments
20 Sub-State Volleyball Games
26-27 State Volleyball Tournament (Pelham)

NOVEMBER

4, 11, 18, 25 State Football Playoffs (Rounds 1-4)
5 Section Cross Country Meets
12 State Cross Country Meet (Moulton)
19 State Cheerleading Competition (Hanceville)

DECEMBER

1-2 Super 6 Football Championships (Tuscaloosa)
2-3 State Swimming & Diving Meet (Auburn)
10 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Classic (Mobile)

FEBRUARY

2-3 State Indoor Track (Birmingham)
6, 9, 11 Girls Area Basketball Tournaments
7, 10, 13 Boys Area Basketball Tournaments
10-11 Section Wrestling Tournaments
16-18 State Wrestling Tournament (Huntsville)
16 Girls Sub-Regional Basketball Games
17 Boys Sub-Regional Basketball Games
21-25 Regional Basketball Tournaments

28-March 3 Final 48 State Basketball Tournament
(Birmingham)

MARCH

16 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star
Basketball Games (Pelham)
19 Alabama High School Sports Hall of
Fame Induction (Montgomery)

APRIL

9 Bryant-Jordan Student Athlete Awards
Banquet (Birmingham)
16-19 Section Tennis Tournaments
20-21, 27-28, May 4-5, 11-12 State Baseball Playoffs (Rounds 1-4)
23-26 Section Golf Tournaments
23-24, 26-27 State Tennis Tournaments (Mobile,
Montgomery, Decatur)
27-28 Section Track & Field Meets
28-May 5 Area Softball Tournaments
28 Sub-State Soccer Matches (6A only)
30-May 1 Sub-State Golf Tournaments

MAY

1, 5 Sub-State Soccer Matches (all classes)
4-5 State Track & Field Meets (Gulf
Shores, Birmingham)
7-8 State Boys & Girls Golf Tournament
(To be announced)
11-12 Regional Softball Tournaments
11-12 State Soccer Tournament (Huntsville)
14-15 Heptathlon, Decathlon (Birmingham)
15-18 State Baseball Finals (Montgomery)
17-19 State Softball Tournament
(Montgomery)

JULY

9-13 Alabama All-Star Sports Week
(Montgomery)
9-13 Dead Week For Team Camps,
Competitions

Saint James School Calendar 2011-2012

August 8:	New Faculty In-Service
August 9-10	Faculty In-Service Day
August 11:	First Day of School
September 5:	Labor Day
October 10:	Columbus Day
November 11:	Veterans Day
November 21-25:	Thanksgiving
December 16:	Last Day of First Semester (1/2 day)
January 2:	Faculty In-Service Day
January 3:	First Day of Second Semester
January 16:	King/Lee Day
February 20-21	President's Day Break
March 26-30	Spring Break
April 6:	Good Friday
May 20:	Baccalaureate
May 21:	Commencement
May 23:	Last Day of Second Semester
May 24:	Faculty Workday

Saint James Trojan Athletics

Saint James High School is a non-sectarian; independent college preparatory school located in Montgomery, Alabama and is a charter member of the Capital City Conference (CCC). The CCC was established in 1993 and is comprised of six independent schools - each of which is located in Montgomery. The other five charter CCC members are Alabama Christian Academy, Montgomery Catholic High, Montgomery Academy, Saint Jude, and Trinity Presbyterian School.

Saint James is also a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) and competes in classification 4A. There are six classifications in the AHSAA, from 1A - the least populous high schools in the state, to 6A - the most populous. (The student population is not necessarily an accurate representation for independent schools such as Saint James.) Other CCC schools currently participate in class's 2A, 3A, or 4A. Trojan athletic teams compete against quality opponents in all six classifications in over a dozen different sports. Each of these teams' area, regional, or sectional configurations differs, depending upon the sport.

Not only is Saint James School known for their outstanding academic standards, but also they are well represented in the athletic realm. Competing in the AHSAA, Saint James provides students in grades 7-12 with 43 different opportunities to participate. These 43 teams are broken up into 10 girl's and 10 boy's sports. Students in 7th and 8th grade participate at the Middle School level with few exceptions

occurring at the junior varsity and varsity levels (Ex. – golf, soccer, softball, tennis, wrestling, and volleyball). Students in grades 9th-12th have the opportunity to compete at both the junior varsity and varsity levels.

