

SAINT XAVIER ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION HANDBOOK



PARENTS &
STUDENT-ATHLETES
2023-2024

Dear Parents and Student Athletes:

The information in this handbook is very important. Please take the time to read this document carefully. Saint Xavier takes pride in the athletic opportunities provided for its students. More than 900 students participated in our program as a player, manager, or trainer during the 2022-2023 school year. Under the umbrella of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), Saint Xavier athletic teams compete for State Championships in Archery, Baseball, Basketball, Bass Fishing, Bowling, Cross Country, eSports, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field and Wrestling. In addition, Saint Xavier offers club sport opportunities in Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Powerlifting, Rugby, and Volleyball, along with an extensive intramural program.

Participation in the Saint Xavier Athletic Program is a privilege, not a right. Upon making the decision to participate, student athletes and parents must be prepared to make commitments to their chosen activity. In addition, all student athletes and their parents must agree to accept and abide by the policies and procedures detailed in this handbook, and all that are required by both the KHSAA and Saint Xavier High School in its rules and codes for all students.

One of the most important documents for Saint Xavier student athletes, the Parental Consent/Permission to Treat/Physical Examination Form, must be completed and returned to the Saint Xavier Athletic Office before any student athlete can participate in any aspect of the athletic program. KHSAA rules and insurance requirements dictate that student athletes and parents complete this form and that there are no exceptions to this policy.

If you have questions about any of this information, please do not hesitate to call me in the Saint Xavier Athletic Office. I will be happy to provide you with any assistance that you might require.

Sincerely,



Denny Williams
Athletic Director

Saint Xavier Athletic Department IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Work Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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Andrew Littell	eSports Coach	635-5300	alittell@saintx.com
Kevin Wallace	Football Coach	634-2154	kwallace@saintx.com
Mike Finney	Golf Coach	635-5300	mfinney@stxtigers.com
Patrick Sullivan	Ice Hockey Coach	635-5300	patrick.t.sullivan.18@gmail.com
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Kyle Freeman	Rugby Coach	635-5300	kbfreeman10@gmail.com
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Ward Lotze	Volleyball Coach	635-5300	furyvbc@insightbb.com
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ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Athletic Department and coaching staff of Saint Xavier High School dedicate themselves to the development of the complete student athlete. The planning and implementation of the Saint Xavier Athletic Program involve the conscientious consideration of the physical, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth of each young person.

As professionals, the Saint Xavier athletic staff is keenly aware of the developmental needs of individual student athletes, as well as the social implications and importance of creating an environment in which individuals learn to become contributing members of a team. Along with the privilege of participation in athletics, Saint Xavier provides committed students with an opportunity, through extensive training and quality instruction, to set attainable, individual and team goals while striving to maximize their own athletic growth.

The Saint Xavier Athletic Department, as part of the school's total educational experience, is committed to a goal of developing hard working, Christian young men who are proud to have been participants in Saint Xavier athletics, and have the capacity to become successful, contributing citizens in a highly competitive society.

Saint Xavier High School has founded our program of athletics on the following principles:

- That athletic participation provides an ideal environment in which to educate the whole person in that it provides a unique opportunity to integrate mind, body and spirit in the pursuit of excellence. Thus, the playing fields provide an emphatic and readily observable integration of ideas and actions.
- That a sound program of athletics makes an important contribution to the sense of community that exists within the school and among its various stakeholders.
- That participation in athletics enhances the personal and social maturation of student athletes.
- That participation in athletics often provides student athletes with opportunities to experience the world beyond the school boundaries and, consequently, contributes to their growth and development.
- That, while respecting individual achievement, there is inherent value in the pursuit of team accomplishments.
- That a coach can, and often does, serve as primary counselor or adult mentor to student athletes.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Every athletic activity should be an opportunity for players and coaches:

1. To be responsible and contributing members of the Saint Xavier school community.
2. To work with others to reach common goals.
3. To overcome obstacles through hard work and determination.
4. To play and live by the rules of the game.
5. To show appreciation and respect for the efforts of others.
6. To keep athletics in the proper perspective.

