

Extracted from the St. Mary Athletic Association Constitution

O. *Player's/Cheerleader's Responsibilities*

The following constitutes the responsibilities of the St. Mary Athletic Association players/cheerleaders:

1. Each player is expected to conduct his/herself in a manner which positively reflects Christian sportsmanship at all times during all practice, games, and tournaments and in the community.
2. Each player is expected to participate in all practices and games unless previously excused by the coach. It is the responsibility of the player to notify the coach at the earliest possible time of intended absence.
3. A student must be in school for a full day in order to attend practice, or to play a contest, or participate in any school related activity on that day. If a student is out of school on Friday for an excused absence, they are still permitted to play on Saturday or Sunday. If a student is away from school the day of a game for an approved purpose, the student is eligible to play provided they get permission from the principal or pastor. If a student misses school and goes home sick, they are not able to play, regardless of any permission.
4. If a student misses school due to an unexcused absence, they may not play in games on Saturday or Sunday,
5. Players are expected to arrive at the game site prior to the game the amount of time designated by the coach.
6. Abusive or foul language at practice or games is subject to immediate disciplinary action, which could result in suspension from the team. If a player is ejected from a game or contest, the Diocesan Recreation Association states that such a violation automatically carries with it a suspension from the next contest.
7. The purpose of practice is to develop skills, not to horseplay or socialize. Disrespectful or disruptive actions are considered unacceptable behavior. A player can be benched for the remainder of a practice and/or game if his/her behavior is not in the best interest of the team, in the judgment of the coach. All instances resulting in such action will be discussed with the parents and Commissioner. Players are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from practices and games.
8. Uniforms and equipment issued are the property of the St. Mary Athletic Association and are provided to the player for that sport's season only.
9. Proper care must be taken of all uniforms and equipment issued.
10. Any item lost or damaged through negligence, beyond reasonable wear, must be replaced at the player's expense.
11. All uniforms must be returned clean prior to the awards ceremony for that sport.
12. Uniforms are to be returned according to the instructions given by the coach.
13. Players quitting the sport are required to turn in the uniforms and/or equipment immediately.
14. Players who do not promptly return uniforms and/or equipment will not be permitted to play or practice another sport at St. Mary until they have returned or paid for the uniform in question. In coordination with the School Principal, grade cards may be withheld until the St. Mary uniform or equipment is returned or financial restitution is made.

15. Uniforms may only be worn for games, inter-school scrimmages, or team pictures unless otherwise authorized by the coach.
16. Any Student wishing to participate in a parish athletic team at St. Mary must abide by the Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco policy of St. Mary School revised 6/15/99.
17. Players will wear appropriate attire for practices. Protective equipment (i.e. knee pads for volleyball, batting helmets for softball/baseball, and pads for football, etc.) must be worn unless otherwise noted by the coach. Clothing must be appropriate, with no vulgar sayings or symbols, spaghetti straps, cut-off jeans, or other revealing clothing. Primarily, if it would not be allowed at School/Physical Education, it is not allowed at practice.

P. *Requirements for Participation*

1. To maintain academic eligibility, grades and student behavior will be checked by the Athletic Director at the beginning of the season and every two weeks thereafter. If a student is not meeting or exceeding the academic and behavioral standards in more than one subject the student goes on probation.
2. If a student is not meeting or exceeding the academic and behavioral standards in more than one subject the following two weeks the student then becomes ineligible until they are meeting or exceeding the academic and behavioral standards in all but one subject. If a student goes on probation twice during the season for not meeting or exceeding the behavioral standards that student immediately becomes ineligible for a two-week period of time.
3. An ineligible student will not be permitted to practice with the team or play in the games for a period of two weeks.
4. The students' principal, Athletic Director and/or coach/advisor have the right to suspend for any length of time a student athlete from participating in any sports activity as an appropriate disciplinary action for behavior that would reflect back on the student athlete as behavior not fitting a St. Mary Parish athlete.
5. All parish students are responsible for providing proof of eligibility. The student will not practice or play games until proof is given to the Athletic Director.
6. The Athletic Director has complete authority to implement and enforce the Parish Athletic Policy. Any situation that may arise and not covered by this policy will be reviewed by the Athletic Association within a two-week period.
7. The Athletic Director may ask the Athletic Association Board to review a situation and the Board will bring the situation to the attention of the Pastor. The Pastor's decision is final.
8. Players must be a member of St. Mary Church, enrolled in and attending PSR or a student at St. Mary School. The only exception would be those who are members of a nearby Catholic Church that does not have a team and are enrolled and attending PSR at their church.
9. Freshman High School eligibility for athletics is dependent upon the last quarter grades (8th grade). This is verified by the School Principal and transmitted to the new school IAW OHSAA requirements.

