

ST. MARIA GORETTI ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2016-2017

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

ST. MARIA GORETTI (SMG) CATHOLIC PARISH SCHOOL (CPS)

SMG CPS MISSION STATEMENT

Our parish family is called to grow in faith and love. We desire to be in union with Jesus Christ and one another. We will accomplish this mission through worship and prayer, education and evangelization in our community and world. With St. Maria Goretti as our patron, we strive to follow her life of forgiveness and holiness. May we pursue this mission faithfully, encouraging others to join us in discipleship for the Lord.

PHILOSOPHY:

The St. Maria Goretti (SMG) athletic program strives to provide a healthy educational program of interscholastic sports for students in fifth through eighth grades at SMG Catholic School. The philosophy of the athletic program is to encourage student participation, teach and model good sportsmanship, and provide instruction on the fundamental skills and strategies of each sport offered. The extracurricular sports programs offered at SMG are designed to complement the school curriculum.

5th and 6th Grade Playing Time Policy-While MAISL rule is that all players play 25%, we at St. Maria Goretti strive to have all players have fair playing time and develop at all positions. Attitude, missed practices and academics may have an impact on playing time.

7th & 8th Grade Playing Time Policy – While MAISL rule is that all players play 25% we at St. Maria Goretti strive to have fair playing time. Academics, effort, attitude, hustle and practice attendance will contribute to more playing time.

GOALS:

The following are the goals of the athletic program, which are supported by the SMG Catholic School staff, Athletic Association board members and the coaches:

- To provide opportunities to develop physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.
- To provide opportunities to develop a Christian attitude toward competition.
- To provide opportunities to develop positive self-esteem through athletics.
- To provide opportunities to observe and learn good sportsmanship.
- To provide opportunities to learn self-discipline, loyalty, team play and to respect the rights of others.
- To provide opportunities to develop friendships with both teammates and opponents.
- To provide opportunities for interscholastic competition.
- To provide opportunities to learn basic athletic skills.

ORGANIZATION

A. Athletic Association Board Functions

The SMG Athletic Board is organized and administered on a volunteer basis. The Board operates under the governance of the SMG Catholic School administration and the Madison Area Independent Sports League (MAISL). The functions of the Athletic Association Board include but are not limited to:

1. Support the operation of the athletic program with the Athletic Director under the policies and procedures of SMG Catholic Parish School.
2. Administer business regarding leagues, tournaments, athletic awards, banquets, etc.
3. Support SMG Catholic School's spiritual and academic programs in concert with the principal and staff. Work with the school administration in setting guidelines and direction for the athletic program.
4. Develop and submit an annual budget to the school principal; provide regular financial reports and control program funds.
5. Evaluate and select coaches for each sport offered with the principal.
6. Organize fundraising activities pre-approved by the school principal and parish administration for capital purchases of equipment and for gym maintenance, and keeping sport fees lower.

B. Athletic Association Board Meetings

Athletic Association Board meetings are open to all SMG Catholic School parents and families. Non-members may address the board by requesting a place on the agenda before the start of the meeting. Board meeting dates are available upon request. Minutes of the meetings will be forwarded to the school principal and the school secretary for filing in the school office. Request for review and/or copies of the minutes may be made to the school secretary.

C. Parents/Athletes

1. Parents and athletes should know and support the philosophy/goals of the SMG athletic program outlined above.
2. Parents and student athletes should understand that they represent SMG Catholic Parish School when they participate in the SMG Athletic Program and are, therefore, subject to all SMG Catholic School policies and procedures.

3. Parents should accompany their children from SMG athletic facilities after scheduled meetings, practices or events. **Parents must pick up their kids on time from practices and games.**
4. Parents, family members and friends are encouraged to attend games and support their children's participation in a positive manner in the SMG Athletic Program.
5. Parents should bring any questions or issues with SMG Athletics related to MAISL to the SMG MAISL Rep and/or the Athletic Director. Parents should not be communicating directly with MAISL.
6. All coaches, athletes, parents and other spectators are expected to model good sportsmanship at all SMG athletic events. Athletes, coaches and officials are human beings. Everyone involved in an athletic contest may make a mistake and errors are likely to happen. Even though winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics and common sense. All spectators must conduct themselves in such a way as to reflect positively on themselves, their families, SMG Catholic School and the team. Coaches, parents and friends of players who attend a SMG game/event are expected to:
 - Behave in a positive responsible manner.
 - Show respect for the opponents.
 - Always be positive in support of both the SMG team and the opposing team.
 - Let the coaches do the coaching.
 - Recognize and acknowledge good performances made by both teams.
 - Always do a friendly handshake regardless the outcome of the game.
 - Respect and comply with the officials and their decisions.
 - Be gracious in both victory and defeat.
 - Insist that your child treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect.

