

Diocesan Athletic Handbook for  
Elementary Feeder Schools of  
Mater Dei High School  
and  
Reitz Memorial High School

2023 - 2024



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

**DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE**

Educate. Inspire. Proclaim.

Catholic Diocese of Evansville

This publication has been prepared for those who administer the interschool athletic programs for the elementary/middle level schools in the Evansville area. The Evansville area principals support the guidelines for athletics so that the programs for all schools feeding into the Mater Dei or Reitz Memorial programs will be structured in a similar and equitable manner. The following guidelines represent the judgment of the Evansville Area Elementary Athletic Council and are effective as revised.

This book may be reviewed and amended as needed.

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## Diocesan Athletic Guidelines for Evansville Area Catholic Elementary/Middle Schools

Philosophy – Students will be provided an opportunity to develop the attributes of good Christian citizenship and sportsmanship. The athletic program serves as an extension of the classroom. This program should build self-confidence, teamwork, constructive competitiveness, and lifelong skills. The primary purpose of an interschool/middle school athletic program is to provide students with educational experiences and learning outcomes, not a “win at any cost” philosophy.

Preamble – The Catholic Schools Office and the interschool principals, recognizing the need to plan and direct a wholesome, Christian program of interschool athletic competition, acknowledge and agree to implement the following guidelines.

Purpose – The purpose of these guidelines shall be to encourage, unify and give direction to wholesome, Christian interschool athletic competition among elementary students. All interschool competition shall be complementary to the academic functions of the schools. All those associated with interschool athletic programs (i.e. school principal, athletic committee, sports association) should cooperate and work toward the health and educational welfare of the students. They shall also determine the guidelines for qualifications of student participants and coaches.

Organizational Structure – The Evansville Area Elementary Athletic Council was formed during the 2000-2001 school year to ensure compliance to the athletic guidelines for elementary students established during the 1999-2000 school year. This board has been charged by the Superintendent of Schools to interpret policy and guidelines and to take action when there is non-compliance. The Executive Board will serve under the direction of the Catholic Schools Office.

Board members consist of the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, representatives from Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial High Schools, two principals and an athletic director from the west deanery, and two principals and an athletic director from the east deanery.

The principals and elementary athletic directors shall serve two-year terms, with new representation replacing one east/west principal and one east/west director each year. Principal representation will be selected by the principals, and athletic director representation by the athletic directors, from the elementary schools. New representation will assume duties in May, with orientation taking place at the April meeting. This rotation will first be implemented in the spring of 2002.

Officers of the Council are chairperson, and secretary. The chairperson will conduct the meetings. The chairperson prepares the agenda and serves as the contact person for the council. The secretary prepares and distributes the minutes.

## Part I – General Eligibility Rules

### Rule 1 – Rule Coverage

#### Section 1

These guidelines apply to all teams and all contestants enrolled in Catholic elementary/middle level schools participating in interschool athletic contests, tournaments, and/or meets. All league rules must comply with diocesan guidelines. Schools may maintain any number of teams in the same sport.

### Rule 2 – Administrative Responsibility

#### -Authority-

#### Section 1

The principal is recognized as the school representative and as such is accountable for conduct of the athletic program of that school.

#### Section 2

The principal has the authority to designate an athletic director or faculty member to act as a director of the teams representing the school.

#### Section 3

It is understood that any school may determine the scope of current athletic activities. Any new activities must be sanctioned by the local school's principal and/or athletic committee.

#### Section 4

Principals should assure that their school's participants and fans conduct themselves in a proper and sportsmanlike manner as outlined in the Good Sports Program. (See page 20)