Q. *Parent's Responsibilities*

The following constitutes the responsibilities of the parent(s) of the children who participate in St. Mary Athletic Association events.

1. Parents are members of the St. Mary Athletic Association and are expected to meet minimum volunteer requirements established at the beginning of the school year. This includes supporting the Association activities by assisting with the fundraising activities and other functions. Examples of other functions include, but are not limited to collecting gate receipts for games, assisting with concessions stand, etc.
2. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their knowledge as coaches and assistants to permit maximum learning and playing opportunities for players.
3. Parents are expected to support the coaches and athletes. Parents are not to undermine the coaches in front of children or others since we are expected to project a Christian example, at all times. Grievances or comments will follow paragraph X. H.
4. Parents are responsible for making transportation arrangements to and from all practices and games so that the player arrives and leaves at the designated times. Coaches are not expected nor required to provide this service.
5. Parents are to pick their children up on time from practices and games.
6. At games, parents are to remember that they are the guests of the host school whether their team is playing at home or at another school. Spectators reflect upon the image of St. Mary and are expected to show respect to their opponents and game officials.
7. Parents are expected to attend any parent information meetings regarding the sport that their child is playing.
8. If a child fails to return a uniform and/or equipment issued to him/her, the parent(s) is/are responsible for its replacement cost before that child will be permitted to play any other sport at St. Mary.
9. Parents and relatives may be made to leave a game site if their conduct is found to be intolerable by an official. According to guidelines of the Diocesan Recreation Association, failure to leave can result in forfeiture of the contest. It is the responsibility of the highest-ranking Board member in attendance to immediately notify the Board, the Executive Committee, and the pastor of the situation. The parent's failure to comply with Diocesan guidelines could jeopardize the team's ability to compete in the future and may result in a suspension from game attendance for a period determined by the Executive Committee and the Diocese.

10. Abusive or foul language or behavior by parents, when around children or other members of our Diocese and parish community, is intolerable. Overall, parents, family members, and/or friends of St. Mary athletes are expected to set an exemplary model for other athletes, coaches and spectators in all situations. Any failure to set an acceptable model could result in expulsion from the activity or exclusion from future sporting events and/or suspension or exclusion from coaching a sport for a period determined by the Executive Committee, Pastor, and/or the Diocese. Reinstatement, even if approved by the Diocese, must be approved by the Executive Committee.
11. Parents should encourage their children to finish the season if a child registers for a sport. Quitting a team during the season could jeopardize the team's ability to compete.

H. Grievance and Complaint Policy

Grievances and complaints will be addressed through the following procedure:

1. Comments or complaints are to be addressed initially with the coach at a time and place separate from all players, fans, et al. If issues are placed in writing, the coach or recipient will respond within 3 days acknowledging receipt and identifying the follow-on process. If a grievance persists, concerns must be presented in writing including the nature of the grievance to the commissioner or Athletic Director (AD) of the sport within one week of addressing the issue with the coach.
2. If the parent or coach is not satisfied with the resolution or none is agreed upon, a meeting of the coach, parent and Commissioner/AD may be called and could include the Board President, dependent upon potential conflicts of interest. It will be at the discretion of the Athletic Director to determine if it is appropriate to have the athlete present. If not done so earlier, the information concerning the grievance will be shared with the Executive Committee.
3. If there is no resolution at the previous step then the parent or coach may submit the grievance in writing to the Athletic Association Board and it will be reviewed at an executive session.
4. If the grievant is not satisfied, the case will be referred to the Pastor. We should attempt to resolve this prior to bringing issues to the Pastor's attention. In all cases, every individual involved must show Christian respect both publicly and privately, in actions and speech.