



**St Albert the Great
Athletic Ministry**

Parents Field Book (2020-2021)

St Albert Athlete's Prayer

Father,

Thank You.

You have blessed us with the will, strength, and courage to do our best and improve our skills.

If we achieve victory, it is in Your honor. If we should see defeat, we pray that You help us to accept it with grace.

Please send Your Holy Spirit to guide us as we compete so that our coaches, teammates, opponents, and parents see Jesus' example in our actions, words, and decisions.

Amen

St Albert the Great.....Pray for Us!

Prayer Guidance:

- St Albert teams will recite the prayer before games.
- Parents can recite the St Albert Athlete Prayer before games individually or as a group before games.
- The prayer will be recited by an announcer before games hosted by St Albert.

TEAM GOALS

1. Spiritual Development ("Pray Together")

As a team, the athletes develop their relationship with Jesus Christ. Through prayer together, they open their hearts and minds to Jesus before or after practice and games to give them strength and be their best.

2. Character Development ("Grow as Christians")

As a team, the athletes develop as disciples of Jesus Christ. By spending time talking as a team about what they learn from Jesus through the context of athletics, providing service to others, and referring to our GREAT values for guidance and praise, they develop character and mature in their faith. Through the values of Growth, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, and Teamwork, the team comes together quickly and improves throughout the season.

3. Athlete Development ("Improve Sports Knowledge and Skills")

The athletes on the team develop consistent with the sports philosophy for their age group, and the competitiveness of the team improves as the athletes on the team develop.

4. Enhancement of the Parish Experience ("Have Fun as a Team")

Participation on the team, either as a coach, athlete, parent, or volunteer, creates a greater sense of connection, pride, and enjoyment in our Parish community. The Parish views sports as a positive attribute

of the Parish, and through our conduct those outside of the Parish see sports as a positive attribute of our community.

MISSION

The mission of St. Albert the Great Sports Ministry, as an essential ministry of our church community is to challenge student athletes to excel in their sport and grow spiritually, to prepare them to be socially responsible people with strong Catholic beliefs, practices, traditions and values, and to guide student athletes to embrace diversity.

VALUES

The St. Albert Athletic Ministry has aligned with the St. Albert the Great School core values to be used as a reference to help achieve SAAM's mission throughout the sports season.

GROWTH

RESPECT

EXCELLENCE

ACCOUNTABILITY

TEAMWORK

SUPPORTING OUR VALUES

Our GREAT Values will be incorporated into everyday practices and competitions throughout the sports season. Parents can support this objective with their children by discussing what the values look like in action, modeling these values, and holding their children accountable to display these values in their actions:

GROWTH:

Making good decisions given circumstances; increasing awareness of players' actions and how it impacts others; pursuit of achieving full potential by establishing team and individual player goals.

RESPECT:

Showing appropriate behavior toward coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, and parents; respecting oneself with their appearance in the St. Albert uniform; punctuality for practices and games; winning and losing with grace.

EXCELLENCE:

Adhering to the code of conduct; following team rules that you establish; displaying personal honesty in all situations; giving best effort and not giving up despite obstacles.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Accepting responsibility results of their actions whether positive or negative; demonstrating resilience when negative results occur; being a positive example for others and following through with expectations.

TEAMWORK:

Focusing on the success of the team rather than as an individual; not drawing attention to oneself; getting along with others as well as encouraging and applauding teammates' successes.

SPORTS PHILOSOPHY

In keeping with the idea that the sport leagues are within the Catholic School system, the values and teaching objectives differ from other forms of organized sports. Basic guidelines have been established for what the athletes should be learning at each level.

- **Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade:**

The primary objectives at this level are building of community among the youngest members of the school and learning the basis of a sport. The league is developmental and instructional, designed to introduce sports and sportsmanship to young players.

- **3rd & 4th Grade:**

The primary objectives at this level are to teach fundamentals of the sport and encourage continued participation. Many of these players are doing so for the first time, it is unrealistic to assume that they are driven to succeed at this age.

- **5th & 6th Grade:**

The primary objectives at this level are to work with all players but also to understand and recognize those individuals that either excel at the sport or show tremendous potential and attempt to tap that potential so that all players are challenged. Additionally, to continue their learning of the fundamentals as well as introducing advanced techniques and drills.

- **7th & 8th Grade:**

The primary objectives at this level are to prepare the athletes for playing at the next level while encouraging and engaging the athletes that will never play beyond these years. This would certainly include continuing to stress the fundamentals of the sport. The athletes that have shown great ability and potential should be cultivated to help them achieve continued success in the sport. Additionally, there will be students that play no more after grade school and it is the job of the coach to make sure that they are challenged and find gratification in playing for that coach.