Objectives of Participation

1. To promote athletics as an integral component of the educational experience at Saint Xavier High School.
2. To teach student athletes to strive for excellence.
3. To promote growth and development of the Saint Xavier Athletic Program that will increase participation, encourage spectator attendance at contests, and provide impetus to support facility improvement and ongoing maintenance.
4. To create an environment which provides adequate and natural opportunities for:
 - a. Physical, mental, and emotional growth of student athletes.
 - b. Identification and enhancement of the skills required for individual and team success.
 - c. Promotion of team play and its inherent ability to develop personal characteristics such as loyalty, cooperation, and fair play.
 - d. Setting personal and team goals.
 - e. Educating student athletes with regard to the values of lifelong fitness.
5. To promote participation by providing a wide range of athletic opportunities.
6. To promote the self-discipline and emotional maturity required to make decisions under pressure.
7. To develop an understanding of the value of athletics within the context of the entire educational experience.

Athletic Department Rules and Expectations of Student Athletes

1. Student athletes must abide by all school rules.
2. Student athletes must show good sportsmanship, social behavior, care of school equipment, and care of public and private property at all times.
3. Student athletes must abide by the guidelines of the Drug, Tobacco, and Alcohol Policy.
4. Student athletes must be on time for all practices, meetings, and games.
5. Student athletes must obey dress code, curfew, and other rules as provided by each individual coach.

All School and Athletic Department rules and policies remain in force for graduated seniors until the conclusion of their season. Students who violate these rules are subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension or dismissal from the team.

KHSAA Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for competition, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) requires the following for all athletes:

1. Medical Certificate (Physical Examination) attesting that the athlete is physically fit to engage in exercise without undue risk.
2. Athlete and parent agree to abide by KHSAA guidelines.
3. Parental consent for participation in athletic activities.
4. Passing grades in a minimum of four full credit courses. Please NOTE - Saint Xavier has additional requirements.
5. KHSAA Bylaws and procedures are available for viewing and printing at www.khsaa.org.

Statement of Hazards in Participation in Athletics

Playing, practicing to play, helping with, or participating in any manner in any sport can be a dangerous activity involving many risks of injury. The dangers and risks of playing, practicing to play, helping with, or participating in sports include, but are not limited to the following: death, serious neck, head, and spinal injuries which may result in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, serious injury to virtually all internal organs, serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, ligaments, muscles, tendons, and other aspects of the muscular skeletal system, and serious injury or impairment to other aspects of the body, general health, and well being.

Medical Insurance

Saint Xavier provides insurance for all athletes while practicing for, competing in, or traveling to and from contests as representatives of the Saint Xavier Athletic Program. Designed as supplemental insurance, this school policy is subject to specific limitations and exclusions. This policy satisfies the KHSAA requirement for insurance of participants. In the event of injury, student athletes report directly to their coach. The Saint Xavier Sports Medicine Department will complete an accident report form and file it with the Saint Xavier Business Office. The Business Office will file a report with the insurance company. The insurance carrier will contact you directly. All future communication is between you and the insurance carrier.

Responsibility for Equipment

Taking reasonable care of all equipment supplied to them is the expectation of all Student Athletes. An assessment for replacement cost for equipment that is lost or damaged due to carelessness or other misuse by the student athlete might occur.

Academic Policy

All Saint Xavier students who choose to participate in the athletic program are subject to the following Academic Standards:

- 1) Published weekly on Monday mornings, is an eligibility report. The report runs throughout the school year. Declared immediately ineligible for further participation is any student athlete with more than two course averages below 70%. This period of ineligibility will continue until the student athlete is failing no more than one course.
- 2) Immediately placed on probation is any student whose name appears on the weekly eligibility check as failing two subjects. He will have three weeks to raise his grades to the point where he is failing no more than one subject. Suspended from participation as in #1 above is any student who at the end of the three-week period, continues to have failing averages in two or more subjects.
- 3) The coach will notify any student placed on probation. A letter from the Academic Administration will inform the parents of the probation. If suspended for academic reasons, the Academic Administration will send a letter to the parents informing them of the suspension.

Hazing Policy

Purpose - The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment that is free from hazing for students and staff members, hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of Saint Xavier High School and are prohibited at all times.

General Statement of Policy - No student, teacher, coach, administrator or other school employee, contractor or volunteer shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing. No student, teacher, coach, administrator or other school employee, contractor or volunteer shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing. Apparent permission or consent by a person to hazing does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. For initiation or affiliation, with a student organization a person who engages in any act that violates school policy or law, shall be subject to discipline for that act. This policy applies to hazing behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours. Saint Xavier High School will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, coach, administrator or other school employee, contractor or volunteer found to have violated this policy.