The Saint James Athletic Program has proven success over many years developing a sound tradition. Over the past years, softball, indoor track, girl's tennis, and volleyball delivered State Championship Trophies to Saint James. Along with the Team State Championships, a number of individuals have come home State Champions. Our athletes have also taken the State Runner-Up Trophies several different times over the past years. This strong athletic tradition should continue for years to come at Saint James School.

Philosophy

The athletic program at Saint James School is student-centered and an integral part of the student's total educational experience. The program is designed to provide positive learning opportunities for each student who participates. Students will benefit from the development of physical fitness, leadership, teamwork, social skills, self-discipline, and integrity. Decision-making skills, good citizenship, good sportsmanship, and the promotion of individual maturity should also result from athletic participation. These characteristics assist in the development of individual and team attitudes that are beneficial for a successful season and for future life.

At the middle school and junior varsity levels, emphasis is on skill development and participation, as well as team success. **However, the school does not adhere to an “all players get equal playing time” policy even at these levels.** At the varsity level, team success and performance become more primary objectives.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is character displayed within the realm of sport. People of character live by the “Six Pillars of Character,” universal values that can be used to define a good person: **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.** Sportsmanship can be broken down according to each pillar:

Trustworthiness: Always pursue victory with honor – Demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity – Observe and enforce the spirit and letter of rules – Don't compromise education and character-development goals – Don't engage in or tolerate dishonesty, cheating, or dishonorable conduct

Respect: Treat the traditions of the sport and other participants with respect – Don't engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane, or belligerent “trash talking,” taunting, and unseemly celebrations – Win with grace and lose with dignity

Responsibility: Be a positive role model on and off the field and require the same of athletes – Further the mental, social, and moral development of Athletes and teach life skills that enhance personal success and social responsibility – maintain competence including basic knowledge of: 1) character building; 2) first aid and safety; and 3) coaching principles, rules, and strategies

Fairness: Adhere to high standards of fair play – Treat players fairly according to their abilities – Never take unfair advantage – Be open-minded

Caring: Assure that the academic, emotional, physical, and moral well being of athletes is always placed above desires and pressures to win

Citizenship: Avoid gamesmanship and promote sportsmanship by honoring the rules and goals of the sport – Establish codes of conduct for the coaches, athletes, parents, and spectators – Safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco – Demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those relating to gambling and the use of drugs

Sportsmanship for Parents

Being the parent of a student-athlete can be a great experience. Parental support is very important to the athletes, the school, and the community. To ensure a rewarding experience, we offer the following suggestions on being a supportive athletic parent:

- Attend games when possible. Your presence is very important to your child. Having first-hand knowledge of the event offers an opportunity for sharing with your student-athlete.
- Be positive. Being on a school team is an accomplishment. Do not let playing time dictate the athletes' happiness. Celebrate the fact that the student was good enough to make the team. When things are not going well for your student or the team, be positive and supportive.
- Be supportive of the coaching staff in the presence of your student-athlete. Nothing can damage teamwork faster than athletes doubting the capabilities of their coaches. If you have concerns, please contact the coach or the Athletic Director at the appropriate time.
- Be part of a parent network. Socializing with other parents at games, after games, at team dinners, etc., fosters special relationships. Be positive with each other and remind one another about remaining positive at all times. If you hear a "rumor" that concerns you about an athletic issue, call the coach or Athletic Director to clarify what you heard.
- **Never** should a parent approach or direct specific derogatory remarks to an official **before, during** or **after** any game. "Under state law, it is a crime to assault sporting event officials in the State of Alabama. Legislation passed in December 2001 makes it a specific crime to harass, menace or assault a sports official in the first, second and/or third degree if the crime is committed against a sports official that is performing official duties at a sports event. Under AHSAA rules, each case is judged on its own merits, but the usual penalty is a monetary fine plus probation, restrictive probation and or suspension for the school. The school may be prohibited from playing contests when the individual (or individuals) responsible for the assault is present." It is obvious the state has made a strong stand against this type unsportsmanlike behavior and at Saint James School; we intend to uphold the same.

Student-Athletes and Academic Priorities

Student-athletes attend Saint James School primarily for a quality education. Nothing should interfere with this objective. Athletics are a part of education, requiring student-athletes to use discipline and demonstrate good work habits in organizing a study schedule which will help lead to academic success.

