

# **ST. MARY'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK**

*August 2011 Edition*

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Interscholastic athletics can be of value as a supportive element to the total education process. This process concerns the total person, the person's growth as an individual spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically and socially. Athletics should provide: (1) a learning experience, (2) a positive base for Christian development, (3) an understanding of competition, emphasizing sportsmanship and teamwork, (4) an opportunity for all participants to develop and share knowledge and skills appropriate to their level. The interscholastic athletic program should be looked upon as the pinnacle and not the foundation of a school's physical education endeavor. (Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2)

St. Mary's Interscholastic Athletic Program is created to promote a positive basis for Christian development, and is designed to encourage parish, school and team spirit, and enthusiasm with support from the clergy, staff, parents, coaches, and student athletes.

Our goal is to foster and develop physical skill, sportsmanship, self-discipline, personal responsibility and courtesy to others, cooperative teamwork and an understanding of competition within a Christian environment through the following:

- To provide an organization to assist and allow students of families in St. Mary's in grades five through eight to participate in inter-scholastic sports.
- To promote the idea that athletic competition should be FUN.
- To provide an opportunity for all participants to develop and share knowledge and skills appropriate to their level.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

A school/parish athletic program must take into account the ever changing society we live in today. Athletics have taken on a glamorized existence of their own. Our elementary student athletes are being trained at earlier ages than ever before. They are often pushed beyond the capabilities of their maturing bodies. Beyond the physical demands, one must also look at the increasing mental strain being placed upon them. A new flood of research documenting the damage being done to our children and youth is being published daily, not to mention a whole new field of law which is dedicated to sports, its injuries and their prevention.

The Catholic Schools and Parishes recognize the broader focus of sports programs which have gotten out of control. Schools and Parishes strongly believe the primary purpose of a school is to offer instruction in basic knowledge. Wisconsin statute 118.165 states a private school "provides a sequentially progressive curriculum of

fundamental instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and health.” In a Catholic school and Parish program religious education has a prime instructional role. Additionally, supplementing the education process is a program of extracurricular activities. Such activities play an important but secondary role in the education of our children substitute for primary skills.  
(Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2a)

A link to the Archdiocese Athletics Policy Manual is available on the St. Mary’s Athletics website ([www.stmarysmf.com](http://www.stmarysmf.com)).

### **ATHLETIC HANDBOOK OVERVIEW**

The following pages detail the specific responsibilities of the St. Mary’s Pastoral Staff, Athletic Committee, student athletes, parents and coaches in regard to the athletic program. Also covered are Athletic Association policies on selection of coaches, team membership, team size and selection, playing time, tournament participation, conflict resolution, and communications.

### **PASTORAL STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

In accordance with the policy of the Milwaukee Archdiocese the pastor has the ultimate responsibility for all extra-curricular activities in parish-based programs. Here at St. Mary’s the pastor has delegated the immediate supervision of the athletic program to the Athletic Director. Parents and other adults who serve as coaches, moderators or in any other capacity are accountable to the pastor or his delegate in all extra curricular activities. The Parish Grade School Principal and the Christian Formation Directors’ serve as resources to the Athletic Association as needed, and in accordance with archdiocesan policy.

***Archdiocese Policies and Regulations for Athletics can be found in the St. Mary School Handbook and Christian Formation Office.***

## **ATHLETIC COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Committee membership is comprised of parent volunteer's who preside for an initial two-year term. After the two-year term is up, their position is open for replacement, should no additional volunteer be available, the individual holding the position may continue to volunteer for another two-year term. The Pastor will approve all candidates to the Athletic Committee before the appointments take place.  
*(Archdiocesan Policy 6145)*

The responsibilities of the board positions vary but the underlying goals / objectives are as follows:

1. Ensure the Statement of Purpose (as stated on page 2) is followed.
2. Ensure the policies set forth in the Athletic Handbook are followed and enforced.
3. Ensure that all committee members are certified according to Archdiocesan rules.
4. Provide guidance to athletes, parents and coaches in following their respective responsibilities.
5. Provide supervision at all Athletic Committee sponsored events.
6. Develop annual budget.