Arguing, debating or exhibiting any similar behavior that could be construed as harassment with any coach, official, student athlete or parent is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the Athletic Association Board. School administration and/or official representatives of the school/parish reserve the right to request the removal of anyone who exhibits such behavior on SMG Catholic Parish School property.

Use of profanity during games and practices by coaches, parents and athletes at anytime is not tolerated and will be referred to the AD/Principal and likely result in game suspensions(s). Disrespect to an official may also result in game suspension(s).

7. If parents have a concern about playing time or another issue for their student athlete, they must handle in the following sequence:

1. Wait 24 hours from the incident (unless emergency)
2. Encourage the athlete to talk with the coach(es)
3. If unsatisfied after athlete talks with coach(es), the parent and the athlete must talk with the coach(es) together.
4. If unsatisfied with the previous, communicate with the Athletic Director
5. If unsatisfied with the previous, communicate with the Principal.

PARTICIPATION

All students in the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades that meet eligibility criteria can participate in the SMG athletic program.

A. Registration

Student Athletes must be registered for participation in a sport by the deadline set by the Athletic Board/Athletic Director. Failure to sign up and complete all required forms will result in the athlete unable to participate. The following completed forms are required:

1. Medical Release Form (On-line)
2. Concussion Form (On-line)
3. Athletic Handbook Acknowledgement Form (On-line)
4. Either Physical Card (In Office) or Alternate Physical Card (On-line)

B. Eligibility Criteria

Academics

Participation in the SMG athletic program is a privilege and is considered secondary to academics. In order for a student to be eligible to participate in the athletic program, he/she must be passing in all the subjects taught in his/her grade level. Students who consistently fail to complete their assignments or are not fulfilling the academic requirements set forth by their teachers and/or the school administration may be considered ineligible to participate in athletic program activities. SMG Catholic Parish School teachers and the principal, will make the final decision regarding a student athlete's academic eligibility.

Academic Eligibility Process

Academic eligibility will be determined by a student's:

- Grades
- Behavior
- Effort
- Attendance

If at any time a student athlete does not meet an expected standard, parents, coaches and the Athletic Director will receive notice from the office that a student is in danger of becoming ineligible. From this time the

student will have 2 weeks from the day of notice to make the necessary improvements. If the improvement has not been made, the student becomes ineligible beginning that Friday after school. The possibility of reinstatement will be assessed each Friday.

Note: In case of a student's blatant or repeated disregard for the school's academic or behavioral expectations, the principal may determine immediate ineligibility.

Ineligible Athletes Game Attendance

The principal, coach(es) and/or the parents shall determine ineligible athlete's attendance at game(s). The options for ineligible athlete's attendance at game(s) shall be the following:

- Sit on the team bench in street clothes.
- Sit in the bleachers.
- No attendance at all for the game(s).

C. Composition of Teams

Whenever possible, teams will be composed of students in the same grade. If there is a need to combine grades, have athletes play up one grade level, or split teams due to size, as determined by the Athletic Director, the goal will be to maximize participation in the sport by the student athletes. The Athletic Director will work with the coaches to produce the most fair and efficient team.

Splitting Teams Due to Size

If it is determined that a team has a significant number of athletes, after evaluation by the coaches and Athletic Director, which may reduce athlete participation, the team may be split into two teams. A skills session will be held in order to split the team equally and fairly in terms of athletic talent related to the sport. The Athletic Director will supervise the skills session. Coaches from the two teams to be formed will evaluate the athlete's skills and, with guidance from the Athletic Director, will determine the team composition of the two teams. Team composition will be based on trying to provide equal talent on each team. Teams will not be split with the intention of providing an "A Team" and "B Team". The goal will be to maximize participation in the sport by the student athletes. When signing up for a sport, parents and athletes agree that they will not request to be on a specific team and/or to have specific coaches.

SMG Religious Education/Other MAISL Schools

Prior to the beginning of each sport, the Athletic Association Board will determine if there are any roster openings for any of the grades. If it is determined that there are roster openings, the openings will be communicated to qualified SMG Religious Education students and/or other MAISL Schools. SMG Religious Education Program students must have been enrolled in the program for one (1) full calendar year to be considered

eligible. Openings will be filled on a "first-come, first serve basis" once the appropriate registration material and fees are received.

D. Practices

Students have the responsibility to make a commitment to attend practices. If a student athlete cannot attend a practice or game, he/she should inform the coaches before the event. Both the parents and student athletes should seriously consider the commitment involved in the sport before registering to participate. Participation in games is dependent upon participation in practices. Once the season starts, student athletes will be expected to finish the season with the team unless there are unforeseen circumstances.