-Certification of Eligibility-  
Section 5

A. Athletic Eligibility, Elementary Sports for Evansville Feeder Schools. The athlete must not be failing any classes. Grades will be reviewed as report cards are issued, whether that be on a six or nine week cycle. Upon release of a report card not meeting minimum standards, the student will be suspended from play for 15 schooldays from the day report cards go home (student may practice with the team). On the fifteenth school day, the grade situation will be reviewed by the school administrator. At that time, the student will be reinstated to the team, if the grade problem is corrected. If grades are not up to standard, the student will continue play suspension and the right to practice will also be suspended for three more weeks. After the second 15 school day\* play and practice suspension, the grades will be reviewed again. If grades are up to minimum, the student will be returned to eligibility. If the grades are still inadequate, the student will be removed from the school team and denied practice and play until the student receives a report card that is up to minimum standards. Students who are academically ineligible at the end of the school year will be able to participate on sports teams, but will be closely monitored at the beginning of the next school year. Exceptions on academic eligibility to participate can be granted at the discretion of the school administrator for appropriate reasons. It is expected that any exception will be documented for future reference. Students may be disqualified from participation in sports activities based on behavioral reasons established by individual schools. All participants will be full-time students within their respective schools.  
(Approved 4-6-06)

\*Snow days will be counted in the 15 days.

Section 6

In the event that a school does not have sufficient enrollment to field a team, the following guidelines will apply:

- a. The athletic director must notify the principal of the situation.
- b. The principal and/or the athletic director will assume the responsibility to find a team in his/her feeder area on which to place those students.
- c. The principal of the receiving school must be notified before placement occurs.
- d. Students abide by the Section 5 guidelines according to their school of enrollment.

## -Consent and Release Certificates-

### Section 7

Prior to their first practice, students in grades K and 6, and all new students to the school, should have had a physical examination by a physician holding an unlimited license to practice medicine. All students must have written consent of parent or guardian for participation. Evidence of both must be on file in the principal's/athletic director's office prior to the student's first practice. Physical examinations must be on or after May 1 for the following school year. It is recommended that all student athletes have insurance.

### Section 8

Students who are physically unable to participate in five consecutive practices due to illness or injury should present to their principal or athletic director a statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine that they are again physically fit to participate in elementary/middle school athletics.

### Section 9

Diocese school names are not to be used for athletic teams not sponsored by the Diocese of Evansville.

## Rule 3 – Amateurism

### Section 1

All contestants in elementary/middle level school sponsored contests will be amateurs.

### Section 2

Students will not play under assumed names nor accept remuneration, directly or indirectly, for playing on athletic teams.

### Section 3

Students will not be considered as violating their amateur standing if they participate in any sport, out of season, sponsored by professionals.

### Section 4

Schools having students who have violated their amateur standing will notify any school against which competition occurred that involved that student's participation.

### Section 5

Reasonable meals, lodging, and transportation may be accepted by a student if such are accepted in service rather than money or in some other material form.

## Rule 4 – Awards, Prizes, Gifts

### Section 1

The giving and receiving of awards will:

- a. be kept within reasonable bounds
- b. have symbolic value only and
- c. be with the consent and under the supervision of the school principal.

Note: The giving and receiving of awards with the consent and under the supervision of the school principal concerned will mean that the school principal in each school will have real control and supervision without pressure of any kind from outside persons or groups of persons.

### Section 2

Awards such as trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons or similar articles of symbolic value may be given.

### Section 3

Schools belonging to athletic conferences may make awards to the winning schools or winning participants.

### Section 4

Suitable awards may be accepted by schools and/or students from such local organizations as service clubs, patriotic organizations, civic groups, dads' and mothers' clubs, and the sports department of a newspaper or radio station.

### Section 5

Athletic equipment is considered merchandise. Any student who accepts or attempts to evade the rule by “purchasing” a merchandise prize for a nominal or token sum should be considered as having forfeited his amateur standing.

## Rule 5 – Coaches

### Section 1

Each school will establish guidelines for the selection of coaches.

- a. Two approved (“approved” means that the principal knows the person, and approves him or her, and the person has submitted to a criminal background check) adult leaders, or one approved leader and a parent of a participant, both of whom are 21 years of age or older, are required to be present at all practices, games, and meetings.
- b. When there is a female coach of a boys' team or a male coach of a girls' team, there must be an adult advisor of the opposite sex present at all practices, games, and meetings.

- c. All coaches must attend training sponsored by the diocesan office on a bi-annual basis.
- d. All coaches are to be proponents of Catholic schools.
- e. If a coach is ejected from a game, he or she may not participate in the next athletic contest of that sport.
- f. All coaches are required to sign the “Code of Christian Conduct covering Coaches of the Diocese of Evansville.” (Sample on page 15 and full copy on the diocesan web site.)