## **STUDENT ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Participation in team athletics is a PRIVILEGE and because of team continuity requires commitment.

1. Student Athletes are expected to attend all practices and games, unless excused by their parent(s) and/or guardian. Giving proper timely notification to the coach of their expected absence.
2. Student Athletes who are absent from school due to an illness on practice or game day may not participate in either event on that day. The decision for the student to play over the weekend remains at the discretion of the parents.
3. Student Athletes who are placed on academic or behavioral suspension from school may not participate at practice or games until the principal or CF director has notified the Athletic Director that the suspension has been removed.
4. Student Athletes are expected to show / have respect at all times: (a) for themselves by complying with the school drug, alcohol, and smoke-free policies, (b) for coaches, referees, opposing players, teammates and others, and (c) for parish property and property of others.
5. Student Athletes are expected to support all St. Mary's teams.
6. Student Athletes are expected to show good conduct at all times especially showing warmth and hospitality toward all our visitors.
7. Student Athletes are encouraged to develop their skills outside of regular practice.
8. Student Athletes are expected to maintain school performance up to their ability level.

9. Student Athletes are responsible for taking care of the uniform and equipment provided for their use and returning it in good conditions and **on time**. Students must turn in all parish property back to their coach immediately after the last game of the season. Parents will be billed for the replacement cost for any items not returned to the parish. No athletic equipment or uniforms are allowed to be used or worn except during games or practice.

***Failure to adhere to the following responsibilities will result in appropriate consequences; see “Consequences Section” for disciplinary steps.***

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

As parents/guardians, we recognize that the St. Mary’s Parish athletic program is as effective as we are supportive.

1. Parents/guardians are required to provide the following: (a) registration materials (b) medical insurance consent (required by the league) (c) the signed Athletic Handbook Contract.
2. All athletic fees are required to be paid at time of registration. If fees are not paid as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the draft, the student athlete will be considered ineligible. If a player chooses to quit the program after participating in the draft process, no refund will be given.
3. Student Athletes are required to have a physical every two years or when new to the program. A physical examination form must be turned in to the respective sports coordinator prior to the first practice.
4. Christian Formation students must get their sign-up form to their Christian Formation office before the first practice. They must also submit any/all progress reports including the quarterly report card to their Christian Formation office within one (1) week of receiving the report.
5. Parents/guardians are expected to teach their children to:
  - Act responsibly
  - Attend and use practice time well
  - Maintain academic/behavioral eligibility
  - Respect coaches’ decisions and guidelines
  - Display cooperative team spirit
  - Respect St. Mary’s facilities and equipment
  - Respect the school uniform, keep it clean and in good condition, and return it on time – parent’s are financially responsible for the replacement if lost or misused
6. Parents/guardians are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and Christian values towards all athletes, coaches, referees, opposing players and fans. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated!
7. Parents are required to attend **all** parent meetings.

8. Parents are expected to provide punctual transportation for their children to all practices and sporting events. Please verify coach's presence when dropping students at practice and pick them up promptly afterwards.
9. In support of our athletic program, parents/guardians are required to volunteer in support of the athletic program including assigned **concession duty**. This requirement must be fulfilled even if your child does not, for whatever reason, complete the season.
10. Parents/guardians are to comply with the drug, alcohol, and smoke-free policy of the parish on school premises.
11. Parents/guardians are expected to abide by the reconciliation process established in this handbook entitled **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**.
12. Parents/guardians are required to notify the coach of any change in a player's eligibility.
13. Siblings should not be present at tryouts or practice.
14. Since practices offer limited opportunities, it is strongly suggested that parents prepare their child for St. Mary's league play during the off-season. This can be done in the backyard, various sport camps, and teaching leagues such as the YMCA and Recreation Dept.
15. To ensure quality coaching, parents should complete the confidential coaches' evaluation for each sport season. Without the completion of these forms and input by parents and athletes issues / changes cannot be addressed.

