MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Ghost Preparatory School, founded by members of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost, the Spiritans, is a private Catholic school dedicated to the quality education of college bound young men.

With Christ at the center, Holy Ghost Preparatory School aspires to form young men morally, intellectually, and spiritually in the Spiritan tradition. This tradition fosters the development of community in “one heart and one mind,” the cultivation of each student’s unique gifts, academic excellence, and generous service to the poor.

FIREBIRD VISION

Holy Ghost Prep provides a variety of athletic opportunities for students to develop, test, and display their skills. These experiences are designed to promote several desired outcomes for the individual athlete and the school. Among these are the following:

1. To provide opportunities for character refinement for each player. This can occur in a variety of ways, depending upon the individual:
   -experiencing goal-setting and achievement in relation to personal ability level.
   -learning poise and emotional control under pressure
   -developing perseverance in effort, and a personal desire for improvement
   -learning leadership skills and taking initiative
   -demonstrating loyalty to the team, over and above individual aspirations
   -practicing respect for authority (the coach and the referee)

2. To build a team that progressively works toward its potential and models excellence in its performance. There are various ingredients that are necessary if these outcomes are to be realized.
   A. A school atmosphere that is supportive of athletics. Athletics must be seen clearly as character building in spite of college scholarship or admission, and not the contrary.
   B. The Team Concept. A player's role is defined in relation to the team, and individual aspirations are secondary to team goals.
   C. The Coach in a Catholic Setting. By his/her example and influence, players learn how to respond to referees, how to deal with pressure, and how to credibly integrate athletic pursuit with the Catholic faith. What the coach is and what he/she inspires to become will influence the athletes far more than anything said to them, with or without the help of this vision statement.
FIREBIRD TEAM GUIDELINES

For an athlete to achieve his/her potential, self discipline and accountability need to be present. Participation in athletics is a privilege, not a right. Various behaviors can limit or detract from an athlete's performance.

1. The following infractions will result in a minimum of counseling from the coach and/or team discipline:
   - arriving late for practices, games, or academic classes
   - unsportsmanlike conduct or profanity
   - intentional/irresponsible damage to school property
   - not eating three balanced meals a day, nor getting adequate rest
   - an Attitude Report from the discipline office

2. The following infractions will result in a minimum of suspension from the next scheduled contest for the first offense and an indefinite suspension for the second offense:
   - theft or malicious destruction of any school or individual's property
   - six non-valid unexcused tardies to school during the sport season
   - one non-valid unexcused absence from school during a sport season
   - being ejected from a league, non-league, or playoff game (Bicentennial Athletic League Policy).

3. Athletes must be committed to not being involved with the use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs. A violation will result in an indefinite suspension and further disciplinary measures may be taken.

4. Various other operating guidelines need to be understood by athletes:
   a) If a need arises to be absent from a game or practice, this request should be made to the coach prior to missing that event. A violation may involve suspension from the contest immediately following the unexcused absence. Note: Special requests for being absent must be made directly to the coach prior to the day of absence.
   b) Athletes are expected to be in school by 10:00am in order to participate in a practice or contest that day. Violations may result in suspensions from that day's contest or practice. Exceptions: An approved medical appointment or excused absence obtained through prior permission.
   c) Travel Procedure - Athletes must travel to and from "away" contests in transportation provided by the school. Exception: Satisfactory prior arrangements between the participant's parent/guardian and the athletic director. A violation will result in discipline measures (similar to section 2 above) taken by the coach and athletic director.
   d) Students should be picked up from school within one half hour of the scheduled end of practice, game, or return from an away contest, and therefore, should not uncourteously detain a coach. For distant games, students must call for their rides before leaving the away site.
e) Students may not arrive any earlier than 15 minutes before a scheduled practice or meeting time for a game.

5. Hazing Policy
Hazing is defined as any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization or team, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or another person. Such conduct includes whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance; or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any student or other person, or that subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Any student violating this policy will be disciplined accordingly. Such behavior could result in suspension or removal from the team.

6. Academic and Curricular Requirements
a) Athletes must be passing at least four subjects as of each Friday during a grading period. If an athlete fails to meet this requirement, the athlete will lose his/her eligibility for the following week (Monday through Sunday-PIAA Rule).

b) Athletes must be passing every subject during the previous grading period, except that eligibility for the first grading period is based on your final grades for the preceding school year. If an athlete fails to meet this requirement, the athlete will be placed on academic probation and could be suspended from games for a certain period of time. Any athlete not abiding by the PIAA eligibility (passing four subjects) will be suspended from games for 15 class days. Students not adhering to the Holy Ghost Prep standards will be placed on probation for 10 class days.