Definitions:

Hazing - Committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student's initiation into or affiliation with a student organization, or for any other purpose.

The term hazing includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school or continuing to participate in a school program.
- Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school policies or regulations.

Student Organization – Any group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants including grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events.

Reporting Procedures

Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that would constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to the principal.

Students, teachers, administrators, coaches, and other school employees, as well as contractors and volunteers shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events that might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that would constitute hazing shall inform the Saint Xavier principal immediately. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco/E-Cigarette Policy

Saint Xavier High School is committed to the education and personal growth of its students. This commitment acknowledges the need to provide a school environment that is safe and free from drugs. In this regard, Saint Xavier has adopted a very specific drug policy for all students. This policy is detailed in the school's student/parent handbook. In addition to this school policy, it is the policy of the Saint Xavier Athletic Department that all students who participate in the school athletic programs will refrain from the possession, use, or distribution of tobacco/e-cigarettes, alcohol, and/or drugs at all times. This policy applies on and off campus, including evenings, weekends, and holidays, and during periods of the year when their activity is "out of season." Student athletes who possess, use, or distribute drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, or e-cigarettes at any time are in violation of this policy and will be disciplined by the athletic department and their coach. Sanction may include, but is not limited to, suspension, dismissal from teams, and permanent ineligibility.

The following statements of policy are in effect for all student athletes at Saint Xavier High School. Individual coaches may add to these sanctions, but may not reduce them. All offenses are cumulative.

TOBACCO/E-CIGARETTES

In-season

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| First Offense | Immediate suspension. The suspension begins with the next scheduled contest and concludes when the number of contests is equivalent to 10% of the regular season schedule. If the regular season concludes prior to the completion of the suspension period, the suspension will remain in effect for post-season contests. A written probation agreement is required. In each case, student athletes may continue to practice with the team subject to approval of the individual coach. |
| Second Offense | Suspension from all participation for the remainder of the season in which the violation occurs. |
| Third Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense |

Out of season

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Offense | Suspension from 10% of regular season contests during the next season of participation; written probation agreement. |
| Second Offense | Suspension from all activities during the next season of participation. |
| Third Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense. |

ALCOHOL

In-season

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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Offense | Immediate suspension. The suspension begins with the next scheduled contest and concludes when the number of contests is equivalent to 10% of the regular season schedule. If the regular season concludes prior to the completion of the suspension period, the suspension will remain in effect for post-season contests. A written probation agreement is required. In each case, student athletes may continue to practice with the team subject to approval of the individual coach. |
| Second Offense | Suspension from all participation for the remainder of the season in which the violation occurs; mandatory assessment is required prior to any future participation in Saint Xavier athletics. |
| Third Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense; mandatory assessment is required prior to any future participation in Saint Xavier athletics. |

Out of season

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| First Offense | Suspension during the next season of participation. The suspension begins with the first scheduled regular season contest and concludes when the number of contests is equivalent to 10% of the regular season schedule. A written probation agreement is required. In each case, student athletes may continue to practice with the team subject to approval of the individual coach. |
| Second Offense | Suspension from all participation during the next season of participation; mandatory assessment is required prior to any future participation in Saint Xavier athletics. |
| Third Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense; mandatory assessment is required prior to any future participation in Saint Xavier athletics. |

DRUGS

The Saint Xavier High School drug policy calls for the automatic dismissal of any student who, while at school, traveling to or from school, or while attending or participating in any school sponsored activity, is in possession of drugs for use or distribution, or under the influence of drugs. The Athletic Department policy will not supersede the school policy. Its application is restricted to all situations not directly covered by the school policy.

In-season

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| First Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense; mandatory assessment is required prior to any future participation in Saint Xavier athletics. |
| Second Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for the remainder of his high school career. |

Out of Season

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for one calendar year from the date of the offense; mandatory assessment is required prior to any future participation in Saint Xavier athletics. |
| Second Offense | Suspension from participation in Saint Xavier athletics for the remainder of his high school career. |

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship – The quality of one who abides by the rules of a contest and graciously accepts both victory and defeat.