***Failure to adhere to the following responsibilities will result in appropriate consequences; see "Consequences Section" for disciplinary steps.***

### **COACH RESPONSIBILITIES**

Coaches provide a very worthy service to a school. They must remember that they play an important part in the development of the student-athletes under their charge.

1. Coaches must conduct themselves as Christians at all times. They must not interfere with or impede, and must cooperate with the school's educational program. Imprudent actions on the part of the coaches are subject to disciplinary action by the Pastor and the league Board of Control.
2. All head and assistant coaches must be certified according to Archdiocesan regulations:
  - A basic or core preparation, prior to assuming coaching duties, in the Catholic / Christian philosophy of coaching, risk management and the prevention and treatment of injuries. Two clock hour's minimum. (Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2d)
  - Training in the Archdiocesan VIRTUS —Protecting All God's Children" program as it currently is required for volunteers who work / supervise children and youth on a regular basis (Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2d)
  - Annually, all coaches shall receive training in the treatment of Blood borne Pathogen. (Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2e)

- Training in the specific sport to include rules, practice organization, skill development and coaching behavior. Three clock hours (minimum).
3. Archdiocesan policies related to criminal background checks are the responsibility of the Pastor, or his delegate. All coaches and athletic personnel must have an initial criminal background check and a subsequent review every five years. (Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2e)
  4. Coaches must complete a Volunteer Enrollment Form and send it to the Parish Office
  5. Coaches must read and acknowledge receipt of these two Archdiocesan documents: **Code of Ethical Standards** and the **Mandatory Reporting Responsibilities Policy**.
  6. Coaches must complete the Coaches Agreement Form (Archdiocesan Policy 6145.2d)
  7. The Athletic Association and the Athletic Director will conduct **mandatory** coaches meeting before each new sport season per Archdiocesan Rule. If the coach is not able to attend he **must** contact the Athletic Director to schedule an alternative meeting/discussion. If the coach does not attend the meeting, nor set up an alternative meeting, he will not be allowed to hold a team practice, until such meeting has occurred.
  8. Coaches are encouraged to annually attend a coaching clinic in their respective sport. The Athletic Association will cover reasonable clinic fees.
  9. Coaches **must** hold a meeting with parents to discuss individual and team expectations.
  10. Coaches are (a) responsible for providing a positive role model of good sportsmanship and Christian values to all members of the team, (b) expected to respect officials, opponents, athletes and rules of the game and teach players to do the same, and (c) required to adhere to league rules of conduct at all times.
  11. Coaches are representing St. Mary's as such they should do the following:
    - Prepare for each practice, set goals and outline drills to achieve these goals.
    - Adhere to all St. Mary's Athletic Association policies regarding playing time and participation by athletes.
    - To the best of their ability, coaches are expected to teach to all athletes the fundamental skill and strategies of the sport—encouraging teamwork, sportsmanship and personal growth among team members.

12. Coaches are responsible for their player's **behavior** from 5 minutes before to 5 minutes after all scheduled practices and games.
13. Coaches **must** communicate all necessary information regarding any practices, games, and tournaments with athletes and their parents.
14. Coaches are responsible for all equipment distributed to the team. **All** equipment is handled through the Athletic Association's Equipment Manager. If a coach would like to provide a different "uniform" he must get the Committee's approval, as not all parents / students will want to pay additional fees.
15. Coaches **must** comply with the drug, alcohol and smoke-free policy of the parish on parish premises.
16. Coaches should be made aware of the responsibilities of adults who supervise children and youth. It is recommended that at least one coach and another adult be present at any team function, (practice, game, and party).