STUDENT ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

All student athletes are bound by the student code of conduct to:

- Understand that being a student comes first and then athlete.
- Use God-given talents to the best of abilities.
- Model the Catholic, Christian values set forth by St. Albert the Great and SAAM by being a role model and demonstrating good sportsmanship at all sports-related functions.
- Attend and be on time for all practices and games when possible and notify the coach when unable to attend.
- Participate in the team service project.
- Attend mass once during the season with the team.
- Listen to the coach to improve skills.
- Learn and abide by the rules of the game.
- Promote team spirit by encouraging teammates.
- Treat each athlete, coach, league official, parent and administrator with respect and dignity at all times.
- Refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol at all youth sports functions.
- Refrain from using profanity at all youth sports functions.
- Not engage in any behavior that would endanger the health, safety or well-being of self or another at all sports functions.
- Not use social media to make derogatory/inflammatory statements against any youth athlete, parent, coach or school.
- Not to resolve conflict with hostility or violence. Talk directly to the coach.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

If your child plays a sport at St. Albert then your family is part of the Sports Ministry at St. Albert. All parents are bound by the parent code of conduct to:

- Model the Catholic, Christian values set forth by St. Albert the Great and SAAM at all sports-related functions.
- Remember that the sport in which my child participates is for the team to learn and have fun. It is not about the parent(s).
- Inform the coach of any disability/ailment that may affect my child and/or his/her teammates.
- Treat each athlete, coach, league official, parent and administrator with respect and dignity at all times.
- Learn the rules of the game and policies and procedures of SAAM and the CSAA.
- Be positive and encouraging and will not berate any player.
- Show and encourage my child to show good sportsmanship.
- Teach my child to abide by the rules of the game and the expectations of his/her coach.
- Teach my child to resolve conflict without hostility or violence.
- Promote team spirit by encouraging all team members and coaches.
- Refrain from the use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol at all youth sports functions.
- Refrain from using profanity at all youth sports functions.
- Not engage in any behavior that would endanger the health, safety or well-being of another at all sports functions.
- Not use social media to make derogatory/inflammatory statements against any youth athlete, parent, coach, or school.
- Respect the authority of officials at all games and will not confront an official or a coach at a game field.
- Wait 24 hours before contacting the child's coach with concerns/issues concerning a game/practice, etc.
- The only exception to this is if a child is in immediate danger – i.e. heat index, alcohol usage, fighting, etc.
- Refrain from coaching any team member from the stands.
- All families, except when coaching, are obligated to work 1 shift at the concession stand or gate for each player each season that the player participates.
- Parents are obligated to work a shift at the Fish Fry during Lent. Sign-up Genius will be sent out for these shifts in order to participate.

All parents are also encouraged to participate in Sports Ministry events that fundraise for our Ministry including golf scrambles, Trivia Night, and other special events.

All information above is reflected in the SAAM Handbook, which can be found on the [SAAM website](#).

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

SAAM has playing time guidelines that align with our philosophy for each age group. Establishing playing time guidelines is a choice made by the ministry to prioritize our primary goals of skill and character development, over the secondary goals of winning games and competing at the highest level possible. This choice is also made recognizing that other parishes may not share our philosophy, and may make playing time decisions that do not align with our philosophy and goals (see handbook).

COMMUNICATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

SAAM encourages children and parents to communicate directly with the coach.

If during the course of a season a problem arises between parents/players and coaches; common sense, manners, and politeness should help resolve the issue. SAAM will not normally get involved until the parties involved have openly discussed the situation. If the problem does not get resolved by discussions with Coach/Player/Parents, then the following Grievance Procedure should be followed:

1. Personally meet/talk with the Grievance representative and express your concerns
1. If problem cannot be resolved, the Grievance rep along with the parties will meet with the Sport Coordinator
2. If the issue is still not resolved, the parties, along with the Grievance representative will meet with the Athletic Director, and put concerns in writing for a formal complaint.
3. If AD, Sports Coordinator, and parties involved cannot solve problem, the written complaint will be forwarded to the SAAM Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair who will direct the necessary actions
4. A final written resolution will be communicated within two weeks to all concerned parties.

CONTACTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

- SAAM contact information (Chairs, ADS, Sport Coordinators, Grievance) is on the [SAAM website](#).
- The Parent and Coach Field Books, and SAAM Handbook, can be accessed on the [SAAM website](#).
- Access to CSAA rules can be accessed at the [CSAA website](#).
- SAAM meetings are open to all parishioners and are posted on parish calendar