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity must permeate every aspect of interscholastic athletics in our school community. The ethic of fair play must be present in both perception and practice. Firmly established are the fields of interscholastic athletic competition as training grounds for the promotion of good citizenship and high behavioral standards. Further, student athletes must be aware of the fact that the behaviors and attitudes of each individual have an impact on the behaviors and attitudes of others. The demonstration of sportsmanship by athletes, coaches, and fans is an expectation that is an integral part of the tradition of Saint Xavier athletics.

The responsibility for developing sportsmanship involves many different people. Philosophically and practically committed to demonstrating this quality at all times, is the Saint Xavier Athletic Department. In recent years, the ideal of sportsmanship has faced a societal attitude in which winning at all costs has become the norm rather the exception. As a result, interscholastic athletics faces the challenge to restore sportsmanship to its appropriate place within the educational experience.

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- **GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE CONTEST.**
- **EXERCISE APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.**
- **RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE SKILL AND PERFORMANCE REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.**
- **EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE CONTEST OFFICIALS.**
- **RESPECT OPPONENTS AT ALL TIMES.**

Chain of Command

The Saint Xavier athletic experience is one that we hope provides satisfaction for all participants and their parents. It is inevitable, however, that individuals may have questions or concerns during the course of the year. When issues or concerns arise during the course of an athletic season, coaches, students, and parents are to follow the following procedures. When a student is having difficulties in practice or games, cannot make a practice, or has another issue that relates to his participation in the program, he is to speak directly to his coach as an initial step in the communication process. By accepting this responsibility and communicating directly with the coach, the player has an opportunity to demonstrate ownership in his participation on the TEAM. The chain of command is simple:

- 1 – Player talks to coach.
- 2 – Problem not resolved parents request meeting with player and coach.
- 3 – Still no improvement, parent requests meeting with athletic director, player, and coach.
- 4 – Situation still does not get better, parents request meeting with principal, athletic director, coach, and player.

Expectations of Saint Xavier Coaches

Saint Xavier coaches are educators and leaders of the young men they coach. Parents and student athletes can expect that Saint Xavier coaches will:

- Place the well-being of the athletes I coach ahead of my desire to win. "Athletes first, winning second"
- Exemplify high standards of moral character at all times.
- Provide appropriate and reasonable supervision when athletes are in my care.
- Recognize the inherent individual worth of each athlete.
- Use appropriate language when communicating with athletes.
- Encourage and assist athletes in the process of setting and achieving goals.
- Strive to develop the qualities of leadership and initiative in athletes.
- Establish and enforce training rules that reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- Communicate program philosophy and goals to athletes, parents, and the school community.
- Provide a safe environment for practice and participation.
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and spirit.
- Build and maintain relationships with coaches throughout the athletic program.
- Seek excellence in coaching through collegial collaboration and professional development.
- Promote personal fitness and sound nutrition to athletes in words and action.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Encourage and promote respect for the entire athletic program.
- Utilize appropriate coaching techniques when instructing athletes.

Team Selection

One of the most difficult tasks facing coaches in the Saint Xavier athletic department is that of team selection. Each season the number of student athletes who desire to participate is greater than the number of spots available on our teams. The tryout and cut process is one that often requires coaches to make decisions between athletes who are very close in both talent and performance. In order to make this process as efficient as possible, Saint Xavier coaches must inform student athletes and parents as to the specific criteria for team selection. When possible, inform student athletes individually concerning decisions about cuts from the team. In order to accommodate as many participants as possible, Saint Xavier provides at least one sport each season without cuts.

Information for the College Bound Student Athlete

The athletic program at Saint Xavier High School counts many student/athletes who complete their competitive athletic participation when they graduate from high school. However, many Saint Xavier student/athletes do have the talent, desire, and opportunity to continue their participation at institutions of higher learning. To provide the best and most current information to student/athletes and their families, Saint Xavier recommends the NCAA website. For access, go to <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future> and click on the **Student Athletes** tab. From this screen, you will find access to a great deal of information for the prospective NCAA student athlete.

NCAA www.ncaa.org

NCAA Eligibility Center
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, IN 46207
877-262-1492

****For a Quick Reference Guide to Education Resources and NCAA Eligibility go to:
<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/educational-resources>

Students desiring to participate in athletics for an NAIA institution must now follow a similar process. The NAIA has an initial eligibility process that is now required for all student athletes. Information is available at www.PlayNAIA.org.