***Athletes are of grade school level and should be coached accordingly.***

All coaches will be held accountable to follow the facility rental guidelines during practices:

1. No gum chewing allowed in the gym.
2. No food, beverage or snack allowed in the gym. All food, drink, and snacks brought to practices by players must be consumed in the lobby near the concession area. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
3. No smoking, alcohol, weapons or gambling is allowed in the facility.
4. No vulgar, profane or obscene language will be tolerated. Violators will be asked to leave.
5. At no time are minors (as described by WI statutes) permitted in the facility without adequate adult supervision.
6. In the event of damage of property or equipment loss, the A.D. must be notified before the next scheduled event (school, practice, games, etc.)
7. In the event of an injury, an accident report must be completed and given to the A.D. within 24 hours of the accident.
8. Equipment not authorized for use is to be left untouched.
9. Doors to the school must be locked at all times. Use of the school or school corridors is prohibited.

10. In consideration of our neighbors, parking in the lot, rather than the street is encouraged.

11. Before leaving the facility, coaches/supervisors must:

- Check all areas
- Clear area of remaining personal items.
- Store equipment properly.
- Mop and clean gym floor of any debris.
- Make sure all people have left the facility.
- Be sure all water and lights are turned off.
- Check that all interior and exterior doors are locked before you leave.

12. Please be considerate of our neighbors when leaving the premises, especially in the evening.

13. If another group is using the facility after your group, the supervisor/coach does not leave until the new supervisor/coach is present.

14. Any waivers to any of the above rules can/will only be granted by the A.D. given an appropriate 24-hour notice.

***Failure to adhere to the following responsibilities will result in appropriate consequences; see “Consequences Section” for disciplinary steps.***

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC REGULATIONS**

### **ARCHDIOCESAN SPORT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**

#### **Volleyball:**

- Teams are limited to playing in only one league during the season.
- There must be a minimum of 4 practice sessions on separate days before the opening match of the season.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams may be scheduled for a maximum of 2 practices per week, each being no more than 1 ½ hours in length. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams may be scheduled for a maximum of 2 practices per week, each being no more than 2 hours in length.
- No team shall be scheduled for more than 18 matches during the season - exclusive of tournament participation.

- Teams may participate in preseason, midseason or postseason tournaments subject to the following limitations:
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade - limited to participation in 2 tournaments 6<sup>th</sup> grade - limited to participation in 2 tournaments 7<sup>th</sup> grade - limited to participation in 3 tournaments 8<sup>th</sup> grade - limited to participation in 3 tournaments
- A “match“shall consist of 3 games, or the best two out of three games. (Archdiocesan 6145.27)

### **Basketball:**

- Teams are limited to playing in only one league during the season.
- There must be a minimum of four practice sessions on separate days before the opening game of the season. Basketball leagues may not begin until after Thanksgiving.
- There must be at least three practice sessions on separate days before the first scrimmage with no more than two inter-school scrimmages allowed before the first game.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams may be scheduled for a maximum of two practices per week, each being no more than 1 1/2 hours in length. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams may be scheduled for a maximum of two practices per week, each being no more than 2 hours in length.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams may play a maximum of 12 games and participate in 3 tournaments.
- 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams may play a maximum of 14 games and participate in 4 tournaments (not counting the Padre Sierra Tournament).
- Teams may participate in pre-season, mid-season (holiday) or post-season tournaments. No tournament may schedule a team for, nor may any team participate in, more than 5 games per tournament.
- The maximum length of the quarters of any game shall be six minutes.
- A team may not play more than 3 games in any one week (exception: the weeks of the midseason or postseason tournaments). A team may not play more than 2 games in one day; a minimum of 2 hours of rest must be provided between games. (Archdiocesan 6145.22)

### **Track**

- There shall be at least 4 individual practice sessions on separate days before the

first regularly scheduled meet. There must be at least 3 practice sessions on separate days before the first practice meet with no more than 1 practice meet allowed before the first scheduled inter-school meet.

