

John Paul the Great Academy

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2021-2022

Athletic Handbook

**GUARDIANS**  
ATHLETICS

*“Sport is certainly one of the prominent phenomena which, in a language understandable to all, can communicate very profound values. It can be a vehicle of high human and spiritual ideals when it is practiced with full respect for its rules.”*

Pope St. John Paul II  
*The Face and Soul of Sport*  
October 28, 2000

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# I. Vision of JPG Athletics

In accordance with our Family Handbook, JPG Athletics affirms the vital role of physical formation in each student. Whether or not that formation comes through organized sport, its impact on a growing student is invaluable. Properly practiced, athletics have the ability to spark in a young person virtue of all sorts: discipline, an inclination to service, selflessness, camaraderie, joy, magnanimity, self-appreciation, humility, fortitude, graciousness, and prudent leadership, among others. In addition to developing moral virtue, athletics also aid in becoming good stewards of the gift of our bodies, which we know are the “temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Echoing the wisdom of our popes, we believe that “sport, rightly understood, is an occupation of the whole man, and while perfecting the body as an instrument of the mind, it also makes the mind itself a more refined instrument for the search and communication of truth” (Pope Pius XII, *Sport at the Service of the Spirit*). As a Catholic, classical school committed to preserving and promoting the sacred traditions of the Church, JPG commits to forming the whole person— body, mind, and soul. The Athletic Department strives to serve the mission of the school by “providing an atmosphere that maintains and fosters the Christian spiritual, intellectual, moral, and physical formation that the students receive at home” (*JPG Family Handbook*, page 1). Athletics at JPG are not isolated from the rest of the school, nor are its goals disintegrated in any way from the mission of the Academy. On the contrary, JPG Athletics will continue to search for the best ways possible to serve the needs of our athletes, their parents, the coaches, and the school community.

In summary, the three goals of JPG Athletics are:

- 1. To affirm the essential role of physical formation in building virtue for every student*
- 2. To serve the mission of the school by providing an atmosphere that maintains and fosters the Christian formation of the human person*
- 3. To identify and address the needs of all those participating in JPG Athletics, especially by building and fostering relationships within the entire JPG community*

## II. Structure of Athletics at JPG

While integration and teamwork is of utmost importance in any athletic environment, certain structures must be put into place to avoid chaos and preventable unpleasant situations. If problems arise, in Christian charity, please bring your concern directly to the coach, avoiding gossip at all costs.

### A. Role of Coaches and Administration

The role of the Administration is to approve practice and game schedules (including rescheduled games), resolve parent concerns, and support the coaches in their relationship with the ACEL league.

Coaches are moral exemplars whose conduct and mentoring has a profound impact on the student-athletes they serve. All coaches are required to undergo a background check, attend safe environment training, and sign the standard morality statement.

Coaches are responsible for making decisions about the playing time of each athlete, which could be based on any number of factors, including practice time or individual ability. Coaches must also communicate the season schedule and any schedule changes to parents and/or athletes, usually via the Parent Team Manager. Coaches also secure on- and off-campus competition sites and schedule officials for all home contests. Furthermore, Coaches should reserve practice/competition sites on campus through the Athletic Director, who will coordinate with the school office. Coaches are responsible for securing and locking up facilities post game and post practices.

Each coach must take an online course on concussions: <http://nfhslearn.com/> Coaches must keep the certificate from that course with them at all ACEL contests.

JPG is a member of the ACEL athletic league (Association of Christian Educators of Louisiana). At the end of each season, coaches will also submit nominations for All-State athletes to the ACEL. Coaches will attend any necessary league meetings in order to properly understand each year's needs. Coaches are also the primary contact for all athlete and parent concerns. Parents and students who have athletic questions or concerns should first speak to the coach of the sport in question.

Coaches are also responsible for distributing and collecting uniforms and facilitating the collection of fees for lost or damaged items. These items should be returned, cleaned and ready to be stored in a designated place on campus within two weeks of the final game.

Coaches must seek to ensure the safety and security of their athletes. This includes remaining with their athletes until they are picked up after games and practices.

## B. Role of Athletes and Parents

A student-athlete's main priority is to be a student. Second to that, the athlete's role is to be a dedicated member of the team. A dedicated team member exercises heroic virtue: shows up to practice and works hard, encourages other teammates, and always displays good sportsmanship. If practice must be missed, the athlete should communicate with the coach before the missed day. Dual athletes (those who play overlapping sports) finish their first sport's season before needing to report to the later sport's practices.

The parents of JPG athletes have already proven to be a great support to the coaches. Parent support of the coach and the team is critical for an overall successful season. Parents play a key role in helping the team flourish as it should, whether by positive encouragement of the athletes or offering a helping hand to the coach. One ideal example of this helping hand is serving in the role of Team Manager. This parent takes charge of travel coordination, communication with other team parents via email, text, etc., coordinating volunteer assignments for home games. Each team has different needs, but the supportive role of parents is consistently important.