NAIA www.PlayNAIA.org

Contact Ruth Stein
ecinfo@naia.org

50 Ways to a Better Athletic Experience at Saint Xavier High School

- Persistence is more important than talent.
- There is a reason that student comes first in student athlete.
- Respect the game.
- Tuck in your shirt.
- It does not take any talent to hustle. Practice hard every day.
- Be a student of the game. Learn the game. Study its history.
- Help your team win whether you play or not.
- Keep a daily diary of the things you do in practice. This will help you see your progress.
- Never argue with an official.
- Athletics provides you with an opportunity to reveal your character.
- Let your coaches coach you.
- Do not be too hard on yourself, but do not give yourself a free ride.
- Maintain grades that are better than the minimum needed to remain eligible.
- Set high standards for yourself and your team.
- Be the first one out for practice.
- Your parents love you very much, but they do not know more than your coaches do. Neither do you.
- Do not make excuses for yourself. Do not let anyone make excuses for you.
- Life is not fair.
- Be passionate about your teammates and about your team.
- When you do a drill, do it right every time.
- Love the game.
- Learn to appreciate routine play done to perfection.
- Strive to win, but do not be afraid to lose.
- Keep your locker room clean.
- Learn your role. Accept it.
- Treat support personnel with respect at all times. Managers and trainers are there to help you. They are not your servants.
- Tell people thank you. Mean it.
- Tie your shoes.
- Body language screams. It never whispers.
- Coaches owe you honesty. Be honest with them.
- Do the right thing even when no one is watching.
- Cheer for your teammates.
- Learn from mistakes.
- Games are supposed to be fun. Hard work does not change that. Winning and losing does not change that.
- You do not have to be a great athlete to be a good player.
- When you jog to warm up, finish first.
- Accept criticism as an opportunity to improve.
- Be willing to do whatever it takes to help the team succeed. Believe that your teammates are willing to do the same.
- Strive to get better at what you do worst every day.
- Make eye contact when your coaches are talking.
- Compete.
- Play the game. Do not play to the fans.
- Be a leader in word and action, but be a follower when appropriate.
- Learn the difference between a right and a privilege.
- Respect your opponents.
- Be enthusiastic.
- Watch tape with a purpose. There is always something to learn.
- You cannot change what you did yesterday, but you can change what you are going to do today.
- Learn to be humble. The spotlight is never too small to share.
- Thank God for your gifts, talents, and opportunities every day.

35 Ways to a Better Experience as a Parent of an Athlete at Saint Xavier

- There is a reason that student comes first in student athlete.
- Respect the game.
- Encourage your son.
- Be a student of the game. Learn the game. Study its history.
- Never verbally abuse an official.
- Being a spectator at an athletic event provides you with an opportunity to reveal your character.
- Let your son's coaches coach.
- Do not be too hard on your son, but do not let him have a free ride.
- Encourage your son's teammates – even if your son does not play.
- Tell the truth at all times.
- You love your son very much, but he does not know more than his coaches do. Neither do you.
- Do not make excuses for your son. Do not let him make excuses.
- Life is not fair.
- Be passionate about your son's TEAM.
- Love the game.
- Learn to appreciate routine play done to perfection.
- Show your son how to strive to win within the rules of the game.
- Teach your son how to keep his room clean.
- Help your son accept his role on the TEAM.
- Show your son how to say thank you.
- Body language screams. It never whispers.
- Coaches owe you honesty. Be honest with them.
- Encourage your son to hustle. It does not take any talent to hustle.
- Show your son how you learn from mistakes.
- Games are supposed to be fun. Hard work does not change that. Winning and losing does not change that.
- Your son does not have to be a great athlete to be a good player.
- Let your son have his life. It is not your team or your game.
- Show your son how to compete.
- Encourage your son to play the game rather than play to the fans.
- Learn the difference between a right and a privilege. Teach the difference to your son.
- Show respect for opponents.
- Be enthusiastic.
- You cannot change what you did yesterday, but you can change what you are going to do today.
- Teach your son humility. The spotlight is never too small to share.
- Thank God every day for giving you the opportunity to spend these times with your son.