

Dear Parents and Athletes,

Welcome to a new year of Blue Water Parochial Athletic League (BWPAL) school athletics, under the CYO umbrella. We are pleased to include you as a part of our program. We believe that athletics can be an important part of a child's physical, social, mental and spiritual development. It can help to make a child more well-rounded and complete. Athletics, however, should not be the most important thing in a child's life. When God, home, school, then sports is in the order of priorities followed, a child is well on his/her way to a successful life.

The Blue Water League has a rich tradition of athletic excellence. This success stems from many of the principles and the philosophy that follow in this handbook. Please read it carefully and discuss it with your child.

We are looking forward to a blessed year with you, and we know that we can count on your Christian support of our teams, coaches, and program. When Christ is kept the focal point, everything will turn out as it should!

In Christ,

The principals and
Athletic Directors

PHILOSOPHY

The Blue Water Parochial Athletic League (BWPAL) is designed to be a learning experience and to provide a time of enjoyment for the boys and girls. While winning is highly desirable, learning is the priority. Furthermore, coaches, parents and all adults should set a good example of positive sportsmanship to the youngsters. You are a role model to the children.

GOALS

1. To glorify God in all that is done on and off the playing field.
2. To help instill the priority that God is always first: God, family, school and athletics.
3. To realize that certain rules are necessary and the necessity of learning to abide by them
4. To learn the importance of cooperation and the need to respect the rights of others, to win with grace and humility, and accept defeat with poise and dignity.
5. To recognize that the use and development of physical skills and talents is good Christian stewardship.
6. To improve the athlete's overall physical condition and specific athletic skills.
7. To prepare athletes for high school level athletics if they choose to try once in high school.
8. To provide a positive athletic experience for each athlete and to encourage a lifelong enjoyment of sport and recreational activities.

+SPORTS AVAILABLE

Fall Sports	Girls' Volleyball, 7 & 8 Boys' Flag Football 6,7 & 8
Winter Sports	Boys' Basketball 5 & 6, 7 & 8 Cheerleading 5 & 6, 7 & 8
Winter/ Spring	Girls' Basketball 5&6, 7 & 8 Boys' & Girls' track 5-8

ELIGIBILITY

BWPAL/CYO is open to students in good standing who currently attend Blue Water Catholic Schools, and to students registered and attending Faith Formation classes at a Blue Water parish. One of the primary purposes of our schools is to provide a quality Christian education. Athletes are also expected to demonstrate Christian conduct and behavior in all classroom and school activities. In keeping with that principle, an athlete is considered to be a student first. He/she must maintain a good academic grade point average as established by your child's school in order to participate. Any student not in compliance with school eligibility requirements will not be able to dress or play until he/she has corrected the situation and re-established him/herself as eligible at his/her school. Students may practice during periods of ineligibility. The coaching staff will be informed of the student's eligibility status.

Students may not play in a game if absent for more than one-half of the day on the day of the game. Absences due to illness or injury on a school day prior to an event scheduled on a non-school day will be evaluated on an individual basis by supervising school personnel. If you do not participate in a scheduled physical education class, due to illness or injury, you may not take part that day in any extra-curricular athletic activity. Failure to meet these required standards will result in probation/suspension from the team. Suspensions will be determined by the student's instructors. Parents will be notified.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Each participating student is required to have a yearly doctor-certified physical examination on or after May 15th of the previous school year **prior to participating in a BWPAL sport**. Copies of the exam results are to be on file in the school office.

PARENT PERMISSION

Each participating student is required to have a signed parental permission authorizing them to participate in BWPAL sports prior to participating in any BWPAL sport. Copies of the permission forms are to be on file in the school office.

PLAYING TIME

BWPAL is a competitive interscholastic conference. Teams do not guarantee equal playing time for athletes. Playing time, which involves both games and practices, is left to the discretion of the coaches and is determined by a variety of factors including attendance, attitude, work ethic, skill level and contest situation. It is the goal of the BWPAL to involve all team members while remaining competitive.

PRACTICES/GAMES

When an athlete makes a commitment to a team, he/she commits to attending all practices and games. Missing practices or parts of practice affects the team and a coach's practice plan. Absences can drastically affect your child's playing time. Before a student joins a BWPAL team, it is important that he/she makes a commitment to that team. This commitment means putting the school team before any other sports team or other activity he/she may be in. This commitment includes practices as well as games and needs to be decided **before** joining the team.

