

## **MMSA ATHLETIC POLICIES**

### ***Athletic Program Principles:***

- To promote teamwork, school pride, and encourage long lasting involvement in physical activity leading to a healthy lifestyle.
- Teach the fundamentals of the particular sport and provide opportunities for practice and healthy competition.
- Develop coordination, skill, and self-confidence in the participants.
- To challenge students athletically with competition against area schools in the Catholic Athletic Association.
- Provide an opportunity to have fun and feel valued as a team member.

### ***Team Sports at MMSA:***

- The athletic program at MMSA is open to all students in grades five through eight.
- All teams of MMSA participate in the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA).
- The number of students who have registered to participate in a sport will determine the number of teams MMSA places in the respective leagues.

### ***Athletic Director:***

The Athletic Director of MMSA Catholic School is responsible for the planning, coordination, and supervision of all athletic programs involving students from MMSA in the Catholic Athletic Association (CAA). The Athletic Director acts with the authority of the Principal regarding athletic events, student athletes in athletic events, and the coaching staff.

### ***Eligibility:***

While the athletic program is designed to be an extension of the student's education, academics must always take precedence over any extracurricular activities. To be eligible to participate, students must:

- Set a positive leadership example in behavior and attitude in school.
- Work to their academic potential.
- If a student is absent from school for more than half of the school day, the student may not participate in practice or play in a game on that day.

### ***Coach Selection Process:***

The Athletic Director in consultation with the Principal selects coaches. All coaches will require a background check and "Virtus" training as required of all volunteers in the Archdiocese.

### ***Coaches will be expected to demonstrate the following qualities/attitudes:***

- Support the MMSA Athletic Philosophy and Parent Handbook.
- Support of and cooperation with the Athletic Director.
- Understand the developmental needs of students involved in athletics.
- Understand the basics of coaching school age students.

***Coach Responsibilities:***

- Implement the MMSA Athletic Policy and support the Athletic Director.
- Teach good sportsmanship, fairness, and cooperation by work and example.
- Read, understand, sign and return the coach's agreement.
- Attend meetings, practices, games, clinics, and tryouts.
- Keep Athletic Director informed regarding uniforms, equipment, practice times and locations, parental concerns, student issues, etc.

***Parent Responsibilities:***

- Support the MMSA Athletic Philosophy and Parent Handbook.
- Support and cooperation with the Athletic Director.
- Stress academics first and support the eligibility policy of MMSA.
- Inform the coach of physical limitations or health problems your child may have.
- Help your child understand the nature of the athletic program: healthy competition, team membership, winning and losing with grace, and behavior based on our Catholic values.
- Support the coaches in front of your children. Do not disagree in public. Talk over differences or questions with the coach in private. In person conversations are always recommended over email.
- Know the name and phone number of the coach and the schedule of practices and games. The coach should supply you with this information.
- Call the coach if your child cannot attend practice or a game so that the coach can make adjustments.
- Never leave your child at a practice if the coach is not present.
- Pick up your child from practice on time (*Unsupervised siblings are not allowed at practice*).

***Registration and Fees:***

In order for a student to participate in the athletic program, he/she must meet the academic eligibility requirements and be registered for the sport. Late registrations will be taken only when space is available. Fees for athletics are charged to cover operating expenses associated with the program: field permits, league fees, gym rental, officiating costs, and equipment/uniform replacement.

***Uniforms:***

- All MMSA uniforms are the property of the school.
- MMSA athletes are to wear the designated official MMSA uniform.
- The Athletic Director will distribute uniforms to teams.
- At the end of the season, at the time indicated by the coach, uniforms are to be returned only after they have been cleaned/repared. Uniforms are to be returned in a bag marked with the student's name.
- Uniforms must be returned before the student can be eligible to participate in the next season's extracurricular activities. Costs of uniforms not returned will be charged to the student's tuition for the following month.