## Rule 6 – Conduct, Character, and Discipline

### Section 1

Contestants’ conduct in, and out of school, will (a.) not reflect discredit upon their school, or (b.) not create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment in the school. All students and parents must follow the Code of Christian Conduct.

### Section 2

If a student is ejected from a game, he/she may not participate in the next athletic contest of that sport.

## Rule 7 – Contests

These are general rules applying to all interschool contests.

### Section 1

No games, meets, or tournaments will be played by schools without the sanction of the principal and/or athletic director.

### Section 2

Interschool athletic contests will follow the recommended guidelines for that contest.

### Section 3

In all contests, the decisions of the officials shall be considered final and binding.

### Section 4

All-boys teams and all-girls teams will not participate against each other in interschool athletic contests.

### Section 5

There will be no interschool athletic contests played or practices or clinics held before 12:30 pm on Sunday. Student athletes are not allowed on the playing field/court for warm-ups before noon.

### Section 6

Withdrawal of a school athletic team from an athletic contest in progress, unless by mutual consent of both schools, could jeopardize future scheduling considerations.

## Rule 8 – Enrollment, Attendance

### Section 1

In order to be eligible for athletic competition during any semester, a student must be enrolled in the elementary/middle school.

### Section 2

Student athletes are expected to attend all classes. Athletes absent from classes will not be allowed to participate in a practice or contest the day of the absence. Exceptions to the rule must be approved by the principals.

## Rule 9 – Officials

### Section 1

The officials in all elementary/middle school contests shall be determined by league guidelines.

## Rule 10 – Participation

### Section 1

Participation in an athletic contest on any other similar team during the same season in which they represent their school in that sport is strongly discouraged.

### Section 2

Participation of students in an organized athletic contest with or against players not belonging to their school constitutes a game. An organized “scrimmage” or practice by students with or against teams or players not belonging to their school is considered a game. One exception is allowed: Basketball teams with fewer than ten total participants may schedule no more than two joint practices with another school team that also has fewer than ten total participants. The sole purpose of this exception is to allow those small teams some limited opportunity to practice in a “five-against-five” situation.

### Section 3

Students should not attend specialized or diversified sport camps, schools, clinics, or other similar programs involving coaching, instruction, and participation on days that school is in session.

## Rule 11 – Scholarship

### Section 1

Each school will establish its own scholastic requirements for students participating in its interschool athletic contests.

## Rule 12 – Undue Influence

### Section 1

The use of undue influence by any person or persons to secure or to retain a student will cause the student to be ineligible for interschool athletics.

### Part II – Interschool Sports Rules – Boys & Girls

General Eligibility Rules – These rules apply to all sports.

1. Practice will start no earlier than four weeks prior to first scheduled contest.
2. Coaches will follow the Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial League Rules.
3. A. At the seventh and eighth grade levels, teams may practice/play four times per week. Practices are not to exceed one-and-a-half hours on nights when school will be in session the next day. Other practices are not to exceed two hours. Practices are to be scheduled to allow for practice to end by 8:45 p.m. and for students to depart by 9:00 p.m. Games should not be scheduled to begin later than 7:45 p.m. on nights when school is in session the next day.  
B. At the kindergarten through sixth grade levels, teams may practice/play three times per week. An exception is allowed for fifth/sixth grade basketball teams. These teams are permitted four contacts in a week when two league games are scheduled in one weekend. An exception will also be permitted in wrestling where students may have four contacts per week. This exception may not be used for nonleague games or league games played on school nights. Practices are not to exceed one-and-a-half hours on nights when school will be in session the next day. Other practices are not to exceed two hours. Practices are to be scheduled to allow for practice to end by 8:45 p.m. and for students to depart by 9:00 p.m. Games should not be scheduled to begin later than 7:45 p.m. on nights when school is in session the next day.
4. One season's games should not overlap another season's games.
5. In the first two years of any organized school sport, care should be taken to give all eligible team members equitable playing time.

