



**NATIVITY**  
FAITH & REASON

# **Athletic Handbook 2024/2025**

**Athletic Director**

Lynn Smith

[athleticdirector@nool.us](mailto:athleticdirector@nool.us)

Athletic Office (303) 466-4177 Ext 126

**Principal**

Sebastian Calvino

**Nativity: Faith & Reason** is a member of the Catholic Schools Athletic League (CSAL) of the Archdiocese of Denver, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, handicap, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of their educational policies, employment practices, scholarship and loan programs or athletic or other school administered programs.

### **PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC LEAGUE:**

The Catholic Schools Athletic League (CSAL) is designed to contribute to the mission of the Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools and to the health, well-being, citizenship, and character development of the youth of the League. The mission of CSAL, in partnership with parents, coaches, and volunteers is to offer elementary school students the opportunity to grow in virtue, develop their full potential, and become a more committed disciple of Jesus Christ. CSAL emphasizes the following virtues:

1. Participation: Students at all levels of ability are encouraged to participate.
2. Respect and Dignity: Participants are encouraged to compete while always showing respect and honoring the dignity of team mates, athletic opponents, coaches, volunteers, and spectators. Winning is always secondary to good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, mutual trust, and showing compassion.
3. Gratitude: Student athletes are invited to recognize and be grateful that, out of love, God created them as unique beings and that their varied gifts and talents should be used for the benefit of all and for the greater glory of God.
4. Catholic Values: All participants—athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers, spectators—are called to uphold Catholic values and to demonstrate those values by word and deed. In addition, CSAL recognizes the importance of observing the Sabbath day by prohibiting all CSAL activities from taking place on Sunday including meetings, practices, and games, so that families can remain committed to worship of the Lord and observe a day of rest.
5. Safe Environment: CSAL seeks to ensure the protection of all children by requiring that individuals who work with and around children adhere to the policies and procedures as defined by the Child and Youth Protection Office of the Archdiocese of Denver.

These principles and values shall not be sacrificed in the desire to win. Basic to this is the duty of the host school at any athletic event to take every possible measure to assure courteous, friendly, and fair treatment to visiting players, school officials, spectators, and game officials.

### **PHILOSOPHY OF PLAY FOR NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON ATHLETES**

Widget Athletes (3rd and 4th grades) are introduced to sports through an instructional and competitive level of play. Emphasis will be placed on: (1) creating a positive learning experience; (2) sportsmanship; and (3) developing the fundamental knowledge and skills required for a sport.

**Players** – Acceptable standards of participant behavior include:

1. Play in a positive manner, reflecting Christian values.
2. Respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contest.
3. Accept seriously the responsibility of representing the school by displaying positive behavior at all times.
4. Treat opponents, coaches and spectators with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests with opposing teams.

**Officials** – Acceptable behavior for officials includes:

1. Be approachable for explanation or clarification of rules for players and coaches under appropriate circumstances.
2. Officiate in a positive manner reflecting a Christian attitude.
3. Exhibit knowledge of rules.

**Spectators** – Acceptable behavior for spectators includes:

1. Be a positive role model, displaying Christian values.
2. Remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment.
3. Refrain from derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, parents of the opposing team, officials or league administrators before, during and/or after the game.
4. Respect decisions made by contest officials.
5. Remain seated in the spectator area during games.

## **Enforcement**

Schools shall be subject to the Code of Conduct under the supervision of the Catholic Schools Athletic Board. Complaints regarding violations of this code shall first be brought to the attention of the principals and athletic directors of the schools involved. Coaches, participants or spectators may be placed on probation or suspended from CSAL activities for their actions.

## **SPORTS OFFERED AT NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON THROUGH CSAL**

The number of teams, size of teams, and the skill levels at which athletes are placed are a direct result of the number of students who choose to participate in sports and the availability of qualified coaches. Athletes may play up, but not down. For example, a 5th or 6th grader may play up on a Varsity team, however, a 7th or 8th grader cannot play down on a JV team.

**3rd and 4th graders** are eligible to participate in available Widget programs. Widget programs are offered as availability and interest allows.

