

ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT FOR A JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

*Jesuit Secondary Education Association
National Document
January, 1999*

An interscholastic athletic program as a co-curricular activity is an integral part of the total education and growth experience at a Jesuit high school. Athletics is designed to affirm and promote the Ignatian values as stated in the *Profile of the Graduate at Graduation* and engage student-athletes fully in mind, body, and spirit. Student-athletes, coaches, and parents are called upon to work together in a true spirit of sportsmanship to assist in creating an environment in which those Ignatian values can be revealed, tested, and proven relevant both to participants and the entire school community.

Through participation in athletics at a Jesuit high school, students will mature physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. They will learn to take responsibility for personal growth by developing loyalty, pride, integrity, and commitment. Athletics provides the opportunity for the student-athlete to exhibit a progression of physical skills and knowledge of a particular sport, enabling him/her to apply these skills and knowledge to new situations in a variety of learning formats. Through participation in athletics, the student-athlete learns that God is active in all things and that individual and liturgical prayer will bring him/her closer to God. The student-athlete comes to trust that he/she is known and loved by God: that love invites a personal response, which is an expression of movement within the human heart beyond self-interest or self-centeredness. The student-athlete is called to be conscious of the call to be a leader in service and to acknowledge his/her active commitment toward fostering a just society. Every member of a Jesuit high school community must seek to encourage, instill, and foster such growth and development in all student-athletes