6. For the purpose of scheduling, a week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday.
7. Coaches may not require team members to participate in additional clinics.
8. An additional tournament counts as two games against the season limit.

#### Rule 13 – Basketball (Boys & Girls)

1. The length of quarters, overtime periods, and use of three-point shot will be determined by the league rules.
2. A school team will play no more than:
  - a. Grades 1-4 12 games and 1 tournament
  - b. Grades 5-6 15 games and 2 tournaments
  - c. Grades 7-8 20 games and 2 tournaments
3. If a team participates in additional tournaments, the games played in the additional tournaments will be included in the game limit for the specific grade level. See #8, page 10 concerning additional tournaments.
4. For 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Basketball – If a student athlete is on more than one team roster they must follow the game limit for their grade level stated above (#2, Rule 13). Game is considered for any athlete who is sitting the bench or playing.

In addition the Athletic Board makes the following recommendations:

- ✓ Each league should keep an official book and keep track at the league level of number of quarters played per session for all teams. League officials can then address any concerns related to violation of five quarter rule.
- ✓ Rosters for each team should be turned in to the league at the beginning of the season and the official book should be filled in by bookkeeper, not coaches.
- ✓ All coaches should be reminded of spirit of five quarter rule and good sportsmanship includes not running up scores.

#### Rule 14 – Cross Country (Boys & Girls)

1. The Cross Country league will be organized according to diocesan rules.

### Rule 15 – Football (Boys)

1. Only safety approved football equipment will be used.
2. Size of ball, length of quarters, and overtimes will be determined by league rules.
3. Participants will play only one game per calendar week.
4. Football may have an extra practice per week due to the length of season and conditioning requirements.
5. Cub football is a high school program, and does not come under the jurisdiction of this council.

### Rule 16 – Soccer (Boys & Girls)

1. The length of halves, size of ball, and overtime shall be determined by league rules.
2. An elementary/middle level school team will play no more than 15 scheduled games and 1 tournament.
3. If a team participates in 2 tournaments, the games played in the second tournament will be included in the 15 games permitted for that grade level.
4. Organizational plan for Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial girls' cub soccer:

A. Seventh and eighth grade Catholic School students or those public school students who signed letters of intent to attend Mater Dei or Reitz Memorial will be eligible to participate. All girls who sign up will be placed on a team with other players with similar abilities.

B. Consistent communication with every parish school is necessary through the elementary school office. It will be the responsibility of the elementary principal to distribute the cub soccer information provided by the high school athletic director. Everyone must be informed of the time and place of the sign ups. A notice in the newspaper is not sufficient. Sign-ups will occur in early May, before participation the next school year.

5. The Athletic Council recognized the organization of a “soccer instruction academy” program for boys in grades K-3 feeder schools.

#### Rule 17 – Track and Field (Boys & Girls)

1. The track and field events will be determined by the league.
2. The season limit will be six meets plus one tournament. There shall no more than two meets per week.

#### Rule 18 – Volleyball (Girls)

1. The maximum number of season matches for a team or student will be 12 plus 2 tournaments.
2. There will be no more than two matches per calendar week.
3. The host school will notify the visiting school regarding variations or modifications of facilities or rules prior to contest.

#### Rule 19 – Wrestling (Boys)

1. The recommended weight classes and limits, equipment specifications, length of matches, and tournament eligibility will be determined by league rules.
2. Excessive weight loss is not condoned.
3. The season limit is ten meets plus one team tournament, one individual tournament, and one diocesan tournament.
4. There shall be no more than four contacts (meets/practices) per week, sponsored by the Catholic elementary schools.

#### Rule 20 – Cheerleading (Girls 5-8)

1. The length of the season will coincide with the boys' (5-8) basketball.
2. Cheerleading is intended to increase support and team spirit for school basketball teams.
3. Cheerleading is not a gymnastic activity. Dangerous lifts, throws, catches, stunts, dismounts, or drops are NOT permitted. Girls who wish to participate in a more advanced gymnastic-style activity are encouraged to seek professional coaching at a private gym, separate from our school sponsored squads.