**5th and 6th graders** are considered Junior Varsity (JV) level sports.

**7th and 8th graders** are considered Varsity level sports.

**Fall**—Girls and boys cross country, coed volleyball and coed flag football.

**Winter**—Girls and boys basketball, and coed futsal.

**Spring**—Girls volleyball and boys baseball.

Additional CSAL sanctioned events will be available for registration directly with the CSAL website; [www.csaldenver.org](http://www.csaldenver.org)

## **TEAM ROSTER CROSSOVER**

Students in the 5th and 6th grades are eligible to play at the Varsity level; however, students in 7th and 8th grades aren't eligible to play at the JV level.

Widget players cannot be placed on two rosters. JV and Varsity players may be rostered on two teams to meet requirements for regular season games. No player may be rostered on more than one team for the postseason.

## **SUBMISSION OF TEAMS BY GROUP/DIVISION**

JV and Varsity basketball and volleyball teams will be submitted by group for regular season play. All schools with a team must submit a team into Group A. If a school has two teams, one team is placed in Group A and one team into Group B. For schools with three teams, two teams will be placed in Group A, and one team in Group B. For schools with four teams: schools will place their first two teams into Group A, and their next two into Group B. After regular season play, teams will be placed into brackets for tournament play. Final team placement is at the discretion of the CSAL director. The CSAL director may change the way teams are submitted prior to the beginning of each season.

Coed flag football, cross country, coed futsal, and baseball will participate in league play as designated by the CSAL Director.

## **VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINING**

### **Safe Environment Training**

Per the Archdiocese of Denver, all volunteers who have the potential to develop a "trust relationship" with a student are required to attend Safe Environment Training (SET) prior to assuming the duties and responsibilities of a volunteer position. Training is required for, but not limited to, coaches (both head and assistant), scorekeepers, line judges, and volunteers who assist in running the scoreboard. In addition to SET, all volunteers must sign a Code of Conduct and pass a criminal background check. This documentation must be on file in the Parish Office prior to assuming the duties and responsibilities of a volunteer position. (A signed copy of attendance for the SET must also be submitted to the Parish Office.) No volunteer is permitted to assist a coach at games or practices unless he/she has the required documentation on file in the Parish Office. A list of training dates can be found on the parish website:

[www.school.nool.us](http://www.school.nool.us).

## **Play Like a Champion Today for Parents and Coaches**

The Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Denver has mandated Play Like a Champion Today (PLCT) training for parents who have athletes participating in CSAL sports. In addition, persons interested in coaching must attend a PLCT training for coaches.

PLCT is a “research-based, child-centered curriculum designed to help us recognize the spiritual nature of sports; train youth sport coaches to be effective ministers; and promote the moral and character development of our youth.”

For a list of training dates and to register for the PLCT parent or coaches training, please go to the CSAL website at [www.csalden.org](http://www.csalden.org).

## **Coaches**

A person interested in coaching needs to contact either the Principal or Athletic Director. All coaches are volunteers. Head coaches with an athlete participating in the sport are not required to pay the athletic registration fee.

All head coaches must be 18 years of age or older and a high school graduate. In addition, coaches must complete the Coaching Requirements listed on the CSAL website.

Coaches are not to contact athletes; all communication between a coach and an athlete will be through the athlete’s parents. Coaches do not automatically return to coach the same team year after year.

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Follow and support all policies of the school and CSAL.
2. Promote academics first and to enforce the eligibility policy and absentee policy.
3. Serve as a role model.
4. Set game and practice schedules according to guidelines and availability of the gym or fields as approved by the athletic director. No changes are to be made without the approval of the athletic director.
5. Attend required preseason and tournament meetings
6. Hold a parent meeting at the beginning of the season to inform parents of expectations.
7. Supervise athletes on their team at all times. Teams are never to be left alone in the gym or any other part of the building or property. This includes supervision when changing clothes and when waiting for rides. Coaches are never to leave athletes alone, including athletes who are waiting for rides. Coaches need to notify parents of their expectations that athletes are to be picked up on time.
8. Ensure visiting coaches know that they are to supervise their teams.
9. Notify the school in time of any cancellations of practices or games.