- Teams may be scheduled for a maximum of 2 practices per week, each being no more than 2 hours in length.
- No team may be scheduled for more than 10 meets. (Archdiocesan 6145.26)

## **CONSEQUENCE / RESOLUTIONS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Open communications are imperative to the operation of a successful program. The Athletic Committee will make all general announcements through the school, the Athletic newsletter, Christian Formation Newsletters, the Sunday bulletin, and the St. Mary's Website ([www.stmarysmf.com](http://www.stmarysmf.com)). Any communications for a specific team will be handled through the respective coach.

The Athletic Committee meets monthly and all meetings are open to the parish at-large. Minutes are available upon request. Contact the Athletic Director with any questions, or agenda items for monthly meetings.

### **CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH ATHLETIC COMMITTEE AND/OR MEMBERS**

1. If a conflict arises with one of the Athletic Committee members, you need to speak directly with that member first.
2. If the issue needs to be brought before the entire Athletic Committee, talk with the Athletic Director to have your issue placed on the agenda (three days advance notice is appreciated).
3. If the conflict is not resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, the issue is to be referred to the Christian Education Committee.
4. If further resolution is necessary, the issue is to be forwarded to the Pastor.
5. If the above steps do not resolve the conflict, and the conflict involves the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Policies and Regulations for Athletics, contact the Office for Schools, Child and Youth Ministries, Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

### **CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH COACH**

Realizing that most issues can be resolved through discussion among the players, parents and coaches, all concerns must be brought forth within a week of occurrence. If an issue is not resolved through discussion, parents have the opportunity to address their concern as follows:

1. Talk to the coach **first** when a problem arises.
2. If the conflict is not resolved in speaking with the coach, contact the Athletic Committee representative for the specific sport or the Athletic

- Director who will share the issue with the entire Athletic Committee as necessary.
3. If the first two steps do not resolve the conflict, the issue is to be referred to the Christian Education Committee.
  4. If further resolution is necessary, the issue is to be forwarded to the Pastor.

### **CONSEQUENCES – STUDENT ATHLETE**

If a Student Athlete does not comply with all the rules and regulations the following “consequences” steps will be followed:

**First Occurrence:** The student will receive a written warning citing the inappropriate behavior. The written document will be forwarded to the students’ parent/guardians and to the appropriate Athletic Committee representative.

**Second Occurrence:** The student athlete will be suspended for either one game (for basketball) or one full match (for volleyball). The coach will give a notice to the parent/guardian and to the appropriate Athletic Committee sport specific representative.

**Third Occurrence:** – Upon a further violation, the student athlete will be suspended from the sport for the remainder of the season.

***\*\* Depending upon the severity of the issue, the Athletic Committee may invoke a more appropriate consequence. \*\****

### **CONSEQUENCES – PARENT**

If a Student Athlete’s parent does not comply with all the rules and regulations the following “consequences” steps will be followed:

**First Occurrence:** The parent will receive a written warning from the Athletic Director citing the inappropriate behavior. The written notification will be kept on file.

**Second Occurrence:** The parent, Athletic Committee sport specific representative, Athletic Director and Parish Staff Director will meet. If circumstances require, the Pastor will also be present.

**Third Occurrence:** If there is a further violation, the parent will be prohibited from attending all athletic events held in our facility or off-site.

***\*\* Depending upon the severity of the issue, the Athletic Committee may invoke a more appropriate consequence. \*\****

## **CONSEQUENCES – COACH**

If a parent or Student Athlete has a concern that a coach is not complying with his responsibilities, as listed under “coach’s responsibilities”, or following the “playing time guidelines”, the parent / student athlete should follow the “conflict resolution guidelines”. If needed the Athletic Committee representative will institute the following consequences:

**First Occurrence:** The coach will receive a written warning from the Athletic Committee representative. The Pastor and School staff will receive a copy of the warning.

**Second Occurrence:** If the coach does not comply immediately he/she will receive a one-game suspension and the assistant coach will be asked to take over for that game. Athletic Director approval of the suspension is required. School staff will be notified of the suspension.

**Third Occurrence:** If the coach still does not comply with the rules then he/she will be dismissed from the program.

If a coach is ejected, by a referee, from a game, then he/she will receive a one-week suspension from the Athletic Director. The coach may appeal this decision with the Athletic Committee.

