

SAINT LAWRENCE O'TOOLE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

MISSION STATEMENT (Article I of SLOT Athletic Program Constitution)

The objective of the St. Lawrence O'Toole Athletic Program is to enable our children to develop physical and athletic skills within a Christian framework of team play, competition and cooperation. A large part of a child's growth involves learning how to be a team player and learning to work with others toward a common goal. We believe that sports activities allow for this growth.

Athletics are a social, as well as a physical learning activity for our children. The goal of the St. Lawrence O'Toole Athletic Program is to teach individual basic athletic skills and rules, to refine those skills once learned, to teach Christian sportsmanship and conduct, and to encourage and foster development of interpersonal communication and social skills through team activities.

PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT (Article VIII, By Law I, Item IV of SLOT Athletic Program Constitution)

1. Parents, Coaches, and Athletes will strive to conduct themselves as positive Christian examples and representatives of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish at all times.
2. Parents and coaches will resolve to take part and support the activities of St. Lawrence O'Toole Athletics, in accordance with the program's By-Laws and in keeping with the objectives set forth in the Mission Statement.
3. Parents will not force their child to participate in sports.
4. Parents and coaches will be required to attend a mandatory meeting before their child's participation in any sport.
5. Parents and coaches will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for the youth, not the adults.
6. Parents will refrain from coaching their child or other athletes during games and practices, unless they are one of the official coaches of the team.
7. Parents, coaches and athletes will support a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use before and during all sports events.
8. Parents and coaches will teach the athletes to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. Parents and coaches will treat athletes, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. Parents and coaches will teach the athlete that doing one's best is more important than winning.
11. Parents and coaches will praise the athlete for competing fairly and trying hard, and make him/her feel like a winner every time.
12. Parents, coaches, and athletes will never ridicule or yell at an athlete or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. Parents and coaches will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit the athlete over winning.
14. Parents and coaches will promote the emotional, spiritual, and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire for the athlete to win.
15. Parents, coaches and athletes will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. Parents, coaches and athletes will learn and abide by the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
17. Parents, coaches and athletes will be positive role models and encourage good sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all athletes, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
18. Parents, coaches and athletes will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, athlete, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures; or demonstrating any general loss of self-control.
19. Parents and coaches will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.

20. Parents will be responsible for maintaining the athletic uniform for the duration of the season and assure its return at the end of the season in good, clean condition.
21. Parents will be responsible for paying the required registration and concession fees for each athlete.
22. Parents will be responsible for getting their child to and from games and practices on time.
23. Parents will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child or the safety of others. In addition, Parents will fill out a medical condition form to be kept by the coach.
24. Parents and coaches will ensure that the athlete wears the uniform, all proper safety equipment and any other expected attire as appropriate during games and/or practices.
25. Coaches will offer prayer before all practices and games.
26. Coaches will strive to be fair and unprejudiced in their relationships with the athletes and parents.
27. Coaches will not physically discipline an athlete by touching, shaking, hitting, etc. in any way, including the coach's own child.
28. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of their athletes and assistant coaches - this includes conduct on the court, field or in the locker room.
29. Coaches will be responsible for arriving at practices and games 10 minutes earlier than athletes are required to report. Coaches are also responsible for staying afterwards until all athletes are picked up.
30. Coaches will communicate the schedule of practices, games, or any cancellations or alterations to the athlete and/or Parents in a timely manner.
31. Coaches will be responsible for the equipment issued to them, and for the proper use of all facilities where practices and games are held.
32. Coaches will be responsible for promptly completing an Incident Report for any personal injuries or for any damage to the facilities.
33. Coaches will be responsible for proper physical conditioning of the athlete, including proper warm-up and stretching of athletes.
34. In matters of concern, Coaches and Parents should make every effort to address the issue with the coach/person in question. If communication at this level fails, the matter should be addressed to the following people in this order:
 - ◆ Sports Event Coordinator
 - ◆ Athletic Director
 - ◆ Athletic Board
 - ◆ Pastor
35. Parents, coaches and athletes agree that if they fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, they will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:
 - ◆ Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
 - ◆ Written warning
 - ◆ Parent/Coach/Athlete game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
 - ◆ Game forfeit through the official or coach
 - ◆ Parent/Coach/Athlete season suspension

To receive a copy of the complete ST LAWRENCE O'TOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM CONSTITUTION is available on-line at: <http://www.slotoole.org/pgyouthed.htm>.

Playing Time (Article VIII, By Law I, section VI of SLOT Athletic Program Constitution)

Each player's amount of playing time will reflect his/her ability, effort, attendance at practices and commitment to the team. In grades 4 - 6, every player must play no less than 1/4th (one/fourth) of each game. In grades 7 and 8, the amount of playing time may be left to the coach's discretion, however, playing time for all is encouraged. ("Winning" at all costs, or to the exclusion of participation of eligible players, should not be tolerated.) Missing practice without cause, or excessive absences, can result in reduced playing time and even exclusion from the team. Playing time may also be reduced as a disciplinary action, e.g. when a player loses self-control or engages in other conduct unbecoming a Christian athlete.

Generally, however, every eligible athlete should play in every game (including tournaments).