## **Assistant Coaches**

Head coaches may choose their assistant coaches; however, the Athletic Director and the Principal must approve their choices. Assistant coaches must meet with the Athletic Director prior to working with athletes. All assistant coaches are expected to meet the same requirements as head coaches (described above) with the following exceptions: (1) not required to be 18 years of age or older; (2) not required to be a high school graduate; (3) if under the age of 18, not required to attend SET, have background check or signed Code of Conduct on file; or (4) if under 18 years of age and a high school student, not required to complete a PLTC parent training; however, a high school student must attend a PLCT coaches training.

Athletes are expected to cooperate fully with assistant coaches at all times. Assistant coaches will assume the responsibilities of the head coach in the absence of the head coach.

## **ATHLETE REGISTRATION**

Registration for participation in CSAL sports is conducted on the CSAL website. An athlete must be registered on the CSAL website by deadlines established by the CSAL director. **Nativity: Faith & Reason does not accept late registrations.** Athletes not registered by the designated deadline will not be eligible to participate in camps, assessments, practices, games or meets. In addition, a signed copy of the Parent and Student Contract (found on Facts or [www.school.nool.us](http://www.school.nool.us) under Athletics) must be on file in the athletic office.

There is a registration fee to participate in each sport, this fee is per sport and is a flat fee of \$100. The registration fee must be paid at the time of registration. No athlete will be turned away from participating in sports for financial reasons. Please contact the Athletic Director or Principal for further information regarding an athletic fee waiver.

Although not required, CSAL strongly recommends that each child have a physical examination prior to participating in CSAL sports.

Coaches will hold a parent meeting at the start of their season to explain team rules, playing time, practice times, schedule concerns, etc. It is important that parents attend this meeting.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

When required for team creation, typically for basketball and volleyball, assessments will be conducted for all athletes prior to season play. At times, assessments are required for baseball. There may be seasons when baseball assessments cannot be conducted prior to the submission of teams due to field availability. The City of Broomfield will not issue a permit for the use of baseball fields prior to April 1. If baseball assessments cannot be conducted due to field availability, the Athletic Director will make a recommendation to the principal regarding the

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Parents are responsible for the transportation of their athlete to and from all practices, games, and cross country meets. Coaches are not allowed to coordinate rides for their team for practices, games, or cross country meets.

## **TOURNAMENT PLAY**

In addition to regular season play in CSAL, teams may participate in preseason or holiday tournaments sponsored by our school or other area schools. These tournaments may have slightly different rules than regular season play. Teams entering a tournament or tournaments, with the exception of postseason CSAL tournaments, are responsible for registration fees.

In the event that a team forfeits in the postseason, the school is charged a forfeit fee by CSAL. This fee will be passed on to parents of the team that forfeited and will be evenly divided between the players of that team.

## **ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY**

Nativity: Faith & Reason has been bestowed a moral imperative by the Archbishop of Denver to honor the God-given intellect of each child, pushing them to achieve their full academic potential while instilling in them a faith base that is uniquely and fully Catholic.

In *Gravissimum Educationis*, Pope Paul VI tells us that, "Among all educational instruments, the school has a special importance. It is designed not only to develop with special care the intellectual faculties, but also to form the ability to judge rightly, to hand on the cultural legacy of previous generations, to foster a sense of value, to prepare for professional life."

Academic excellence is thus one of the primary goals of Nativity, but so is athletic achievement. We desire that every child does their best in all of their undertakings. We believe that our academic program, as well as our athletic program and the many other co-curriculars we offer, go hand in hand in teaching students right judgment, our cultural legacy, a sense of value, and preparedness for life.

We desire to do due diligence at Nativity, helping students succeed in all ways, without causing one area of success to hinder another. Athletics are very important to our school, but we do not wish student's academic success to suffer while playing a sport.

Thus, at Nativity, every student involved in the athletic program (as well as other co-curriculars) will have his or her academic performance monitored on a weekly basis during each season.

**Eligibility** to play a sport (or other extra-curricular activities) means the following:

- During the week in which a student is active, s/he has no more than one D and one F in classes; or, s/he has no more than three D grades.
- Discipline issues will result in ineligibility to play a sport. If a student has a suspension, expulsion, or pervasive disciplinary violations as determined by the

Principal, a student will be unable to participate in CSAL sports until the issue is resolved.