A student's grades should not suffer because of athletics. However, academic difficulties can occur because of a student's inability to organize their workload adequately. Participation in athletics requires a great deal of personal commitment from the student-athlete. Each student-athlete is expected to organize and discipline him/herself so that academic and athletic endeavors do not conflict.

Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

1. Team members are expected to be present at all practices, meetings and games. Doctor's appointments or other similar outside activities should be arranged to avoid conflicts with practices or games.
2. Coaches may determine student participation in athletic events based on practice attendance, skills, effort, team strategy, and understanding of rules.
3. Any serious breach of school policies, both on and/or off campus, could result in suspension of athletic participation and/or removal from the team.
4. Students suspended from school will not be allowed to participate in athletic events while they are on suspension. If a student has to attend an after school detention hall, the student will be required to attend the detention over any athletic activity.
5. Attendance in academic classes is mandatory on a game day. Students must be in attendance at school to be eligible to participate in athletics. A student cannot miss more than 2 classes in a day or they will be unable to participate in any athletic activity.
6. Team uniforms are the property of the school and should only be worn during athletic contests. Uniforms should be returned to the coach immediately after the season has been completed. Lost uniforms are the responsibility of the athlete. If an athlete loses or damages a uniform (other than the normal wear and tear), he or she is responsible for reimbursing the school full replacement cost for the uniform. If the athlete does not return the uniform in a timely manner, his/her report card will be held until the uniform is turned in.
7. Travel attire to away games for students is up to the head coach. Regardless of the specifications, Saint James student-athletes should always project a favorable image of the team and the school.
8. Students are expected to complete coursework in the allotted time frame. Make-up exams or incomplete academic work that interferes with practices or games are considered, and will be treated as, unexcused absences. Any student in poor academic standing will jeopardize his/her athletic status. A student-athlete must attend tutoring and it will be an excused absence from practice, but the student-athlete must make up what he/she missed during their absence.

9. Student-athletes are expected to maintain high standards of behavior and sportsmanship. Use of profanity and displays of anger toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, and fans will not be tolerated. Any infringement could result in disciplinary action.
10. Hazing is intolerable in any form and will result in disciplinary action.
11. Coaches are not allowed to give private lessons or extra help and receive compensation in any form to student athletes trying out for teams they will be choosing.

Conduct Eligibility

Rule 1

Student - Athletes shall not possess, use, transmit or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol and/or other drugs such as marijuana, controlled drug substances (hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, or any other narcotic or controlled drug) or possess, use or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician will not constitute a violation.)

Consequences:

A student violating the substance abuse rule, on the first offense, may be required to meet with the head coach and athletic director to evaluate the situation. Parents will be notified immediately and given the opportunity to attend the meeting with their child. The head coach must inform the athletic director of the situation and arrange a meeting to determine consequences of the violation. With approval of the athletic director, the head coach will set appropriate actions to be taken.

A student violating the substance abuse rule, on the **second offense**, will be placed on suspension from athletic competition for a minimum of two weeks or 25% of their scheduled playing dates for the season, whichever is greater. Circumstances may warrant a longer suspension or removal from the team. Any **succeeding offense** may result in permanent dismissal from athletics.

Student Athletes are expected to leave situations immediately where drugs and/or alcohol are present. Failure to do so may imply guilt and violators will be dealt with accordingly.

Rule 2

Violation of school rules, disruptive behavior, showing disrespect toward school staff, unsportsmanlike conduct, sexting and/or committing any act that reflects negatively on Saint James School will not be tolerated and such action(s) may lead to eligibility restrictions, probations or suspension.

Rule 3

A student who is uncooperative, i.e. sleeps in class, disrupts, refuses to complete work, etc., will be considered a discipline problem which could result in suspension from athletic competition.

Conduct Notes

Conduct rules apply to all student athletes grades 7 -12 Consequences for off campus violations of the Code of Conduct will not be based on hearsay or rumor. When there is reasonable suspicion (a belief or opinion based on the facts or circumstances) or when there is an admission of guilt by the athlete to a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct in the Athletic Handbook rules will be enforced. Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon determination of any violation and will include games in succession; season schedule, tournaments and state series, in order of competition. If the violation occurs in the last part of a sport and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her consequences in that sport, the suspension does carry over until the suspension is fulfilled.

If school rules are broken, the student athlete will be subject to the normal punishment for misbehavior as well as subject to penalties under the Athletic Handbook. In no case will athletic rules circumvent or take the place of school rules.

Athletic Code of Conduct

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the athletic department. Saint James School and the coaching staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound athletic program.

Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team, or the school is considered to be unacceptable. Acts of unacceptable conduct tarnish the reputation of everyone associated with the athletic program and with Saint James School. Such acts will NOT be tolerated.

Alabama High School Athletic Association

The Alabama High School Athletic Association, AHSAA, is a self-supporting organization made up of both public and private school throughout the state of Alabama. The purpose of the AHSAA is to promote pure amateur athletic competition in the high schools of Alabama.

Basic Eligibility Rules

Enrollment Rule - A student must be enrolled within the first 20 days of a semester as a regular student in the school system where the student will participate. The 20-day requirement may be waived under extenuating circumstances. Note: A regular student is one who is enrolled at the school and is taking six new subjects of work.

Age Rule - A high school student who has reached his/her 19th birthday before Aug. 1 is ineligible. Any junior high (ninth grade) student who has reached his/her 16th birthday before Aug. 1 is ineligible. Any middle school student who has reached his/her 15th birthday before Aug. 1 is ineligible.

Eight Semester Rule - A high school student may be eligible only eight semesters in attendance after entering the ninth grade. School attendance of 15 days or more of any semester is counted as a semester.

A student can be eligible only four fall semesters and four spring semesters after entering the ninth grade. The last two semesters, the seventh and eighth of a four-year high school and fifth and sixth of a three-year high school, must be consecutive.

A junior high student may be eligible only three seasons in any one sport. A middle school student may be eligible only two seasons in any one sport.

Participation Rule - No student may participate in any one sport for more than six years (seasons) after entering the seventh grade or for more than three seasons after entering the 10th grade. A student who officially participates in one contest of a sport is credited with one year of participation in that sport.

Outside Participation Rule - A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7-12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season of that sport. Also, a member of any school athletic team may not participate in an outside sport activity in the same sport during the school season of that sport.

Private individual instruction is not considered an outside sports activity. A team's season begins the day of that team's first contest and ends when that team's season has been completed.

A student who violates this rule becomes ineligible to compete on that school team or in that school sports activity for the remainder of that school season. Any student who participates on an outside team after the school sport season begins is ineligible to join that school team for the remainder of the season.

Fifty Percent Rule- Participation (includes practice) during the school year by students from any high school team (varsity and junior varsity/B-team) on a non-school team during the off-season is limited to 50 percent of the number of players required to play the game of that sport (i.e., three in basketball, six in soccer, five in baseball, etc.) A freshman team is considered a junior high team.

The rule does not apply to seniors who have completed their high school eligibility in that sport nor to middle and junior high school students that will not play on any high school team the following season.

Independent Rule - A student who is a member of any school swimming, track, cross country or wrestling team may participate as an independent in two outside activities on non-school days during the season of that sport. The schedule of the school team, including the championship play, takes precedent over any outside participation by an individual. (Members of tennis and golf teams are exempt from this rule.)

A member of a school soccer team may participate in one Olympic Development Program evaluation period per month as long as there is no loss of school time. The evaluation must be under the guidance of ODP.

Amateur Rule - Only amateurs are eligible. An amateur is one who does not use his/her knowledge or athletics or athletic skill for gain. A student may not receive an award of any kind having a monetary value of more than 50 dollars-other than medals, trophies, plaques or championship rings.

Academic Rule - Students entering the 10th, 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units. Four core courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses.

Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects.

Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.

Students may regain eligibility at the end of the first semester by meeting the same requirements listed above during their last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable. All first semester work used in regaining eligibility must be completed by the fifth day of the second semester.

Transfer Rule - A student is eligible in the school zone in which his/her parents reside (public, private or parochial schools). Any student who completes one year's attendance at a school outside his/her home school zone and fulfills all other requirements becomes eligible in that school. (This does not apply to foreign exchange students.)

The approved school zone for Saint James lies within the City Limits of Montgomery. To be eligible immediately, a student transferring to Saint James must live within the city limits of Montgomery or else they will be ineligible to participate in contests for 1 year from the date of enrollment.

A student whose parents make a *bona fide* move completely out of one school zone into another school zone may transfer all his/her rights and privileges to the member school that serves the area where the parents reside.

The following factors are basic guidelines for determining a bona fide move:

- a. The household furniture of the family must be moved into an unoccupied house or apartment.
- b. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence
- c. The original residence should be closed, rented or disposed of and not used by the family.
- D. Nine months at the new residence will be required to make a move bona fide.