4. All mounts and/or pyramids are limited to a height of ½ persons for grades 5 and 6. The top person receives primary support from a base(s) who is in direct weight-bearing contact with the performing surface. (No throws and catches are permitted.)
5. Mounts that are two persons high are limited to grades 7 and 8 only, provided there are spotters present. The top person receives primary support from a base(s) who is in direct weight-bearing contact with the performing surface. The top person must be in the foot/shoulder contact with base. A pop, which is a controlled pushing motion upward by a base to increase height of the top person, is not permitted. Foot/hand contact that is above shoulder level is not allowed.
6. General Safety Rules in Rule 2 of the NFHS Rules Book Spirit 2010-2011 should be followed.

\*\* Mandatory cheer clinics will be replaced with a safety video that will be made available to all cheer coaches.

Athletic Directors at both Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial will use School Reach to call elementary principals when they change practice times/days because of heat. If high School cancels, feeder schools must also cancel practices or games. Feeder schools may cancel at other times at principal's discretion.

When school is cancelled due to weather, there will be NO games or practices on that day. If school is cancelled on Friday, weekend games/practices will be determined by the site director of the sport involved.

## Athletic Season 2023-2024

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Begin</u>	<u>End</u>
Cross Country 4-8	July 31	October 1
Football Grades 2-7	July 31	October 15**
Basketball Grades 3-8	October 9	February 4
Wrestling K-8	January 1	March 10
Soccer Grades 5-8	February 26	April 28
Track & Field Grades 4-8	February 26	May 5
Baseball Grades 7 & 8	March 4*	June 9

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Begin</u>	<u>End</u>
Cross Country 4-8	July 31	October 1
Cheerleading Grades 5-8	October 9	February 4
Soccer 3-8	July 17	October 1
Basketball Grades 3-8	October 9	February 4
Volleyball 5-8	July 10	October 8
Track & Field Grades 4-8	February 26	May 5

Listed seasons include four weeks of practice before competition begins.

\*Conditioning for pitchers and catchers may begin two weeks prior to start date for team practices.

\*\*Cub football players (Gr. 7 & 8) will not begin school basketball until football is over.

**In observance of the Easter Triduum, schools will not participate in any events/activities including athletic practices and games after 6:00 pm on Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday.**

*(Reviewed February 8, 2019)*  
Code of Christian Conduct Covering  
Coaches of the Diocese of Evansville

It shall be an express condition of coaching that the coach behaves in a manner that is consistent with the Christian principles of the school as determined by the school in its discretion. These Christian principles include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Coaches are expected to work courteously with the league and school to provide a Christian environment for athletic competition.
2. Coaches may respectfully express their concerns about athletics. However, they may not do so in a manner that is discourteous, scandalous, rumor driven, disruptive, threatening, hostile, or divisive.
3. These expectations for coaches include, but are not limited to, all school sponsored athletic events and practices.

The school reserves the right to determine, in its discretion, which actions fall short of meeting the Christian principles of the school. Failure to follow these principles will normally result in a verbal or written warning to the coach. Temporary suspension or permanent removal from coaching responsibilities may occur with repeated infractions. It is expected that the school will document any previous infractions and corrections.

The athletic director and school administration reserve the right to determine, in its discretion, when conduct is of such a severe nature as to warrant immediate action without a warning.

Read, acknowledged, and agreed to:

Coach's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*(Approved 12/01/05 Junior High Diocesan Athletic Board)*

## Junior High Athletic Participation Policy

for Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial feeder school and non-feeder school students participating in club sports sponsored by the two high schools.

### Purpose:

To provide an opportunity for seventh and eighth grade Catholic feeder school athletes to become better athletes.

To bring players from different schools together, to teach them high school systems, and to provide instruction and competition.

The Catholic high schools will provide coaches from their coaching staffs, with the athletic directors overseeing practices.

Participation in this program is **NOT TO CONFLICT** with any feeder school activities. This includes school practices, school games, or any junior high sanctioned activities.

Behavior and academic guidelines from the student's feeder school will apply for continued participation with the high school program.

Students coming from a non-feeder school must sign an intent to attend the Catholic high school form. If they are from a public school, they can only represent one school.