If a referee ejects a coach, a 2nd time, then the coach will not be allowed to continue coaching for that season, and possibly future seasons. Again, the coach may appeal this decision with the Athletic Committee; however, the suspension will be enforced during the appeal process.

***\*\* Depending upon the severity of the issue, the Athletic Committee may invoke a more appropriate consequence. \*\****

## **SELECTION OF COACHES**

1. Candidates for the head and assistant coaching positions must submit a completed coach's application to the respective sport coordinator by June 1st for volleyball and by September 1st for basketball.
2. For 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, applications for Head coaching positions will be reviewed first. If we have more applicants than needed (i.e. four individuals volunteered and we only need three), then the respective sports coordinator will contact the applicants and discuss their respective desire for the head coaching position and/or willingness to be an assistant. The coordinator will also discuss the applicant's prior coaching experience.
3. If during step #2 applicants agree to be assistants then the selection process for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is done. If however, there are still too many applicants, then each applicant will present their case to the sports coordinator and at least two other board members for a decision.
4. For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade the head coach's child must fit into the level of the team in order to coach an A or B team. The sports coordinator will have previously contacted all of the applicants, and discussed their desire to coach, their coaching philosophy, and prior coaching experience. This information will be documented for discussion prior to the draft. Whenever possible, the head coaches will be selected before the draft.
5. The first selection will be for the head coaching position of the A team. Based on the initial draft selection process by the evaluators, the possible candidates for Head coach will be known (based on which children are "for sures" on the A team). Once this is known the sports coordinator and the other board representatives in attendance (usually at least two others) will review the documentation on the coaches, and select the Head Coach.
6. Once the A team has been selected the same process will be used for the next level team, thus providing a fair evaluation process and coaching selection process.
7. With approval of the head coach and the sports coordinator, the assistant coaches will be picked after the draft and be placed on the same team his/her child is selected for. Only the Head Coach and two Assistant Coaches will be allowed on the team bench during a game.

8. The Athletic Committee will evaluate/review the coaches at the end of the season, based on the feed back received from players and parents. When concerns are raised related to a particular Coach, the Athletic Director will share them with the Coach immediately after the evaluation. The Athletic Director will bring these concerns before the entire Athletic Committee if necessary.

### **TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

1. St. Mary's Athletic Program will accommodate all interested students. The program is intended for students regularly attending St. Mary's School or the Christian Formation program.
2. Student athletes are to be registered by Spring sign-up. Late registrations will be accepted based on availability.
3. The Athletic Association will provide uniforms to student athletes. Other team apparel must be approved by the Athletic Committee.

### **TEAM SIZE**

The number of interested participants will determine the number of teams supported for an individual sport. The opportunity to divide beyond two teams per grade will be based on the availability of league openings, gym time, coaching staff and funding.

Teams will split into two teams if players exceed 13, and will split into 3 teams if players exceed 20 upon availability as mentioned above.

***\*\*If extenuating circumstances exist, the Athletic Committee will make the final determination of the team size\*\****

### **TEAM SELECTION**

**5th and 6th grade teams** will be divided equally by talent, after two practices.

- Evaluators will divide the teams equally based on ability.
- Coaches will co-ordinate notification to team participants.

**7th and 8th grade teams** will be divided according to ability, at the conclusion of the evaluations. The tryout process will accommodate the A/B/C concept. The draft procedure is as follows:

- Evaluators will rank the players according to their ability.
- Results will be tallied and A/B teams will be selected.

- The teams will be placed in the league according to their ability (A/B/C), thus we could have multiple teams in the same league, or each team in a different league. This will be determined based on the team talent.
- Coaches will co-ordinate notification to team participants.