Note: If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than nine months, the move will not be considered bona fide and the family's child who is enrolled in the new school zone becomes ineligible there the day the family leaves the new school zone.

The student remains ineligible for a full calendar year from the date the family moved out of the new zone. However, if the student did not participate in athletics, the period of ineligibility will be 12 months from the date of the student's enrollment. Custody or legal guardianship set up with anyone will not establish immediate athletic eligibility.

Divorce: The eligibility of a student whose parents are divorced is determined by the following:

(a) If there has been a divorce or a legal separation in a family and sole or physical custody has been awarded by the court granting the divorce to one of the parents, the athletic eligibility of the student will be established at the school that serves the area where that parent resides.

Note: If joint custody has been awarded and a transfer is involved, the student must attend the new school for one year before becoming eligible.

(b) If it becomes necessary at a later date for the student to reside with the other parent, the move will be accepted as a bona fide move if the court that granted the divorce changes the custody to this parent. This type of move will be accepted for immediate athletic eligibility purposes only one time. Therefore, if a student subsequently decides to return and reside with the first parent in a different school zone, the student will be ineligible for a period of one year.

Home Rule - A student attending a member school outside his/her school zone may return to his/her home school (where the parents reside) and be eligible at the beginning of any school year if all other requirements are met.

Overlapping School Zones - A student whose parents reside in an area served by more than one school lives in the zone of each school, thus in overlapping school zones. A student who changes schools within these overlapping school zones is ineligible for one year at the new school.

Home Rule - A student attending a member school outside his/her school zone may return to his/her home school (where the parents reside) and be eligible at the beginning of any school year if all other requirements are met.

Overlapping School Zones - A student whose parents reside in an area served by more than one school lives in the zone of each school, thus in overlapping school zones. A student who changes schools within these overlapping school zones is ineligible for one year at the new school.

Practice – Outside the sports season during the school year (includes the school day), no coach or non-faculty coach from a school's staff in any sport may hold organized practice or competition in that sport for students from his/her school or feeder school(s). The only exceptions are the allowable fall evaluation periods for spring sports and the spring practice periods for football, basketball and volleyball.

A **Fall Evaluation Period** for each spring sport is permitted for a maximum five days in a consecutive 10-school day calendar period anytime during the first semester with all students allowed to participate.

During the school year, exclusive of allowable dates, a school's gymnasium and other facilities may not be open after school for practice and no balls or equipment of any sport may be used to develop skills.

Use of School Facilities: During the school year, exclusive of allowable dates, a school's gymnasium and other facilities may not be open after school for practice and no balls or equipment of any sport may be used to develop skills.

Weight training and conditioning programs are exempt from these restrictions.

Eligibility Requirements

Before a student's name is sent for eligibility approval, the following items must be completed:

1. **Birth Certificate** – Every student athlete must have on file a valid birth certificate in order to participate in interscholastic athletics. A passport is accepted for students from another country.
2. **Physical** - In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, he or she must have a current AHSAA Physical Form on file at the school. A physical is considered valid for 1 calendar year from the date the physical is taken.
3. **Sportsmanship Requirement** – In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, he or she must complete the “STAR Sportsmanship Course”. High school students take appropriate grade level 10-12 version, all Middle School Athletes should take the Enhanced Middle School version of the sportsmanship program.
4. **Athletic Training Fee** – Every student athlete will be assessed a onetime \$50.00 fee to cover the cost of a certified athletic trainer. This fee will be assessed during the first sport they participate in. The head coach of that sport will collect the fee.
5. **Emergency Information Card**- Every student athlete must complete this card. The head coach will issue the card and athletes must complete and return with parents signature before participation.

Directions for Sportsmanship Requirement

- Go to www.ahsaa.com
 - Look down the page and find section SPORTSMANSHIP
 - Click on Star Sportsmanship - This will take you to the sign in page.
 - Click on “Student Sign In” Saint James Code is: **star02090**
 - click OK
 - Next window pops up confirming Saint James
 - click OK
 - Next box will ask you to select your grade. High school students click on appropriate grade (10-12), Middle school students (7-9) scroll down to the last one listed ‘Advanced Middle School’ and click on it.
 - **Middle School Students - Do Not Click Your Actual Grade -Click on Advanced Middle School at the bottom**
 - The next box will ask you to register if your name is not already listed...click register then put your First and Last name in.
 - click OK - The Star Program immediately pops up - click start
- Make Sure you print the completion certificate at the end and give a copy to your coach.