TRANSPORTATION

It is the responsibility of the parents to drive their child to and from games and practices or to arrange a ride for their child. These arrangements need to be in place **before** school begins the day of the scheduled activity. Adults transporting athletes to and from games are expected to comply with driver/vehicle/insurance requirements listed in your school's current handbook.

PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

The Catholic schools in the league require that any adult having unsupervised access to children must complete and sign a Criminal Background Check form before they may work with children in any of the Catholic schools in the BWPAL. They must attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop and present the certificate of completion to the principal of the school for which they coach.

UNIFORMS

Each school provides uniforms for its athletic teams. They are to be kept neat, clean and in good repair throughout the season. Uniforms should be washed in warm or cold water and should be air-dried. If any damage is done to the uniform or if the uniform is not returned promptly at the end of the season, payment for that uniform will be required from that athlete and their family. All uniforms must be turned in at the designated “turn in time” in the same condition they were received when they were issued.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR AND ROLE OF PARENTS

The parents of a student are the determining factor in a child becoming an athlete. Because we encourage all of our students to be Christians first, students second and athletes third, the responsibilities of the parents are vital in the child becoming a total and complete athlete in the BWPAL. Some of these responsibilities follow:

1. Teach your child the example of a Christian attitude toward all things.
2. Assist your child in establishing the proper priorities with respect to church, family, peers, study and play.
3. Encourage and participate in your child’s growth as an athlete. Become interested in the sport and be your child’s advocate in a supportive way.
4. Support your child’s commitment to his team and school.
5. Make a commitment to help your child by attending sporting events and assisting in needed ways such as running the clock, keeping the book, selling concessions, cleaning up, etc.
6. Support your child’s coach. When a parent competes with or criticizes a coach, especially in front of the child, everyone loses!
7. Demonstrate good sportsmanship in the stands. Your job is to show your child what a good sport looks like. You are your child’s most powerful role model. Remember the referee’s job is to control the fairness of the game. Your job is to encourage your child to do his/her best.
8. Make sure your child is at all practices and games. Be prompt in transporting your child to and from all sport activities.
9. Teach your child to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be “out there trying” and to be in constant pursuit of improving skills and attitudes. Make sure your child knows that –win or lose–you love him/her and appreciate his/her efforts.
10. If you have a concern you need to voice, it should first be shared only with the person whom it involves in a respectful manner. If it cannot be resolved, it should then be brought to the attention of the Athletic Director.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

It is a privilege to be a member of a BWPAL athletic team. Athletic talent is a gift from God, and using your talent is a way of giving glory to God. Success is not something that just happens. It requires hard work, cooperation, sacrifice and self-discipline. Being a member of BWPAL means carrying out a number of responsibilities. Some of these follow:

1. Demonstrate a Christian attitude at all times-on and off the playing field, at home and school, winning and losing.
2. Treat coaches, opponents, teammates and officials with respect.
3. Be an encourager. Never tear down. Always build up.
4. Take care of your body spiritually, physically and mentally. Remember it is the temple of the Holy Spirit and should be treated as such.
5. Strive for excellence in all you do. Realize the importance of giving your best effort at all times-in practice as well as games, no matter what your role is on the team.
6. Be a team player. Athletics is a great expression of unity. Think “we” NOT “me”.
7. Honor the commitment you have made to your team. Maintain your grades, be punctual to all games and practices, represent your school well by practicing good sportsmanship.
8. Be prepared for activities by always having the necessary equipment and state of mind. Keep your parents informed of your schedule and any changes.
9. Recognize that whatever your role on a team, you are important. Whether you are the leading scorer or a substitute, you make important contributions to the team that only YOU can make. Carry out your role with pride!
10. Win or lose, show good sportsmanship and remember to give thanks to God for the opportunity to participate on the field of competition and to enjoy the Christian fellowship of athletics. To God be the glory!