The Assistant Principal will give the Athletic Director (AD) the names of athletes who are not eligible on Monday's during the sports season. Ineligible status runs from Monday through Thursday. On Monday, ineligible athletes will be contacted by the AD and will be given a warning that grades may make them ineligible to play on the team the following week. That week is referred to as **Warning Week** and the student may continue to practice and play in games. Grades will be reassessed on Thursday and if a student's grades make him/her eligible, they may play the following week.

#### During **Warning Week**:

- Students may attend both practice and play in games;
- In order to help raise the grade, the student must attend Study Hall either during lunch or after school Mon-Thurs.
- For students in 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades, students should attend Study Hall if it does not interfere with practice.
- Parents will be contacted by the Athletic Director stating that the student is at risk of being ineligible.

For the reasons mentioned above, monitoring students' grades continues for all athletes on a week-to-week basis during an athlete's season. If a student becomes ineligible, the student may not gain eligibility Monday-Thursday. Grades are checked Monday and Thursday only. If on Thursday morning a student is eligible, they can play that day.

The student, parents, and coaches are notified by the Athletic Director of possible ineligibility and that the student has until Thursday to raise the grades in question.

The Athletic Director will begin monitoring grades of athletes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each grading period.

It is the responsibility of the student to work with his/her teacher to get all grades in question back to satisfactory status.

#### **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Please refer to the Parent-Student Handbook. Discipline issues will be enforced following the guidelines in the Parent-Student Handbook.

#### **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

1. Show good sportsmanship toward teammates, opposing teams, coaches, schools, and officials.
2. Understand the eligibility policy and support it.
3. Attend practices and games as outlined by your coach and abide by his/her rules if you miss a practice or a game.
4. Obey the same school rules at practices and games - you still represent Nativity School.
5. Show respect for your coaches.
6. Take care of uniforms and equipment.

7. Turn uniforms in on time and in good, clean condition.
8. Stay with the coach in a designated area (gym or field).
9. Students are never to be in any areas on school property unsupervised.
10. No horseplay or ball playing is allowed outside the gym. This includes away games when we are guests at other schools.
11. Read, sign, and return Parent and Student Contract to the Athletic Department.

## **PARENT EXPECTATIONS**

1. Attend mandatory preseason sports meetings; read, sign, and return Parent and Student Contract.
2. Attend required PLCT parent training.
3. Register athletes on the CSAL website by the deadline set by the CSAL Director for each sport. There are no exceptions for deadlines.
4. Pay the athletic registration fee for each sport prior to assessments or first cross country practice. If there is a financial problem, please notify the Athletic Director or Principal.
5. Inform coaches of any physical limitations their son/daughter may have.
6. Participate in and support all fundraising for the Athletic Department.
7. Stress academics first and support the eligibility policy.
8. Support the coach.
9. Attend games and show good spectator sportsmanship. Officials are to be treated with respect.
10. Do not pressure your child.
11. Arrange transportation to and from your child's practices, games, and cross country meets.
12. Arrange for supervision of your child if waiting after school for a practice, game or cross country meet.
13. Keep lines of communication open between parents and the coach at all times.

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOU OR YOUR STUDENT HAS A CONCERN**

If an athlete or parent(s) have questions or concerns with regard to a coach's policies, play time, coaching philosophy, or other issues not specifically addressed here, please make every attempt to contact the head coach. Our coaches are volunteers who give a great number of hours in service to our athletic program. They deserve to be treated with respect and that means going to them first with any problems. When discussing problems with the coach, please try to put yourself in the coach's shoes. When making decisions, coaches not only consider the needs of the individual, but also the needs of the team. Remember, too, that there are times when a coach may not be aware a problem exists unless there is communication.

In the event that a parent has discussed a problem or misunderstanding with a coach and feels the problem is unresolved, the parent should contact the Athletic Director, in writing. The Principal should be contacted if all attempts to resolve the issue have been unsuccessful. The Athletic Director will keep the Principal informed of all complaints throughout the season.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICES AND GAMES**

There are a number of no play/no practice days during the school year designated by the Office of Catholic Schools, Nativity: Faith & Reason, and the Parish:

- Thanksgiving
- December 8, Feast of Immaculate Conception
- Christmas Break
- Ash Wednesday
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter
- Easter Monday
- Spring Break
- Spelling and Speech Meets (restricted time)
- Parish requests for major events

As directed by the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Denver, no games or practices are allowed on Sundays.