For additional rules regarding eligibility and participation please contact the Athletic Director's office or visit the AHSAA website at www.ahsaa.com.

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in any after-school activity he/she must be present in school on the day of the activity.

A student is considered absent if he or she misses more than two classes in one day. A student missing more than two classes on the day of a school-sponsored extracurricular activity will not be eligible to practice or participate in that activity. If a team is leaving school early for an event, student athletes must be in class prior to the teams' dismissal. Any exceptions must have the approval of the principal.

Multi-Sport Participation

For Saint James School to have a successful athletic program, it is of utmost importance that our student-athletes participate in as many sports as possible. Therefore, when possible, athletes will be allowed to participate in more than one sport during a season. For this to happen, a spirit of cooperation and shared goals must exist among members of the coaching staff and athletes. Knowing that this can be a very sensitive area, the following guidelines will be in place:

1. Student-athletes that wish to participate in more than one sport during an athletic season may do so. However, he or she must designate their primary and secondary sport.
2. The athletic director will resolve any and all conflicts regarding the sports that the student-athlete participates in.
3. Student athletes may participate in activities involved in overlapping sports with the understanding that the in-season sport takes priority over the upcoming sport.
4. Coaches are encouraged to communicate with the student-athlete and coaches involved in overlapping seasons to provide the best opportunity for the student to participate in both.

Having this opportunity can greatly enhance our athletic program, as well as the high school athletic experience for our student-athletes. Coaches should always use good judgment and have a shared vision for athletic department success. At all times the interest of the student-athlete should be at the forefront with regards to conflicts over sharing athletes.

***The Spring Season is the most common time for multi-sport participation. There are some areas that are already a known NO for playing two sports at the same time. They are volleyball-cheerleading (at all levels), volleyball-cross country, and HS basketball-cheerleading.

Quitting or Dismissal

Student-Athletes forfeit their participation privileges if they quit or are dismissed from a team. Athletes will be placed on athletic suspension until the season ending date of the sport the student quit or was dismissed from. An appeal may be heard by the athletic director if circumstances warrant consideration. Any athlete on school suspension is prohibited from practicing, playing, or traveling with any team. The athlete may not be on the sidelines, in the locker room, or dugout during his or her suspension.

If a first time athlete tries out for a sport and decides within the first two weeks of practice that he or she does not want to participate in the sport, they may quit without penalty.

If a new head coach (new to Saint James) is in place for a sport, players will have the first two weeks to decide whether they wish to participate or quit without penalty.

Athletes Participating in Outside Sports

A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7–12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the season of that sport. A student athlete may participate on a team of a different sport during a sports season but the school sport will take priority over any conflicts which include practices, travel and games. The school athletic program will take priority and is not expected to work around conflicts involving outside sports teams. The head coach of the school team may work with a student athlete: however, conflicts may result in the athlete making a choice of which team to participate.

Team Travel Guidelines

1. Saint James athletic rules require that student-athletes travel to and from athletic contests with their team when transportation is provided or arranged by the school.
2. All members of an athletic team are expected to travel to out of town games on school provided transportation (when applicable). This includes games to other Montgomery area high schools on days when school is in session, regardless of time of departure.
3. A student-athlete will not be permitted to drive his/her own vehicle or to transport other students to and from his/her athletic contests when school transportation has been provided or arranged.
4. Parents may be asked by the coach to help transport student athletes to away athletic events or practices when school transportation is not provided. Students are not allowed to ride with or transport other student athletes.
5. Parents volunteering to transport student athletes other than their own must have on file with the coach the approved “Personal Vehicle Usage Form for Transporting Students”.
6. **Outside the school day, when playing a local Montgomery School, the coach may elect for the team to meet at a designated time at the away school. It is the parents’ responsibility to ensure safe transportation to and from the site when school arranged transportation is not provided.**
7. Under special situations with approval of the coach, parents may transport their child or other student athletes from an athletic event if written notice is given by the parents.

AHSAA Sportsmanship Conduct Rule

Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows:

- First Ejection:** Minimum penalty of a \$300 fine
Second Ejection: Minimum penalty of a one game suspension and a \$500 fine
Third Ejection: Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine.

On first offense, if the student athlete completes within 10 days of the ejection a designated Sportsmanship Course Online, the fine will be reduced to \$100.

