



Cyclone Athletics - General Information FAQ

Parents please note that the information herein is provided with the intent to give general insight into the Athletic program. The Athletic Board reserves the right to modify and/or change the content at their discretion.

Q: Who runs the Holy Family Parish School Athletic programs?

A: The Holy Family Athletic program is run under the direction of the Holy Family Athletic Board (AB) and follows the guidance set forth by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee athletic policies, the leagues in which we participate and the Holy Family Athletic Board bylaws. Annually the AB appoints a sport specific Coordinator (basketball, Volleyball, etc.), either an AB member or another Holy Family volunteer, to coordinate all activities with the sport specific program (Summer Camps, league liaison and coordination, gym scheduling, seeks coaches, etc.). The coordinator shall run the program on a committee basis. The AB and School Administration work closely with the Coordinators to ensure all Parish, Archdiocesan and league guidelines are followed.

Q: Who is eligible to play?

A: All Holy Family students (boys and girls) in grades 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th in good academic standing are eligible to play. Specific eligibility guidelines are provided in the Family Handbook.

Q: How much does it cost a family to have a student play sports at Holy Family?

A: In order to operate our program at Holy Family we require continued parental volunteerism rather than payment of fees. The Holy Family athletic program is run entirely by volunteers. Only through strong volunteerism are we able to maintain a minimal cost (e.g. league fees) structure to run our program. We look for parents to volunteer their time to help with:

- Door and Concession Stand duty (all parents are expected to participate and a schedule is provided once home games are known for each sport)
- Serve as Coaches (head and assistants)
- Serve on Sports Committees to help organize each program (e.g. Volleyball, Basketball, Concession Stand, Spaghetti Dinner, tournaments, Gym supervisors, Little Dribblers etc.)
- Serve on the Athletic Board

Q: What sports does Holy Family offer and when does each sport season start/finish?

A: Holy Family offers these sports in sponsorship with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and their defined sport seasons:



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- Fall season = Volleyball: August 15 - November 7
- Winter season = Basketball: November 8 - March 20
- Spring season = Tennis and Track: March 21 - End of School Year

Q: Who contacts me about team assignment and practice times for my student(s)?

A: The Holy Family Athletic Board solicits all students in May or early June to determine interest level for the upcoming fall, winter and spring sport seasons. After team formation recommendations have been agreed upon, approximately 45-60 days prior to the specific season beginning, parents will be notified. At this time, should it occur for a group of students that it is recommended to split the group into two or more teams, specific details (requirements and implications) will be provide to the affected students/parents.

Typically, final Coaching assignments are confirmed approximately 30 days prior to the specific sport season. Once coaching assignments are confirmed, the sport specific Coordinator works closely with the coaches to set the practice schedule for each team. Coaches are then expected to contact the students (via parents) on their respective team. Parents should expect to hear specific details from the coaches around two weeks prior to their first practice.

Q: What are typical practice times?

A: The Archdioceses of Milwaukee guidelines provide limits on practice to no more than two times per week for all grade levels. In addition the Archdioceses of Milwaukee limits practice time by grade level for certain sports:

- Volleyball & Basketball: 3 hours maximum per week for 5th and 6th graders
- Volleyball & Basketball: 4 hours maximum per week for 7th and 8th graders
- All other HFPS offered sports: 4 hours maximum per week

Other factors that affect practice duration include Holy Family's single court gym layout, a coach's personal availability and the number of teams we form. The AB's preferred practice times are between 3:30 PM to 9:45 PM, Monday through Thursday. On occasion a coach may request and be granted a Sunday evening practice slot. It is the goal of the Athletic Board to have 5th and 6th graders complete practice prior to 8:30PM.



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Q: In which leagues does Holy Family participate?

A: For girls and boys Basketball and girls Volleyball Holy Family is member of the North Shore Catholic League (NSCL). Unfortunately, few parish/schools within the NSCL offer boys Volleyball, so all Holy Family boys' Volleyball teams play in the Metro Volleyball Conference.

From time to time, the AB may elect to have a team(s) participate in a different league.

Q: For League play, how long does a grade school sport event typically last?

A: Leagues design each sport event (game, match, etc.) to last about one hour. An overtime situation and level of comparable competition can make experience shorter or longer. The exception is track, in which dozens of school are competing at one time and thus it may take several hours.

Q: What day(s) and time(s) will my student play Volleyball matches and Basketball games?

A: Each sport season and respective league has their own approach to scheduling. In addition, each league will annually review their approach and may institute changes for the upcoming season. Historically, the following schedules have been adhered to:

Sport	League	Gender	Typical Game/Match Days
Volleyball	NSCL	Girls	Saturday mornings and occasionally 8 th graders on Sunday afternoons
Volleyball	Metro	Boys	Friday evenings
Basketball	NSCL	Girls & Boys	Saturday mornings and occasionally 8 th graders on Sunday afternoons

Q: Who selects the tournaments and number of tournaments we play-in?

A: The discretion to play in a tournament is up to the team coaching staff. The AB encourages the coaches to work with the parents to gauge a suitable number of tournaments and the specific selection of a tournament.



