**ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ATHLETICS**

We believe our goal as educators is to encourage and motivate students to use their God-given gifts and talents to their fullest potential. As a school, we believe academics are primary to this goal with athletics being second. With this in mind, the following requirements have been developed to assist students in meeting our educational goal:

Students are expected to receive at least a C- average (76% or above) in all major academic subjects (Religion, Reading, English, Vocabulary, Math, Science, & Social Studies).

The following procedure will be used:

1. Grades will be averaged approximately every 2 weeks (to coincide with 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% of each quarter.)
2. Student athletes failing to meet the minimum C- grade average at the time of averaging will be placed on ACADEMIC PROBATION until the next quarterly date of review. A letter will be mailed to the student’s parents advising them of their child’s probationary status. A copy of the letter will be given to the student’s teachers and coaches. During the probationary period, the student athlete MAY participate in all athletic activities. It is our hope that any student on probation will seek assistance from his or her teachers, will participate appropriately in class, and will turn in assignments of good quality.
3. Any student failing to meet the minimum academic requirements at the end of his or her probationary period will be placed on ACADEMIC SUSPENSIONwhich terminates the student’s right to participate in that sport. A letter will be mailed to the student’s parents advising them of their child’s permanent suspension. A copy of the letter will be given to his/her teachers and coaches.
4. Academic Suspension may be subject to review by a Board comprised of the principal, faculty, coaches, and parents.

In addition to the above, the following guidelines for participation in athletics will be enforced:

1. A student who signs up for a sports activity is EXPECTED to participate the entire sports season. Permission to withdraw must be gained from the principal and coach in consultation with the parents. If a child should quit without proper permission, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any sport/activity for the remainder of the school year or during the next school year.
2. A student is eligible to play in a game only after participating in at least 2 team practices.
3. In order to play in a game on that day, the student athlete must be in attendance at school by 11:00 a.m. and for the remainder of the day unless prior arrangements have been made with the principal and coach.
4. A student is responsible for notifying the coach if he/she will not be at practice or a game.
5. Every student athlete MUST have a current physical form and proof of insurance on file in the school office. If the family does not have proper insurance for the athlete, they will be required to purchase student insurance through school.
6. Uniforms which are supplied by the school must be returned or replacement cost paid.
7. Parents are expected to support the program by individually taking responsibility for transporting their child to games/practices.
8. Parents are expected to take their turns at working in the concession stand during home games. A schedule will be given out at the beginning of each season. If a parent does not work or find a replacement for his or her entire scheduled shift (including set up, working 3 games, & clean up), the student athlete will not be allowed to play in the next game.

**Fees**

A $40.00 Activity Fee for EACH School League sport (including cheerleading) for each child who participates. The fee is due at the first practice before a uniform will be issued. This is to help defray the cost of the sports program (including referees and equipment) as well as new uniforms. Note: The Church League is independent of the School League. Any parishioner of St. Mary’s Parish is eligible to belong to Church League teams. Above eligibility rules do not apply to Church League.

**ARTICLE V -- Parents**

By the very nature of having a child on the team, a parent bears certain responsibilities. Parents shall:

* Model adult Christian behavior toward coaches, referees, players and other fans
* Attend the preseason parent meeting
* Encourage their child to attend all practices and games as well as convey to their child the importance of notifying a coach if they will not be able to attend a practice or game
* Encourage their child's participation by supporting the Academic Eligibility Policy of the school
* Support their child by attendance at games whenever possible
* Be on time to pick up children from practice or games
* Comply with the rules set by your child’s coach
* Volunteer to be on one of the Athletic Subcommittees
* Be responsible for providing a current physical form, proof of insurance and emergency contact information for your child
* Participate in the sale of concessions at games and at the annual Pool Tournament fundraiser as assigned
* Be responsible for transporting or obtaining transportation to and from practices and games for their child
* Offer to help the coach in whatever way they can. Help is always appreciated and every coach likes to hear, "How can I help you."

**ARTICLE VI – Parochial League Play (Boys and Girls Grades 6 – 8)**

Playing time is to be fair for all three teams, however it may not be equal. At the Coach’s discretion, playing time will be proportionate to a player’s ability to best demonstrate in practice and games both individual skills and team concepts as they are instructed.

Players on C and B Teams will consist of only 6th and 7th graders respectively unless it is necessary to move players up to complete a roster up to8 players for basketball or up to 10 players for volleyball. A-Team players can be of any grade if moving up will be beneficial to that player’s development as deemed by the coaches of both teams, the player’s parent, and the player. However, a 7th grader cannot play full time on the A Team if there are enough 8th graders to play. **Coaches of all teams involved should come to agreement and discuss with the Coaching Committee prior to contacting the player and parent.**

**ARTICLE VII -- Procedure to follow when there are concerns**

If players and/or parents have concerns about the progress of a sport or their child's participation in that sport, the following procedures should always be followed:

1. Player discuss his/her concerns with the coach.
2. If not resolved, parent and player discuss concerns with the coach.
3. If not resolved, parent, player, and coach discuss concerns with the Athletic Director.
4. The Athletic Director will bring the issue to the Coaching Committee if absolutely necessary.

This procedure applies to all sports at St. Mary Cathedral School.

**ARTICLE VIII -- Amendment of By-laws**

1. Revision must be presented to the President of the Athletic Committee at least 14 days in advance of the spring Athletic Committee meeting. Notification of the proposed amendment will be published in the school bulletin.
2. By-law revision will be discussed at the Spring Meeting.
3. The revision will be voted on by the members present at the Spring meeting. If approved by a majority, the revision will become part of the Athletic By-laws. (Revised March 2013)