

FAQ's for Falcon Catholic Middle School Program

1. What paperwork does my student need to participate?

A current physical* (good for one year from date) must be completed annually

Birth certificate (one-time)

Waivers for JPII, AHSAA and Concussion Protocol (annually)

AHSAA Sportsmanship certificate (one-time)

**Physical forms must be signed by an MD or DO, physical forms signed by Nurse Practitioners are not accepted by the AHSAA*

2. Will my son/daughter be able to play on JPII High School Teams?

Yes. If the parents, Principal, Coach and AD agree that a student is ready for competition at the JV or Varsity level, then they will be eligible to compete on those teams.

3. Will there be a basketball team at each middle school?

No. AHSAA rules allow us to form a combined team from all of the middle schools. This could be a separate 7th grade and 8th grade team if there are enough students, or we may combine 7th & 8th graders to form one team.

4. Are there games and practices over the Fall, Winter and Spring Breaks?

Yes. Most sports still practice and have games scheduled over school breaks. Check with the coach of each sport at the pre-season team meeting for expectations.

5. How much will it cost to play on a middle school team?

The first sport will be a \$175 athletic fee. If you play a second sport, you would only pay an additional \$150 and if you play a third sport, an additional \$100. These fees go towards paying coaching stipends, renting fields and gyms, paying for officials and other miscellaneous costs maintaining a high level athletic program. If a player quits before the 8th practice, no fee is assessed. If they quit after the 8th practice, there will be a \$50 administrative fee charged. If they quit after the 1st contest (minimum 15 practices) there will be no refund.

6. What if I want to change schools, how does that affect my eligibility?

The AHSAA has strict rules about transfer students but in general, the following is true:

- a. If students are *enrolled as 8th graders at Holy Spirit, Holy Family, St. John's or St. Ann's* they are immediately eligible as 9th graders at JPII.
- b. *Students enrolled as 8th graders in these schools who choose NOT to attend JPII the following year* (and attend another public or private high school in the zone where their parents reside) must sit out their first year of sports with this new school (unless

they make a 'bona fide move' to a new school district or they transfer to a non-AHSAA school or if they already reside outside of the zone of their school). For example, if you live in Scottsboro and attend Holy Spirit, you could transfer back to Scottsboro High School because the zone lines for Scottsboro and Holy Spirit do not overlap, so you are returning to your home zone.

- c. If a student transfers into one of our middle schools or JPll from a non-AHSAA member school (Grace Lutheran for example) or because of a "bona fide move" into the school zone (move from out of state into Huntsville) that student is eligible to play immediately. For purposes of private school zone lines, it's the city limits of the town in which the school is located (JPll is located in Huntsville, so the Huntsville City Limits is our school zone).

7. Can we still have a 8th grade soccer team in the HISL?

No. 7th and 8th grade teams can only compete against other teams that are AHSAA Member Schools.

8. Can we still have a 6th grade soccer team in the HISL?

Yes. AHSAA eligibility begins at the 7th grade.

9. Can my 7th or 8th grader play on an intramural, recreational league or church league team?

If your student is participating on the school team against other AHSAA member schools, then during the school season they cannot participate on outside teams. They can participate on travel teams, etc. during the off-season under the 50% rule (see AHSAA Handbook). There are exceptions for individual sports such as participating in a golf tournament, etc. (see AHSAA Handbook).

If your student is NOT participating on the school team, then they are free to compete on any outside team such as intramurals at the school, the City of Huntsville Park and Rec Leagues or a Church Sponsored Team/League.

10. What is my student tries out for a team but gets cut?

JPll offers every sport that is sanctioned by the AHSAA and in each season (Fall, Winter and Spring) JPll has sports that don't cut players. For example, if your student gets cut from the basketball team, we sponsor Wrestling, Bowling and Indoor Track and they can join these teams without a tryout. Each sport also has team managers that help with equipment, filming, stats, etc. The school also maintains 6-8 student trainers that work with our Certified Athletic Trainer if they have an interest in Sports Medicine.

11. What if our team practices at St. John's in Madison and we live in South Huntsville and work late? How will they get to practice?

Parents are ultimately responsible for transporting students to and from practices and games, but we have a network of parents at each school that can arrange carpools. JP II has also raised money to purchase buses and the future plans include transporting students between campuses.

12. Do we have practice in the summer?

Yes. From the last day of school until the first official practice date in the fall (usually August 1), teams can have non-mandatory practices to work on skills. Summer competition is also allowed in a three-week period for each sport. July 17th week is a dead week for teams and is the best time to plan for summer vacation.

13. What if I miss a practice?

Each coach/team will have a pre-season meeting outlining the expectations for the year. Coaches will provide parents with a practice/game schedule that players are expected to adhere to. Different teams may have different rules regarding missing practice, but communication is key if students need to be excused from practice for various reasons.

14. Does my child have to maintain a certain grade point average to maintain eligibility?

In the AHSAA, your eligibility for the year is based on your grades from the previous year, not your current grades. Coaches are encouraged to stay in touch with parents and teachers regarding students that are falling behind in their school work to help them keep up their grades for next year's eligibility. At JP II, there is a policy of "two D's or one F" that can affect a student's ability to compete in games or matches.

15. Who will be the coaches?

Coaches will be both paid and volunteer but will all be required to be certified in CPR, Sports First Aid, Heat Illness Prevention, Concussion protocol and Sudden Cardiac Arrest protocol. They will also be required to take courses on Sportsmanship and Principles of Coaching, along with a current drug screen, background check and Youth Protection courses required by the Diocese of Birmingham.