Teams will play approximately eight regular season games. Additionally, teams may participate in invitational tournaments. These tournaments provide more games for each team and an opportunity for coaches to maximize an athlete's play time. Teams may also be eligible to participate in CSAL end-of-season tournaments. The athletic director and coaches will make every effort to keep parents informed concerning game and tournament schedules. It is important to keep in mind that some tournament schedules are distributed with very little notice.

No practice will be scheduled to end later than 9:00 p.m. There may be occasions when practices are held off site at other schools or facilities.

No one who is not a member of the team will be allowed to practice with the team.

When permission to be absent from a practice, game or cross country is requested for a legitimate reason, players are not to be penalized. It should be understood, however, that athletes who miss practice might be missing important skill and strategy sessions. More playing time will likely go to athletes who are best prepared.

## **ABSENTEE POLICY**

An athlete may not participate in a practice, game or cross country meet on a day that he/she was absent from school (for any part of the school day) because of an illness or unexcused

absence. The Principal must approve all excused absences. Please check with the Athletic Director if you have any questions about this policy.

### **REMOVAL FROM TEAMS**

No coach may remove an athlete from a team without the approval of the Athletic Director and school Principal. A coach may suspend a team member for disciplinary reasons after consultation with the Athletic Director and Principal; disrespect or inappropriate behavior by any athlete will not be tolerated.

### **REMOVAL OF COACHES**

After discussion with the Pastor, the Principal may remove a coach who does not abide by the policies and procedures established by the school or CSAL.

### **CARE OF FACILITIES**

1. No food or drink is allowed in the gym at any time. Exception: Water bottles and sports drinks for athletes are permitted in the gym.
2. Please help by reminding visitors to our gym that food and drink are prohibited in the gym.
3. Do not leave trash of any kind in the gym or on the baseball field.
4. Athletes must wear only appropriate athletic shoes in the gym; no cleats.
5. Please do not allow children to wander in the gym, climb on equipment, or play with toys or balls during games.
6. No one is allowed in any area other than the gym or bathrooms nearest the gym during athletic events.

### **UNIFORMS**

Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are to be taped down without covering the tag.

Athletes are allowed to wear their uniform jersey on game days only. Cross country, basketball, and volleyball athletes must wear a white t-shirt or school uniform PE shirt under their jersey.

It is important that uniforms be properly cared for while they are checked out to athletes.

Baseball pants are to be furnished by the parents of the athlete; pants must be white. Nativity: Faith & Reason will furnish a baseball jersey, belt, and baseball hat. The jersey and belt must be returned at the end of the baseball season. Athletes are allowed to keep their baseball hat. Washing:

1. Due to the variety of uniform materials, please follow the washing and drying information located on the inside of the uniform. If in doubt, please ask.
2. No bleach should ever be used.

3. Never use an iron on uniforms.
4. Wash white uniforms separate from colored items.
5. Turn uniform tops inside out when washing (this protects the numbers and letters).

Athletes will be assigned uniforms prior to the first game or cross country meet of the season. Uniforms are to be washed and returned promptly at the end of each season. Payment will be expected for lost or damaged uniforms.

Please read, sign, and return the Parent and Student Contract to the Athletic Director prior to an athlete's first assessment or practice.



### **Parent and Student Contract**

We have received and are familiar with the information contained in the Nativity: Faith & Reason Athletic Handbook. I also agree to abide by the philosophies, policies, rules, and regulations established by Nativity: Faith & Reason and CSAL.

I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in any and all sporting events scheduled or approved by Nativity: Faith & Reason. I understand that this involves extra time outside of school and that many events will require transportation to other schools. I understand that my child will be under the supervision of a coach. As a parent/guardian, I remain fully responsible for any legal responsibilities that may result from any personal actions taken by my child. It is further understood and agreed that medical expenses related to sickness or injury of my child are not covered by the school's insurance plan.

By signing below, I acknowledge that all policies are also clear to my student(s) and that they are agreeing to all policies outlined.

Please Print Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Gaurdian  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_