During athletic competitions, parents' role is to support their children with encouragement and applause. Parents must avoid (a) drawing excessive attention to themselves, (b) playing the role of coach by giving specific advice for players on the field or court, or (c) complaining about, addressing, or arguing with the referees or other coaches.

## III. League Affiliation

John Paul the Great Academy is a member of the Association of Christian Educators of Louisiana (ACEL). This league's membership comprises over 30 schools and homeschool associations across the state that have the common goal of Christian formation. The league mission states: *"ACEL is established to bring honor and glory to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, through athletic and academic competition, to protect the Christian bond of our member schools, to promote pure, amateur athletic sports, and to foster Christian leadership and fellowship among our students."* All JPG athletes are expected to adhere to the philosophy of this mission and to all rules and policies of the ACEL, which can be found at <https://www.theacel.com/rules.html>.

Our junior high teams participate in a local Christian middle school athletic league.

## IV. Standard Policies

### A. Code of Behavior

Athletes and parents must read and sign the Athletic Consent Form each academic year they play a sport. John Paul the Great Academy expects all student-athletes to adhere to a high code of conduct because of their prominence in the school community.

Coaches and administration work together to make final decisions regarding the appropriateness of students' conduct during competitions, practices, and even non-athletic academic time.

## B. Academic Eligibility

### 1. League Requirements

Each student athlete must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in their core classes in order to be eligible to play sports for JPG in any ACEL sanctioned competition. JPG will provide grade reports at the conclusion of each academic quarter to the ACEL. Please see the Family Handbook for details on the calculation of the GPA.

### 2. Travel

In order for student athletes to miss class to travel to an athletic competition, the student must be in good academic standing. If the student has a D or F in the class to be missed, s/he may not have permission to leave school early, but may compete that day with the coach's approval.

## C. Uniform and Dress Code

Each athlete will be provided the necessary uniform for each sport. Students must wear the uniform provided, without modification or substitute. At the end of each season, the uniforms must be returned to the school in good condition, or the athlete will be financially responsible for replacing a lost or badly damaged uniform. Normal wear and tear of uniforms is to be expected and will be addressed by the school on an as-needed basis. Each Head Coach is responsible for distributing uniforms and collecting them at the end of the season, and returning them to campus within two weeks of the final game, cleaned and ready for storage.

Competing athletes are expected to be dressed out in proper uniform before any contest begins, and to ensure modesty and appropriateness throughout practices and competitions. This includes on- and off-campus practices. A uniform is, by definition, consistent in appearance across players. Therefore, alterations such as rolled shorts (making them appear shorter) or un-tucked shirts (if the rest of the team wears shirts tucked in) are not permitted. The finger-tip length rule for shorts applies to all uniforms, practice attire, and other attire worn at JPG public events. Depending on body type, some students will need to have shorts longer than "finger-tip length" and wear sliders to achieve mid-thigh length and be appropriately modest.

## D. Letterman Jackets

Students in grades 9-12 may earn a letter after playing a varsity sport for two years (football, volleyball, track and field, soccer, and cheerleading) or participating in Speech and Debate for two years. Students are eligible to order their letterman jackets in the spring of their freshman year if they have participated in a varsity sport or speech and debate during the 8th and 9th grade.

## E. Fees

The standard fee per sport, per athlete, is \$150 each season, with the following exceptions: football players will be assessed a \$400 fee for the first year only, and cheerleaders may have additional fees as agreed to prior to tryouts. The standard fee covers the costs of uniforms, equipment, referees and officials, league fees, and field reservations, and may include some travel costs. The typical timeline for billing is: all athletes who have signed up for the team will be billed for the athletic fee within two weeks of the first practice.

## F. Transportation

### 1. Early Check-out

All student-athletes who are eligible to travel *must* submit a permission slip and sign out in the front office before leaving campus if they leave to travel before the afternoon dismissal. A student who fails to do so will be charged with an absence for the day. For more information, please review the "Field Trip and Early Checkout Policy" in the JPG Family Handbook.

### 2. Safe Environment

Due to Safe Environment policies, athletes may not ride alone in staff, faculty, or coaches' personal vehicles. Parents are responsible for all travel plans, including carpooling details, if team transportation is not provided by the academy.

## G. Safety

Physical safety of student-athletes is of vital importance. Therefore, JPG requires that each athlete submit a current medical physical each year of participation. Physicals are valid for one year from the date of examination, and must be valid for the entirety of the season in which the athlete competes, including post-season and championship contests. Should an athlete's physical expire mid-season, that athlete will not be allowed to compete until a new physical is turned in to the front office.