To honor religious education commitments, a special attempt will be made to avoid scheduling practices on Wednesday evenings after 5:30 pm.

There must be two adults present at all practices. If two coaches are unavailable, parents will have to step forward to be at practice so that practice can be held.

If male coaches are coaching a girls' team, a VIRTUS trained female must be present at all practices. If female coaches are coaching a boys' team, a VIRTUS trained male must be present at all practices.

Game-Day/Practice/School Attendance

Students must be in attendance to participate in practice that evening. If there are any special circumstances regarding this, you must receive permission from the principal or Athletic Director.

We ask our coaches, players and parents to be committed to SMG Athletics when they sign up for participation. Illnesses and conflicts are unavoidable. Yet, we ask our coaches to be committed to the team and we ask our players to be committed to their school and team and be at practices and games. Athletes and/or their parents should notify the coach of any absence from practice or games.

Security at Practice

No school doors should be propped open at any time. This is to insure the safety of the athletes and coaches. Only athletes should enter through the gym doors. Only coaches or parent representative of the team may let players in.

E. Fees

A set early bird fee per student per sport will be due to the SMG Athletic Association Board prior to the student's participation. The early bird fees will be applied if eligible.

No student will be denied participation due to inability to pay the athletic fee. Special arrangements can be made to allow athletic fees to be paid. A uniform fee will be communicated to parents at the beginning of the school year if applicable.

Refunds of sport fees will not be given after team registrations have been submitted to MAISL or the first practice has started (whichever comes first). Also, fees related to shirts or uniforms will not be reimbursed after the item has been ordered.

F. Tournaments

The SMG Athletic Association Board will fund one non-MAISL sponsored tournament per team.

G. Inhalers

Student athletes with asthma must have their inhalers with them at all times in case they are needed. This means every practice and every athletic event. If a student does not bring the inhaler, he/she will not be able to participate in any practice or event/game. Having an inhaler clearly labeled with the student's name carried in the team first-aid kit will avoid any problems.

H. Uniforms

Uniforms should only be worn for games or with permission from the Principal or Athletic Director. Uniforms should not be worn for physical education class, practice or outside of games. Any violation of this could result in the family being charged the cost of the uniform.

Shorts worn to practices and/or games must have a 4" inseam. Shorts should not be rolled at the waist so as to make them shorter. If deemed inappropriate, the athlete may be sent home from practice/and or a game. No spaghetti straps / or any shirts that show the midriff (including cut shirts) should be worn to practices.

Shirts must be worn at all times during practices and games.

The athlete is responsible for returning the uniform in the same condition it was given to them in. Failure to return the uniform in the acceptable condition will result in a replacement fee being applied

I. Concession Stand Obligation

Each Student athlete's family is responsible for working in the concession stand during games at SMG. Families have the opportunity to buy out for the amount of \$75.00 per athlete, per sport. If a family signs up to work a

shift and fails to show up for their shift, they will be assessed \$100.00. family is required to work a shift for each athlete for each sport season. Note, if your son/daughters end of season tournament or out of season tournament is hosted by SMG, each family for that grade/sport is required to work an additional shift during that weekend. (Coaches families are exempt from concession duty for the child they are coaching during that sport.)

All sports other than track, football and softball are required to work the concession stand. Concession duty may be worked during another sport season, during the same school calendar year.

SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

Parents are encouraged to inform their children about all the potential sports opportunities offered by the SMG athletic program during the entire school year. Athletic programs are open to all students in grades 5th-8th. All sports typically practice two times a week lasting 60 to 90 minutes.

A. Fall-Girls Volleyball

Practices begin soon after the start of the school year for girls. Games start in September and end in October with league tournaments in November. If at all possible a team must start a game with 6 players even though the rules state you can start with 5.

B. Boys and Girls Basketball

Practices begin in November. Games begin in November/December and run through February/March. Tournaments are scheduled periodically.

C. Spring- Girls Softball

Practices start in March. Games begin two to three weeks later. The season ends prior to Memorial Day. If at all possible a team must start a game with 8 players even though the rules state you can start with 7.

D. Boys and Girls Track

The track season starts in March/April. There are between two and four track meets in April and May that athletes will have an opportunity to participate in.

E. Touch Football

Practices start late August. This is a seven-person, two-hand touch football league. Games start in the latter part of September and continuing through mid-October. The games last about an hour and are played during the week at Vilas Park.

D. Spring Boys Volleyball

Practices begin in March. Games start in March and end in May prior to Memorial Day.

