

Philosophy

The OLPS athletic programs are designed for those students attending Our Lady of Prompt Succor School. The objective is to develop its participants both physically and mentally through sports. They are designed to develop sportsmanship and camaraderie through competition as well as general knowledge and skills in the sport they are participating. It is also designed to teach students discipline and time management in the balancing of sports and studies. Winning is a secondary objective.

Channel of Communications: (Both Ways)

Pastor or delegate ↔ Principal or delegate ↔ Athletic Director ↔ Faculty Sponsor ↔ Coach
↔ Parent

Athletic Director and Coaches:

The OLPS Athletic Director, Faculty Sponsors, and Coaches are responsible for the care and well-being of the student athletes. They are selected on a *volunteer* basis and are expected to be a Christian role model for students. They are expected to work within the scope of the athletic guidelines set by the school.

Student Athletes:

Students wishing to represent OLPS as part of a school based athletic team should be prepared to fully commit to the OLPS sport they wish to play. *When committing to play on an OLPS School Athletic Team, OLPS team practices and games must be top priority.*

OLPS School Teams:

- Football
- Boosters
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Soccer
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Cross Country
- Boys Cross Country
- Softball
- Baseball
- Intramural Basketball*

Team Formations:

All OLPS school sports are 5th and 6th grade based. In the event that a sport cannot field enough players from the 5th and 6th grade students that sign up, 4th graders may be allowed to participate for that season at the discretion of the school administration. 4th grade students being allowed to play on any OLPS athletic teams is a year to year decision. In the event that the school administration allows for 4th graders to “play up,” no upper grade students will be cut from the team. In the event of “play ups,” coaches will play the most skilled players without regard to players’ grade level(s). Girls’ and Boys’ Cross Country is open for participation from students in 3rd thru 6th grade.

***Intramural Basketball**

OLPS offers a 5 week intramural basketball season to all students in 1st thru 6th grade. To participate in intramural basketball, a parent simply signs up their child when the intramural sign up email is sent out. The purpose of intramurals is to start to teach the basic fundamentals of basketball (dribbling, shooting, passing, defense, etc.) and to start teaching teamwork skills. Intramural practices are held once a week by grade level and then followed by a short game either that same day or on Saturday. The kids who are there on game day are divided up by the volunteer coaches based upon observed skill level in practice to try and have even competition. This allows all the kids to play with and against the other kids in their age group.

Tryout Protocol:

If more students desire to play for a team than optimum numbers dictate, a try-out process will be used to create the final roster. (Optimum numbers for each sport may be obtained from the Athletic Director) In the event that a tryout is necessary, the following protocol shall be used:

- 1) An email will be sent out to parent(s) of all students eligible to try out for said athletic team at least one week prior to the tryouts.
- 2) There will be a mandatory parent(s) meeting with the coach(es) and the Athletic Director prior to tryouts, to go over team expectations, commitment level, fees, and the tryout process. One parent must attend the meeting in order for the child to tryout. In *extreme cases*, the parent(s) need to make contact with the Athletic Director prior to the mandatory meeting to explain why they will not be able to make said meeting.
- 3) There will be 2 scheduled tryout dates. Students are encouraged to make both scheduled dates, but at a minimum must make at least one of the dates to be considered for the team. In *extreme cases*, the parent(s) need to make contact with the Athletic Director prior to the scheduled tryouts to let them know why the student cannot make the tryout. It is at the Athletic Director's discretion as to whether the student has a valid reason for not making the tryout. If the Athletic Director feels that the absence is valid, then they will work with the parent(s) and coach(es) to schedule a private tryout for the student. Also, per the Athletic Director's discretion, in certain cases, tryouts can be a 1 date affair or tryouts can be dropped all together.
- 4) There will be no parent(s) allowed at the tryouts. Only coaches, Athletic Director, Faculty Sponsor, and tryout judges will be allowed during the tryout. Parents will drop off their student prior to the scheduled beginning of the tryout and then can pick them up once the scheduled tryouts have ended.
- 5) Once the teams have been selected, the Athletic Director or the Faculty Sponsor will email the final team roster to all the tryout participants.