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The Archdiocese of Milwaukee provides specific guidelines on the maximum number of tournaments by sport season by grade:

Sport	Grade	Max Number	Comments
Volleyball	5 th & 6 th	2	The HF AB recommends 1 for 5 th grade teams.
Volleyball	7 th & 8 th	3	The number is exclusive of the annual 8 th grade post-season Seton Volleyball tournament
Basketball	5 th & 6 th	3	The HF AB recommends 1 for 5 th grade teams.
Basketball	7 th & 8 th	4	The number is exclusive of the annual 8 th grade post-season Padre Sera Basketball tournament

Q: What development programs are available for my student(s)?

A: Each summer efforts are made to find a qualified instructor so that Volleyball and Basketball Camps can be held for Holy Family Parish School incoming students in grades 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th.

Q: We have seen and heard cases where athletes, coaches and/or parents have lost their perspective during sporting events. What is HFPS position on these situations?

A: Both the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and HFPS hold sportsmanship in the highest esteem. Annually, student athletes, coaches and parents are required to sign and adhere to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Sportsmanship Pledge. Further details on our behavior expectations and the associated disciplinary process(es) can be found in the HFPS Athletic Handbook (being rewritten during the summer of 2011).

Q: Who do I contact if I would like to coach or help with a sport specific program?

A: Please contact the Athletic Director, any member of the Athletic Board or the school office and ask them to forward your contact information to the Athletic Board.

Q: Why does the Athletic Board send out a questionnaire for sports in May when the Volleyball season is in the fall?

A: While the VB season doesn't start until late summer practices begin (after August 15th), planning begins months earlier. The Metro VB Conference requires member schools to designate the number of teams at each grade level by gender and submission of requisite team fees prior to late July (around the



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20th). In order to be in compliance with this request the Athletic Board needs to have sufficient player and parent commitments in order to accurately gauge the number of teams we sponsor for the upcoming season.

Q: Why is it important as a parent and student that we give careful consideration to the answers we provided on the Interest Questionnaire?

A: Because of our single class per grade size, conflicts with other sports and other activities the Athletic Board endeavors to formulate teams with the knowledge that each team is fully staffed with enough students willing to provide preference to their Holy Family team. First and most importantly, the teams we compete against would be disappointed to show-up for a match and find out Holy Family has to forfeit. Secondly, injuries occur from time to time. And finally, after the team entry deadline passes, the league(s) frowns upon adding or dropping teams. (To reduce the occurrence the league(s) have recently instituted financial penalties.) It is the expectation of the Athletic Board that a student who committed to play and provided preference over other sports will keep that commitment.

Q: What if my student wishes to play another sport at the same time they wish to play on a Holy Family team?

A: It is our hope that every student would play on a Holy Family team and would also give preference to their HF team. However, we realize that our students will play on club teams and from time to time may travel or have other related conflicts. Our intent is to minimize rescheduling and potential forfeit situations.

Q: What considerations does the Athletic Board undertake when forming teams?

A: The factors that the Athletic Board considers includes, but is not limited to, Archdiocese of Milwaukee Athletic policies, respective league rules, number of interested players per grade by gender, number of players indicating they will give preference to their HF team over other sports, and the number of players in grades above and below. These factors may lead into forming a single team at a grade, multiple teams at a specific grade level, combining multiple grades and forming multiple teams (in order to balance the number of players), etc.

Q: Will my student be able to play even if there aren't enough students or interested students in their respective class to play?

A: It is the philosophy of the Athletic Board that all interested students should have the chance to play. The AB may elect, within Arch/league guidelines, to (combine) move students up or down a grade level



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so a team will field a full squad. If that option is not possible, (enough students already exist at the upper or lower levels) the AB will seek-out an opportunity with the 3 North Shore Parishes (St. Robert, St. Monica, or St. Eugene) to attempt to find Holy Family student(s) a team.

Q: When will the Athletic Board consider splitting a grade (or combined grades) into two or more teams?

A: Our general guideline is to consider splitting a grade (or combined grades) into two teams if we have (approximately 15 or more for Volleyball or 14 or more for basketball) interested students (of a particular gender) and a significant number of players that have indicated they will give their HF team preference over another sport. Should a split be required, grade specific conference guidelines will be followed.

Q: Should I indicate on the commitment questionnaire that my student is interested and will provide Cyclone preference in playing when we know we will be out of town for 1 or 2 weekends during the season?

A: The Athletic Board expects that families will have normal conflicts due to weddings, previously planned vacations, funerals, or similar activities. It is our belief that these circumstances are an exception and we encourage parents to communicate potential conflicts to the student's team coaching staff as soon as they are known. The preference clause in the questionnaire is designed to identify other activity based conflicts, particularly sports, where the HF team is not the student's preference to eliminate or dramatically reduce the potential for a forfeit situation.

Q: What should I do if my student changes her/his mind and would like to play?

A: Many things will change over time; most of it good as our students grow and become stronger. In situations where a student has decided they would like play, please contact the school office and they will forward the information to Athletic Board. The AB will make every attempt to place the student on a grade appropriate team; however, once team formation has been set with the league there may be rare instances where a team will be considered fully staffed for the present year.

Q: When will parents be advised of the team being formed for their student(s)?

A: Once the all the questionnaires have been collected the sport specific Committee and Athletic Board will review the student's selection and will make several recommendations on the formation of teams. The recommendations will be reviewed with the School Administration to ensure fairness. Once the School Administration has approved the plan, the results will be communicated to the parents.