If an injury is sustained mid-season, the athlete is expected to communicate with the coach, especially if play is affected. Student safety is much more important than playing time, and the coach may choose to sit the player until the injury is healed. Any coach's decision on this matter will be made in the best interest of the student-athlete.

### Concussion Process

1. Injury occurs.
2. The coach or athletic director will complete the Accommodations Plan within 24 hours or for the first day of school following the incident. The plan will be turned into Philip Cortese, Academic Dean.
3. A copy of the Accommodations Plan will be made and put in the teacher's mailboxes.



4. The school counselor will disseminate the Accommodations Plan, and the feedback forms to the assigned personnel. The forms will be predated to reflect on which days the feedback forms are due back to the school counselor.
5. All stakeholders will be notified in writing, using the Concussion Accommodation Exit Form, when the student may return to the regular academic program.
6. It is strongly recommended that all involved with the student watch the following Center for Disease Control presentation to have a better understanding of concussions.

[https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion\\_what.html](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/concussion_what.html)

## H. Recognition

Coaches determine how and when teams are recognized for accomplishments, including a senior's commitment to the team over the years, any postseason advancement, and any All-District or All-State selections. JPG encourages a "Senior Night" at or near the end of the regular season in each sport. This may include a presentation of the seniors at halftime and any special recognition as decided on by the coaches.

To promote team spirit and increase attendance at their games, each team will be allowed one "jersey day" during their athletic season. With the approval of the headmaster, team members will be allowed to wear their respective jerseys with usual uniform pants/skirt to school. Jerseys are not allowed on Mass days. An additional "jersey day" may be granted for a post-season playoff game.

## I. Balancing Athletics, Academics, and Faith Formation

To enable students to balance their athletic commitments with those of academics and other formative experiences, the school sets aside certain times when coaches are asked not to schedule practices or games, specifically Sunday and Wednesday. This counter-cultural commitment is common in Christian schools, but very rare in the wider secular culture. At JPG, we have chosen to set aside these non-practice days to preserve our balanced approach to the formation of our students. Note: occasional exceptions can be granted at the discretion of the headmaster.

## J. Communications, Fundraising, and Use of JPG Branding

### 1. Communications Policy

Parents who play the role of Team Managers are often authorized to send information to parents and students through text messages or emails. All team communication should be coordinated through the TeamSnap app. The kinds of information that may be sent by a Team Manager to JPG parents of a particular sport is limited to practice times, game times, or other team information explicitly approved by the coach or athletic director. The following policy, which is also included in the JPG Family Handbook, applies to all other communications.

Prior to publications and/or distribution of documents produced in the name of John Paul the Great Academy, a copy must be reviewed by the Advancement Office. These include but are not limited to:

- Communications on JPG letterhead
- Mass emails from any JPG address
- Yearbook
- Newsletters/magazines
- Sports literature
- Special event programs, advertisements, banners
- Announcement or advertisement of any employment openings on campus
- JPG Facebook page and website
- Other correspondence to the JPG community

### 2. Solicitation and Donation Policy

Rationale: It is the responsibility of the JPG Advancement Office to coordinate all fundraising efforts. In order to maintain efficient donor records, a policy for solicitation and donations is necessary. This policy should assist in possible problems of "cross-solicitation" and avoid donor attrition. It is necessary that all persons who solicit on JPG's behalf meet with the Advancement Director for project approval. The deadline to turn in all fundraising requests for all organizations for the 2021-2022 school year is August 31, 2021. The Advancement Office should have prior knowledge of all funding transactions. Properly informed, it should serve as the JPG resource center for donations of all types.

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The John Paul the Great Academy Solicitation Policy:

- No individual or business is to be solicited on behalf of JPG without prior approval from the Advancement Office. First, submit names of potential donors to the Advancement Office.
- Solicited funds must be targeted to a specific project or event that has received the prior approval of the Advancement Office.
- Restricted donations must be applied to the area or project specified by the donor unless the donor is contacted by the Advancement Office and such permission is granted.

- Under no circumstances may the solicitor promise or guarantee any specific returns or favors for the donor's contribution.
- In order to maintain a permanent record of donor history, the following information must be provided to the Advancement Office:
  - Name and address of donor
  - Amount/value of donation (if applicable, indicate type of in-kind service or item.)
  - Project or campaign in which the donation was made
  - Date of the donation
  - Solicitor's name
- In-kind donations, or gifts of property, which might incur additional expenses, must receive approval and permission from the Advancement Office prior to any transaction.