Fees/Waivers/Academic Policy:

Before any student athlete can compete in a game for OLPS, they must have turned into the Faculty Sponsor the following:

- 1) The athletic fee for the sport played.
- 2) The uniform fee or uniform deposit for the sport played.
- 3) The signed waiver for the sport played.
- 4) The signed academic policy form.

The waiver and academic policy forms are located on the OLPS website (www.promptsuccor.org) under “Programs” then “Athletics” then the sport that is being played. The athletic fee for each sport is listed on the waiver form.

Uniforms:

For basketball (girls and boys), soccer (girls and boys), boosters, baseball, softball, and cross country (girls and boys) student athletes will purchase their own uniform. The uniform will be the student athletes to keep at the conclusion of the athletic season. The Athletic Director, Faculty sponsor, and coach(es) will select uniforms, size the student athletes, and order the uniforms for the team. The student athlete will turn in a check to OLPS to cover the cost of the uniform prior to receiving said uniform.

For football OLPS will supply all or part of the uniform. For this sport, student athletes will turn in a separate uniform deposit check that will be held at the school and then returned at the conclusion of the athletic season once the student athlete turns their uniform back in to the head coach.

Practice and Games:

It is expected that all members of an OLPS athletic team will make every effort to be at all practices and games during the season. If a student athlete must miss a practice or game, they need to alert the head coach 24 hours in advance of the missed game or practice. Excessive unexcused practice absences will lead to dismissal from the OLPS athletic team.

During games, it should be understood that OLPS athletic teams will be playing to compete at the highest level. This does not mean that winning is the ultimate goal of any OLPS athletic teams or that OLPS coaches will utilize a “win at all cost” mentality. The ultimate goal of OLPS athletics is to teach student athletes how to be good teammates and good competitors. OLPS athletics also strives to teach student athletes how to compete at the highest level and still represent OLPS and their Christian values during competition.

A student athlete must be in attendance for a minimum of half a school day in order to participate in a practice or game that day. There will be no practices or games on school holidays unless consent is giving by the school administration. In the event that school is closed for weather related or other emergencies, there will be no practices or games.

Please note that there is no minimum guaranteed playing time for any athlete in any sport.

Student Athlete Conduct:

All OLPS student athletes, represent OLPS when they are out in the community and as such should be Christian role models to all they come in contact with. It is an honor and a privilege to represent OLPS in athletic competition and it is expected that all student athletes act accordingly.

Parent Expectations and Conduct:

It is expected that parents represent OLPS when they are out in the community and as such should act in a Christ like manner while at all athletic events. It is also expected, that the parents participate in volunteering as gate workers, concession stand workers, chaperones, etc. as their time and work schedule allow. If everyone makes an effort to help out when asked or when needed, it makes the opportunity to represent OLPS athletics more enjoyable for all associated with it, especially the student athletes.

If a parent has an issue with a coach, another student athlete, faculty sponsor, or a specific non-game situation, please follow the chain of communication shown above. In the event that a parent has an issue with a game situation (playing time, coaching style, etc.), OLPS Athletics has a “24 hour” rule in place. No parent shall discuss game issues with coaches, faculty sponsors, or athletic director until approximately 24 hours has passed since the end of the game when said issue occurred. This gives everyone (parents, athletes, coaches, faculty sponsor, etc.) time to think things through and not react in the heat of the moment. At the end of the 24 hour period, parents need to use their judgement on where in the chain of communication they should start their conversation based on the issue that needs to be discussed.

Coach Expectations and Conduct:

It is expected that OLPS Coaches represent OLPS when they are conducting practices, games, and out in the community. It is a privilege to coach and represent OLPS in athletic competition and as such coaches are asked to act accordingly. Coaches are expected to teach fundamentals, game strategy, and rules of the sport. Because sports help athletes to develop team work skills, character building, and accountability skills OLPS Athletics also requires the coaches to help the athletes develop these as well. As stated above, winning is not the primary objective of OLPS Athletics; however, it should be understood that coaches are free to coach and strategize in a way that gives them an opportunity to field a competitive team.

If a coach has an issue with a student athlete, a parent, or a specific situation, please follow the chain of communication shown above. When a parent or student athlete approaches a coach with an issue, that coach will try through communication and discussion to solve the issue and all parties can move forward. If that is not able to be accomplished, then the coach and/or parent/student athlete will move the issue up the chain of communication.