7. Equipment Responsibilities
a) Each athlete is responsible for properly equipping himself for a contest. All equipment per PIAA Rules must be worn. It is suggested that in contact sports, all athletes wear protective equipment, including a mouthpiece and an athletic supporter with a protective cup.

b) Each athlete accepts the responsibility for the equipment issued him/her, including replacement costs. This included the lockers assigned in Firebird Fieldhouse. Failure to return equipment/clean lockers at the conclusion of the season on time may result in fines set by the Athletic Director.

8. Sportsmanship Policy
a) All athletes, parents, coaches and friends of the Holy Ghost Prep community are expected to act in a manner consistent with our school mission. The following are guidelines for acceptable and expected behavior during an athletic event:

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
Players shaking hands with opponents who foul out while both sets of fans recognize the player’s performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in a positive manner
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of a contest, regardless of the outcome
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/Players search out and congratulate opposing participant or coach.
- Applause at the end of a contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of the team.
- Encourage only sportsmanlike conduct.

b) The following would be deemed as unacceptable behavior:

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official’s decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official’s call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on an official, coaches or participants.
- Taunting or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Entering the field or court from the bench area during a dispute on the field or court.

Any violation of this policy could result in the athlete’s suspension or dismissal from the team, as well as disciplinary action from the school administration. Parents, coaches or other members of the Holy Ghost Prep community may be asked to leave an event or restricted from attending athletic contests in the case of negative behavior.
Student Athlete Authorization and Consent Form for Disclosure of Protected Health Information

I hereby authorize the athletic trainers, sports medicine staff and other health care personnel representing Holy Ghost Preparatory School (HGP), to release information regarding the Student Athlete’s protected health information and related information regarding any injury or illness during the Student Athlete’s training for and participation in interscholastic sports at HGP. This protected health information may concern the Student Athlete’s medical status, medical conditions, injuries, prognosis, diagnosis, athlete’s participation status, and related personally identifiable health information. This protected health information may be released to other health care providers, hospitals and/or medical clinics and laboratories, Student Athlete’s coaches, medical insurance coordinators, the school’s Athletic Director and Principal, and/or HGP administrators. I also authorize the Student Athlete’s coaches and other HGP staff to release protected health information to the athletic trainers, sports medicine staff and other health care personnel as identified above and to other health care professionals providing services to the Student Athlete.

As the parent or guardian of the Student Athlete, I hereby confirm that I have signed this authorization/consent for the disclosure of the Student Athlete’s protected health information voluntarily. I understand that my child’s protected health information is protected by federal regulations under the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) or the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (the Buckley Amendment) and may not be disclosed without either parent/legal guardian authorization under HIPAA or consent under the Buckley Amendment. I, the parent/legal guardian understand that once protected health information is disclosed per authorization or consent, the information is subject to re-disclosure and may no longer be protected by HIPAA and/or the Buckley Amendment. I, the parent/legal guardian, understand that I may revoke this authorization/consent any time by notifying in writing to the HGP’s Athletic Director, but if I do, it will not have any effect on the disclosures made by HGP prior to receiving the revocation. I understand that I may see and obtain a copy of all protected health information described on this form if I ask for it. I further understand that I may request a copy of this form after I sign it. This authorization/consent expires one year from the date it is signed.
I, we, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of ________________________________
request Holy Ghost Preparatory School to allow our child to participate in
(sport)____________________. We understand that the school will attempt to provide
reasonable supervision for our child. However, we understand that injuries can occur;
these injuries can, on rare occasions, result in total disability, paralysis, or death.

In consideration for providing the opportunity to play(sport) _____________________,
I/we hereby release and save harmless the Holy Ghost Preparatory School, its employees,
and volunteers from any liability for any injury that our child may sustain while
participating as a member of the team.

Each athlete and his parents/guardians are asked to sign below. Your signature is your
indication that you understand and are committed to the principles and guidelines
contained in the Player Contract, and that you desire to be held accountable to this
statement.

HIPPA ADDENDUM
I HAVE READ THE ABOVE HIPPA CONSENT FORM AND AUTHORIZE THE
DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE’S PROTECTED
HEALTH INFORMATION AS STATED.

________________________________________  _______________________
(student signature)                        (date)

________________________________________  _______________________
(parent/guardian signature)                (date)

DETACH AND RETURN THIS PAGE ONLY TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.