

ST. MARY BOOSTER CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

Participants in the CYO programs are representatives of St. Mary Parish. It is expected that all representatives of St. Mary will conduct themselves as an example of Christian behavior through leadership and good sportsmanship. Christian behavior is essential to the philosophy and values of CYO athletics at St. Mary.

All individuals involved in CYO Athletics should be a positive influence in the formation of the youth and assisting the youth to master the skills of the sport and to use practices, competitions and games as opportunities to develop the fundamental skills in each athlete.

All individuals involved in CYO athletics should be mindful that their conduct has a tremendous impact on the child's appreciation for the sport, the view parents and fans have of youth sports, and the quality of the St. Mary Athletic Program.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of good sportsmanship, loyalty, respect, responsibility, fairness, perseverance, friendship and teamwork. This Code of Conduct ensures that these essential elements are maintained by every individual and athlete involved in the CYO programs at St. Mary.

CONDUCT OF ATHLETES

Participation as an athlete at St. Mary is considered a privilege, not a right. As a representative of St. Mary, the athlete is expected to maintain the character and reputation of St. Mary. Athletes must be willing to dedicate themselves to the following policies:

- A. Athletes will strive to conduct themselves in a satisfactory manner as representatives of St. Mary. Examples of unsatisfactory behavior include, but are not limited to:
 1. Misconduct in practice and games.
 2. Disrespect for coaches, officials or fellow athletes in any manner that reflects poorly upon St. Mary.
 3. Any unsatisfactory behavior that is contrary to the program.
 4. The use of insulting, demeaning language or any negative comments ("Trash Talk") to any coaches, players or officials before, during or after games.

- B. Athletes are expected to maintain the academic standards and behavior within their school. Disciplinary action against an athlete by the school for academic or behavioral reasons may subject the athlete to disciplinary action and dismissal from the team. Time management and planning are critical for an athlete to maintain academic and athletic responsibilities.

- C. Athletes have made a commitment to St. Mary Parish and their team, and they are expected to attend all practices and games.
 1. Athletes must realize the importance of attending games and practices, which are critical to a team and their development as an athletes.

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2. Athletes must notify their coach of any absence. Unexcused absences may subject an athlete to disciplinary action. Athletes are unexcused when the coach is not notified of an absence by the athlete, parent, guardian or any responsible adult related to the athlete.
3. Athletes have made a commitment to their teammates and St. Mary, and are strongly discouraged from quitting a team. If an athlete is considering quitting a team, we encourage the child and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the situation with the head coach and/or a member of the St. Mary Booster Club.

4. DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- 1st Offense: Athlete placed on notice of possible disciplinary action.
2nd Offense: Sit out first half of game/match or meet.
3rd Offense: Sit out entire next game/match or meet.
4th Offense: Sit out entire next game/match or meet and conference with coach and parents/guardians.
5th Offense: Removal from the team.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1st Offense - Suspension from their next game, as well as practice with the team in their preparation for that game / match or meet.
2nd Offense - Removal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Athletes who are suspended, or removed from the team will not sit on the bench, or be affiliated with the team in any way during the period of suspension/removal.

Disciplinary action for any violation of the Code of Conduct is left to the discretion of the head coach, subject to the review and intervention by the St. Mary Booster Club.

Fees will not be reimbursed if a child is removed from the team.

CONDUCT OF PARENTS:

Parents/guardians should understand their role as positive role models for their child(ren), teaching sportsmanship to the athletes. Parents/guardians should encourage their children to participate for the fun of the game, keeping in mind that the game is for the children. Children should not be forced to participate in sports. Parents/guardians should inform the coach of any special needs, physical limitations or ailments that may affect the safety of their child or the safety of others. A child's participation in the athletic programs at St. Mary requires parents/guardians to adhere to the following policies:

- A. Parents/guardians should ensure that Christian values and academics remain the focus of the child's life, also considering the child's commitment to team practices and games when scheduling other activities for the child.

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- B. Parents/guardians should make every effort to learn and understand the rules of the game, and the policies of the St. Mary Booster Club and the Cleveland Diocesan CYO.
- C. Parents/guardians will teach their child that doing one's best is more important than winning, praising their child for competing fairly and trying hard, and making their child feel like a winner despite the outcome of the competition.
- D. Parents/guardians (and their guests) should show respect and courtesy, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event. Parents/guardians (and their guests) should not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
 - 1. Parents/guardians (and their guests) are encouraged to cheer for our team and not against the opponent, keeping in mind that children will make mistakes.
 - 2. Parents/guardians (and their guests) will respect the officials and their authority before, during and after games and will never question, discuss, or confront officials. Your opinion will not change the call nor will it affect the outcome of the game.
- E. Parents/guardians (and their guests) should not encourage any behavior that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes, teaching their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence, nor will they ridicule or yell at their child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- F. Parents/guardians will respect the coaches for their time and effort as coaches and volunteers of St. Mary, and will refrain from coaching their child or other players during games and practices, unless they are listed as an official coach of the team.
- G. Parents/guardians should discuss issues with the coaches at an agreed upon time and place, never during a practice or game or in the presence of the athlete or any other child. Parents/guardians will notify the St. Mary Booster Club regarding their concerns, either through written correspondence or by raising their concerns at a scheduled meeting of the St. Mary Booster Club.
- H. Parents/guardians should understand that the coach reserves the right not to play an athlete based on unexcused absences from team activities or based on behavior that is inconsistent with the St. Mary Booster Club Code of Conduct.
- I. Parents/guardians should arrange transportation to and from all practices and events for their child, ensuring that their child is dropped off and picked up in a timely manner.
- J. Parents/guardians will volunteer to work their team's concession stand time for a minimum of two hours during the season. If they do not volunteer a time will be assigned to them to work.

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UNIFORMS

Athletes are responsible for all the uniforms and equipment issued to them. The St. Mary Booster Club may require a \$50.00 uniform deposit, at the time of registration, to cover the cost of lost, missing or damaged uniforms. All uniforms/equipment are to be returned at the conclusion of the season. The uniforms and equipment shall be returned to the coach or to the St. Mary Booster Club on or before the date designated by the St. Mary Booster Club. If collected, the deposit will be returned after the issued uniform has been inspected and checked back into inventory. If your uniform is not **returned, is damaged or does not pass inspection**, you will be charged or your cash/check shall be retained and deposited by the St. Mary Booster Club.

All uniforms/equipment remain the property of the St. Mary Booster Club. Athletes who do not return the proper uniforms/equipment, will be ineligible for the next sport they wish to participate in, and the school may withhold progress reports/report cards.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Parents/guardians should report any inappropriate behavior by a coach/volunteer to the Commissioner of the sport, Pastoral Designee, or a member of the St. Mary Booster Club. Inappropriate behavior directed toward athletes, officials, other coaches or parents/guardians, either verbal or physical, will not be tolerated by the St. Mary Booster Club.

St. Mary Booster Club encourages parents/guardians to resolve grievances with their child's team coach. If the grievance cannot be resolved with the coach, the problem should be brought to the attention of the Commissioner of the sport. Parents/guardians will notify the St. Mary Booster Club regarding their concerns, either through written correspondence or by raising their concerns at a scheduled meeting of the St. Mary Booster Club. If necessary, the St. Mary Booster Club will consult the Pastor or School Principal regarding the resolution of any complaint.

By signing below, Parents/Guardians and Athletes acknowledge that they have read and understand and will adhere to the ST. MARY BOOSTER CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT.

Athlete's Name (Print): _____

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Parent(s) Signature: _____ Date: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____