

# **ST. MARIA GORETTI ATHLETIC HANDBOOK**

**2020-2021**

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## **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.

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAM 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.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **SMG STUDENT ATHLETE GOALS:**

SMG has several goals for its student athletes. These goals are strongly supported by the School staff, Athletic Association board members and coaches:

- Learn athletic skills and participate in interscholastic competition,
- Develop and demonstrate a Christian attitude toward competition,
- Develop friendships with both teammates and opponents,
- Develop positive self-esteem through athletics,
- Learn and practice good sportsmanship and to respect the rights of others,
- Learn and practice self-discipline, loyalty and team play and
- Develop physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. All sports typically practice two times a week lasting 60 to 90 minutes.

### **A. Fall Sports**

- 1. Girls Volleyball,**
- 2. Boys and Girls Cross Country**
- 3. Flag Football**

### **B. Winter Sports**

- 1. Boys and Girls Basketball**

### **C. Spring**

- 1. Girls Softball**
- 2. Boys Volleyball**
- 3. Boys & Girls Track & Field**

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **A. Athletic Association Board Functions**

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. Work with the SMG school administration and Athletic Director in setting direction for the athletic leagues, tournaments, etc., consistent with the policies and procedures of SMG Catholic School and Parish.
2. Develop an annual budget and review financial reports regularly. Make all financial reports available to school administration upon request.
3. Evaluate and select coaches for each sport offered.
4. Evaluate and select the SMG Athletic Director.
5. Organize fundraising activities pre-approved by school/parish administration for capital purchases such as sports equipment or other non-recurring expenses to support SMG Athletics.

SMG Athletic Board meetings are open to all SMG Catholic School parents and families. Parents are encouraged to contact the SMG Athletic Director or Board President if they would like an issue to be placed on a future Board meeting agenda.

## **PARTICIPATION**

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

### **A. 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 and coaches should bring any questions or issues with SMG Athletics related to MAISL to the SMG MAISL Rep and/or the Athletic Director. Parents and coaches 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 SMG Athletic Board. A parent, coach, athlete or spectator may be removed from any participating MAISL school for unacceptable behavior.

Use of profanity during games and practices by coaches, parents, spectators and athletes at any time is not tolerated and will be referred to the AD/Principal and likely result in game suspensions(s). Disrespectful behavior to an official or opposing player or spectator may also result in game suspension(s).

## **1. RULES & EXPECTATIONS POLICY**

If parents have a concern about playing time or another issue for their student athlete, they should handle it 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. (step 2 does not have to be completed in order to initiate step 3)
4. If unsatisfied with the previous, communicate with the Athletic Director
5. If unsatisfied with the previous, communicate with the Principal.

## **2.VIOLATION OF HANDBOOK**

Participation in the SMG athletic program is a privilege and not a right. Any violation of any conditions in the handbook by the athlete, parent/guardian, or any member of the athlete's family may result in the athlete being removed from game(s) and/or the athlete's eligibility to participate in the sport being terminated immediately, without any notice, as determined by the Board, with advisement from school administration. Other penalties may be imposed, including certain family members being forbidden to attend practices, games, or other athletic activities, if the Board with advisement from school administration deems such penalties necessary or advisable.

### **B. 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 by the deadline may result in the athlete being unable to participate for that season. All required forms must be completed and turned in before the athlete may participate in practice or game including a valid physical form from the health care provider.

### **C. 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 ineligible.

The options for an 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).

### **D. 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/Principal, 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.

#### **1) 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 or more 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.

#### **2) 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 served basis" once the appropriate registration material and fees are received. Religious Education/Youth Ministry students will be allowed

to continue to participate in the sport they have enrolled in provided they are still a current Religious Education student and there has not been a reduction in teams for that grade and gender in that particular sport. If a student is no longer a SMG Religious Education student, he or she will no longer be eligible to participate in the sport if there has been a reduction in teams for that grade and gender in that particular sport.

## **E. 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.

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.

## **F. 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 may still be required.

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.

## **G. 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.

## **H. 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. Each family is required to work a shift for each athlete for each sport season. Note, if your son's/daughter's 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.

## **SELECTION OF COACHES**

At the time of registration, a parent may volunteer to coach their son/daughter's team. Interested candidates may be asked to submit a statement to the Board for review. The Board will determine the best candidate(s) for coaches for each team. The Board reserves the right to solicit other interested parish members or community members to coach or assistant coach team(s).

All coaches must be Virtus trained and background checked.



**ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM**

We certify that we have read, understand and agree to adhere to all SMG Student Behavior and Academic Expectations mentioned in the Family Handbook and the Athletic Handbook. As a parent, I agree to working in the concession stand the required number of hours or pay a \$75.00 fee per athlete, per sport.

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature (one parent signature indicates parents/guardians of athletes have agreed to the Handbook. My signature also confirms that my child has read and agreed to the policies in the handbook

(electronic signature acceptable)

Date

**THIS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN ANY SPORT.**