**Team selection Process:**

- Team tryouts will include appropriate drills and scrimmage.
- Athletes will be judged on skill level, athleticism and attitude.
- All registration materials, including consent form, physical and emergency medical forms, registration fees, and signed Handbook.
- Contract must be in **prior** to team selection tryouts.
- Evaluators will include head coaches, evaluators and Athletic Committee members. Other than head coaches, no other committee member may have a student who is participating in that particular draft.
- Final rosters will be approved by the sport specific Coordinator and the Athletic Director.
- Once the players are selected, they may not transfer to another team.
- If a player quits the program because of “team selection” process the board reserves the right to revoke the student athletes’ participation in the program the following year.
- Attendance at the draft is mandatory. If the player does not attend the draft the player will be placed on the team according to his/her ability, as determined by the Athletic Committee and the coaches.

**PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES**

All playing time will be based upon attitude, effort, attendance, conduct, respect, and outside practice. The following are the minimum playing time requirements for athletes who adhere to the above.

**For 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- 1. Volleyball**
  - League game: at least 1 game per 3 game match
  - Pool Play/Tournament: at least one-third of the tournaments
- 2. Basketball**
  - League game: on average, at least one-third per game (minimum of 8 minutes) of quality playing time.

- Tournament: at least one-third of the entire tournament
- Some playing time at the Padre Serra Tournament for all players is strongly recommended, but will be at the Coach's discretion.

**For 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

**All Sports**

It is required that for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade **equal** playing time be given to all players, over the course of the respective season. Coaches should make every effort possible to ensure that this occurs, remembering that 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade is developmental years. Thus all student athletes need equal playing/learning time. Players that miss practices, or act inappropriately, will be exempt from this rule. **Prior** to not playing a particular player, coaches should discuss this action with the player, player's parents and are required to report the decision to not play a player to the sport specific Coordinator. All Head Coaches in a particular grade are strongly encouraged to apply the same policy regarding players that miss practices.

***These guidelines are minimums. Coaches are obligated to accommodate all interested participants who regularly attend practice and demonstrate a positive attitude towards the sport, coach, and fellow teammates.***

**TOURNAMENTS**

The maximum number of tournaments allowed per Archdiocesan rule is:

	<u>5th &amp; 6th</u>	<u>7th &amp; 8th</u>
<b>Volleyball</b>	2	3
<b>Basketball</b>	3	4

The Elizabeth Seton tournament and the Padre Serra tournament are in addition to this. (St. Mary's Home tournament does count towards the maximum tournaments allowed to be played, and **all** St. Mary's teams must participate in our home tournament). Before committing to a tournament, all coaches must contact the Tournament Coordinator with a completed roster and tournament information to begin the approval process. Once approved, the Treasurer will submit the entry fee along with the tournament roster to the appropriate school. The Treasurer and the sport specific Coordinator will keep a log of tournament entries to prevent duplications and to monitor the number of tournaments entered.

A coach may not enter a tournament on their own, and every attempt should be made to enter different tournaments.

In the event of an All-Star Game, the players shall be selected at the end of the season by the coach.

## **Blessing**

**Eternal Father we your people, come to you and ask your blessing...**

Bless us as we take our recreation and let us be refreshed.

Bless this equipment we use and help us to be renewed and ready to take up our daily work one more.

Bless your people as they use this center; bring your peace and joy into their lives and fill them with your happiness

Father we praise you for your goodness and give you thanks through Christ our Lord

***Amen.***

**ST. MARY’S ATHLETIC CONTRACT**

***STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES***

As a member of a St. Mary’s athletic team, I have read the Student Responsibilities & Consequences listed in the St. Mary’s Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by and accept my responsibilities.

Student(s) Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

***PARENT/GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES***

I have read the St. Mary’s Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by the policies outlined in that document, including the Parent/Guardian Responsibilities & Consequences section. I will also take responsibility for the actions of my child.

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

***COACH RESPONSIBILITIES***

I have read the St. Mary’s Athletic Handbook and I agree to abide by the policies outlined in that document, including the Coach’s Responsibilities & Consequences section.

Coach Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

***This contract must be signed and turned in at sign-up!***