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FANS/SPECTATORS

1. Spectator represents the school as much as the athletes and coaches do.
2. Heelies are not allowed at BWPAL contests.
3. Attend the game to encourage and support the athletes. Be seated during play. Only leave the gym at breaks when absolutely necessary. Parents, keep your children with you in the stands if they are not playing on the team.
4. Show respect for the judgment of the officials. Remember, it is their job to make the calls. You don't have to agree, but you have to show respect. You are a role model for the children who look up to you.
5. Recognize and appreciate outstanding plays and efforts made by both teams.
6. Be a positive example in words and actions to those around you so that everyone may enjoy the contest.
7. Insist on the courteous treatment of the visiting team and its spectators.
8. Show respect for the host school by honoring the rules and expectations it has. Help keep their school clean by picking up when the game is finished.
9. Be enthusiastic! Show your school spirit!
10. Treat players with respect. They are highly impressionable children. Treat coaches with respect. They are sincere adults, many times volunteers, who are dedicated to the athletic development of the children, not professional coaches working for large wages.
11. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship. Let the coach and referee do their job.
12. Remember that glorifying God and the good name of the school are far more valuable than is winning a game. Do not be responsible for degrading your school's name by demonstrating poor sportsmanship or disrespect.

SPORTSMANSHIP/CONSEQUENCES

Any parent, guardian, athlete, coach, assistant, fan or spectator disregarding the policies of good, Christian sportsmanship and respect of this league regarding appropriate Christian behavior, language or body gestures will be asked to **leave the campus, property** where the contest is taking place.

If such person(s) disregard the request to vacate the property, the game shall not continue until the person(s) leave. Failure to do so could result in forfeiture of the game by the team supported by that person.

Any person(s) consistently violating these regulations shall not be allowed to attend games until such time as determined by the Athletic Director and principal of that school in conference with the league secretary and advisory committee.

If team violations persist, the Athletic Director at his/her discretion will forfeit the team's next game or cancel the rest of the season's schedule.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Who is a Booster? All parents whose children participate in athletics are Boosters! The purpose of the Athletic Boosters is to physically, emotionally and financially support the athletic programs at your school. Boosters raise money, purchase equipment and uniforms as well as help with team expenses for tournaments. Booster success depends on the active involvement of all parents. **Please be an involved parent and an active Booster!**

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

BWPAL is a parochial school league comprised of member schools. Participation in the program is limited to students who currently attend the member schools.

The schools belonging to the BWPAL are:

Holy Cross, Marine City

Immaculate Conception, Anchorville

St. Mary/McCormick Catholic Academy, Port Huron

Fifth grade feeder school to

McCormick are:

St. Edwards, Lakeport

St. Augustine, Richmond

St. Mary's, St. Clair

St. Peter's Lutheran, Richmond

Trinity Lutheran, Port Huron

St. Joseph, Port Huron

BWPAL ATHLETE/PARENT COMMITMENT FORM

By participating in Blue Water Athletics, you commit yourself to supporting every aspect of the league.

I realize being a member of a BWPAL team is a privilege. I realize that in being an athlete I represent my team, my school, my family, and most importantly, my Lord. I recognize that in everything I am a Christian first and my words, actions and attitude should reflect this. I am responsible for my behavior.

I, as a parent or athlete, have carefully read the athletic handbook and fully understand the requirements and responsibilities I am taking on as a participant in BWPAL athletics. I commitment myself to these guidelines and rules. I also understand the consequences of being excluded from participating should I fail to uphold my commitment. I ask God's blessing and guidance on my commitment and my efforts in the year ahead.

“Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

1Corinthians 10:31

Updated 10/22/2013

School Addresses & Maps

Holy Cross

618 S Water

St Marine City, MI 48039

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/zSUYN>

St. A's (plays at Holy Family)

79780 Main Street

Memphis, MI 48041

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/s9aQI>

St. Mary's

800 Orchard

St. Clair, MI 48079

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/GkirZ>

MCA (plays at St. Edwards on the Lake)

6995 Lakeshore Rd

Fort Gratiot Township, MI 48059

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/3QEOr>

St. Joseph Academy (plays at Our Savior Lutheran)

22511 West Main Street

Armada, MI 48055

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/zbOCV>

Trinity Lutheran

1517 10th St.

Port Huron, MI 48060

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/INxAg>

St. Peter's Lutheran

37601 31 Mile Road

Richmond, MI 48062

Google Map URL: <http://goo.gl/maps/2w9LH>