If a student-athlete receives a fine due to an ejection, his/her family will be financially responsible for paying the fine to the AHSAA. All Coaches will also be responsible for the fines set forth by the AHSAA for misconduct and displays of poor sportsmanship.

Parent Pickup

A coach or designated adult will remain with athletes until all are picked up after practices and games. Please respect the time of our coaches by picking up your student-athlete immediately following practices and/or games. If you are not able to transport your student-athlete home, please make other arrangements prior to the event.

The Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents should discuss any concerns they may have about their student-athletes emotional or physical status. Parents should also request from the coach any information about ways the athlete might improve his or her performance.

Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all student-athletes involved. Sometimes it is difficult to accept that a student is not playing as much as he or she or the parent desires. However, the judgment and authority of the coach to make decisions regarding playing time must be respected. It is also not appropriate for a parent to question or challenge a coach's decisions regarding play calling or strategy. It is never appropriate for a parent to discuss with a coach the status of another student-athlete.

There are situations that require a conference between the coach and the parent. These meetings are encouraged. If a parent has a concern and would like to discuss it, he or she would call to schedule an appointment with the coach. If the coach cannot be reached, please feel free to call the athletic director to arrange a meeting for you. If a parent has an unresolved concern and would like to discuss it further, he or she should call to schedule an appointment with the athletic director.

When a student athlete begins a sport, we ask that they fulfill their obligation to themselves and their teammates by finishing the season. Before a parent decides to remove their child from a team during the season for any length of time due to grades, discipline or any other reason, please schedule a conference with the coach and athletic director in advance to go over the impact that will be created. Many situations may be avoided if effective communication has taken place prior to removing a child from the team.

Athletic Lines of Communication

As students become involved in athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand at times students may experience disappointment and frustrations. At these times, student initiated discussions with the coach are recommended and encouraged. Parent involvement should be secondary but if it is necessary, the following steps should be taken:

1. The first step is talking to the coach directly about the concern. Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach immediately after a game unless the coach requests this.

2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the appropriate coach.
3. If the meeting with the coach does not result in resolution of the problem, call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Discussing issues with other parents, teachers, board members or administration is inappropriate and will not result in positive resolution of the situation.

Insurance

Student athletes are required to be covered under medical insurance provided by the family. Saint James does provide a basic Student Accident Insurance Policy for all students which may or may not cover all medical expenses outside of your normal insurance. Saint James School is not responsible for the payment of any medical expenses related to any claims whether or not the incident was related to participation in athletic events or practice.

Admission and Fees

All Varsity Sports \$6.00

Junior Varsity Sports \$5:00

Middle School \$5.00

Children 6 and under no charge

Booster Club Membership \$75

You must join the booster club in order to be eligible to purchase season tickets.

Adult Season ticket \$50.00

Student Season Ticket \$25.00

Grandparents Ticket \$25.00

Exception: Season Passes are not accepted at playoff games / tournaments sponsored by the AHSAA nor spring football jamborees if applicable.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

I acknowledge access to the athletic handbook and have read the rules concerning eligibility and conduct for Saint James student athletes. I understand the rules and realize that I am subject to disciplinary measures should I violate them. I do agree to participate and conduct myself in accordance with the rules of our athletic program, school rules as addressed in the student handbook and with any other specific rules of my coaches.

Student Athlete

I have read this athletic handbook and agree to abide by all regulations set forth. I understand participation in athletics is a privilege and agree to represent Saint James with character, integrity and sportsmanship on and off the field or court.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT ATHLETE

DATE

PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT

Parent/Guardian

I have read this Athletic Handbook and understand the policies and regulations of Saint James School will be enforced.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

DATE

PRINTED NAME OF PARENT

PERSONAL VEHICLE USAGE FORM FOR TRANSPORTING STUDENTS.

DRIVER AND INSURANCE INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Home #: _____ Work #: _____

Driver's License #: _____ Class _____ Expiration date: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Telephone # _____

Policy Number: _____ Expiration date: _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

We recommend that any driver of a private vehicle follow all manufacturers' recommendations when transporting students.

DRIVERS STATEMENT- I CERTIFY THAT:

- I am 21 years of age or older.
- I have a valid driver's license and there are no restrictions preventing me from transporting students in my vehicle..
- I agree to provide a current copy of my drivers' license and insurance information.

Volunteer Driver Signature / Date

Print

Last Name

First Name

Date

Signature

Attach Copy of Drivers License and Insurance Card