### 3. Branding / Trademarks

Only officially recognized departments, personnel, individuals, and groups of John Paul the Great Academy are authorized to use the school's name or logo and only with prior approval from the JPG Advancement Office. The trademarks of John Paul the Great Academy may not be distorted, modified, or infringed upon in any way. Contact the Advancement Office prior to the design and/or planning of use of school identification on items such as but not limited to: publications, t-shirts, uniforms, websites, documents, letterhead, stickers, decals, or promotional items. These items shall be designed in house. Regardless, proof of final design must be approved by the Advancement Office and the Academic Dean.

# V. Sports

John Paul the Great Academy currently offers the following sports.

Athletic Director: Marty Hebert (martyhebert@jpgacademy.org, 337-322-8351)

On-Campus Administrative Athletic Contact: Philip Cortese (pcortese@jpgacademy.org)

## A. Boys Football

Varsity Team Head Coach: Barrett Richard (brichard@jpgacademy.org)

Varsity Team Assistant Coaches: Byron Ronkartz and Lane Melancon

Varsity Team Manager: Linde Dean (lindedean@hotmail.com)

6/7/8th Grade Club Coach/Team Manager: Eddie Cramer (ecramer@jpgacademy.org)

## B. Girls Volleyball

Varsity/JV Team Head Coach: Summer Campbell (scampbell@jpgacademy.org)

Team Manager: Ashley Anderson (ashleyanderson77@yahoo.com)

Faculty Sponsor: Katy Ann Thaxton (kthaxton@jpgacademy.org)

## C. Girls Cheerleading

Varsity Squad: Caitlin Gossen (cgossen@jpgacademy.org)

Junior Varsity Squad: Kayla Brubaker (kbrubaker@jpgacademy.org)

Team Manager: Michie LeBlanc (mleblanc@jpgacademy.org)

Faculty Sponsor: Leah Aldridge (laldridge@jpgacademy.org)

## D. Co-ed Soccer

Varsity Team Head Coach: Ryan Gray (rgray@jpgacademy.org)

Junior Varsity Head Coach: Brice Cambre (bcambre@jpgacademy.org)

Team Manager: Niki Whitman (nvwhit1996@gmail.com)

5th/6th Grade Club Coach/Team Manager: TBD

## E. Boys Basketball

Varsity Team Head Coach: Casey Trahan (ctrahan@jpgacademy.org)

Varsity Team Manager: Tammy Weil (weil@lusfiber.net)

7th/8th Grade Club Coach: Bobby Odinet, Sr. (bodinet@jpgacademy.org)

5th/6th Grade Club Coach: TBD

## F. Co-ed Track and Field

Varsity Team Head Coach: Byron Ronkartz (bronkartz@jpgacademy.org)

1st-4th Grade Club Head Coach/Team Manager: TBD

## G. Co-ed Tennis

Club Coach/Team Manager: Cheryl Drozda (luxvera7@gmail.com)

## VI. Program Growth

The future of the JPG Athletics Program is an important consideration as the administration plans for the future of our school. However, we adopt a “quality over quantity” ideal to shape the direction of any expansion. Just as our academic curriculum promotes depth rather than breadth of content, our athletic program strives for all things in excellence—*omnia in excellentia*. For this reason, effective organization of existing sports will be prioritized over the creation of new teams.

## VII. Athletic Consent Form, ACEL Medical History, and Birth Certificates

The JPG Athletic Consent Form and the ACEL Medical History Evaluation must be completed each academic year and submitted to the front office. These forms must be completed for all athletes: Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Club sports. A copy of the birth certificate must also be provided for each athlete.

# JPG ATHLETIC CONSENT 2021-2022

## TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ATHLETE:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, commit myself to this Sports Honor Code. I realize that according to Luke 9:62, God expects me to live up to my commitment.

1. I will faithfully attend and be involved in a local church.
2. I do not expect any preferential treatment regarding grades, hair, and dress standards, conduct, detention, etc. I will set a good example for others to follow.
3. I will never question my coach in public. If I have a legitimate question, I will ask him/her in private.
4. I will follow all school policies as a leader of my peers.
5. I am a representative of the Lord, my school, and my coach.
6. I should always be in control of my emotions. I should never lose my temper over a game.
7. I will attend all practices unless a prior commitment requires the practice to be missed. I will notify my coach when I cannot attend practices.
8. I will treat all athletic equipment with respect and will be responsible for damaged/lost items.
9. I have read and agree to abide by the policies set forth in the JPG Athletic Handbook.

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF ATHLETE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT:

I, hereby, give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_ to engage in the JPG Sports Program. I have read and agree to abide by the policies set forth in the JPG Athletic Handbook. I am committed to have my athlete attend every practice and game. I will notify the coach before practices or games of any circumstance that would prevent my athlete from attending.

I authorize JPG to provide medical care that may become reasonably necessary for my athlete in the course of athletic activities or travel. I also agree not to hold the school or anyone acting on its behalf responsible for any injury occurring to the above named athlete in the course of such athletic activities or travel.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

POLICY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_