Adjustments to this policy may be made at the discretion of Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial athletic directors.

## Cub Sports

“Cub” sports at Mater Dei and Memorial will be defined as:

Girls	Boys
EBA/Cub Basketball 7&8	Junior Prep Basketball 7-8
Cub Soccer 7-8	Cub Soccer 7-8
Volleyball (Mater Dei only, “Wildcats”)8	Wrestling: MD “Junior Wildcats” 3-8 MHS “Junior High” 6-8
Cross Country Mater Dei 3-8 Memorial 3-8	Cross Country Mater Dei 3-8 Memorial 3-8
Softball Mater Dei – 10 under + Memorial – Grades 3-8	Baseball Mater Dei 7-8 Memorial 7-8 Cub
Tennis (Mater Dei only)	Tennis (Mater Dei only)
	Football 7-8

## Guidelines

1. All students who participate in “Cub” sports must follow the athletic eligibility guidelines for Evansville Area Schools found in the diocesan handbook. The feeder school’s principal will report the ineligibility of a student to both the parent and High School Athletic Director.
2. The contact person from each cub sport is the head coach of the sport at Memorial and Mater Dei. Each year the High School Directors will forward a list of all high school coaches to elementary feeder principals.
3. All “Cub” sport information must go through Mater Dei and Memorial Athletic Directors who will then forward that information to feeder principals. Principals will not accept nor forward cub sport information from cub coaches.
4. All “Cub” sport information should be sent at least a week in advance. Feeder schools will not make hard copies of information.
5. If a feeder school principal has any concerns regarding Cub sport information, he/she should contact the High School Athletic Director to obtain clarification and/or resolve the issue.
6. Youth Protection training for “Cub” sport coaches will be the responsibility of the high schools.

7. High School Athletic Directors will send student roster lists for all Cub Sports to Principals ASAP.

### Guidelines for All-Star Seasons

#### Coaches

1. Coaches for all-star teams must have been involved in the regular school sports season as a coach or an assistant coach.
2. All coaches must receive both the Bloodborne Pathogen training and Youth Protection training prior to the start of this post season play.

#### Teams

1. Only one team per grade level. There will be no exceptions to this rule. This is to be an “all-star” season not a “continued” season.
2. Tryouts must be held. Announcements of the date and time should be open to all and publicized through the schools in newsletters or student/parent folders.

#### Students

1. Only Catholic School students are eligible.
2. Students must meet academic/behavior requirements to be eligible. Students must have the permission slip signed by both the parents and the principal. The signature of the principal denotes eligibility for this post season play.

#### Insurance

1. There may be a possible “All-Star Boosters” policy. According to diocesan insurance representatives, all-star teams are outside the curriculum of school so this “league of teams” must provide a certificate of insurance. All-star players/parents will contribute a fee toward the purchase of insurance coverage.

#### Location

1. The pastor must give consent for the use of facilities beyond the regular school season.
2. West Deanery Parishes have released the following statement of common purpose regarding their facilities which is located on page 19.

Statement of Common Purpose  
Rental of Parish Facilities for Extracurricular Events  
Evansville West Deanery Parishes  
October 10, 2007

- All parishes are free to sponsor or not sponsor extracurricular events (e.g. all-star sports teams) as they see fit for the good of their parish.
- If an event is sponsored by another diocesan agency (another parish, school, etc.) the parish may rent or provide its facilities with or without cost and no provision would be necessary for sponsorship, supervision or training. All of these are the responsibility of the sponsoring agency.
- According to diocesan policy, if a parish chooses to sponsor such an event, it is the parish's responsibility to provide adequate supervision and training of all personnel involved with these extracurricular events. In addition, the parish is also required to fulfill all ecclesial and legal requirements related to such events. These requirements include, but may not be limited to, safe environment training for all adults involved in the event and proper bloodborne pathogen management.
- Parishes may also choose to rent their facilities for extracurricular events to an outside group under the usual provisions for an "outside renter." In such cases, these groups (e.g. all-star teams) would be required to provide proof of insurance (with a minimum of \$1,000,000 coverage and the appropriate statement concerning the additional insured parties) and would be subject to the rental policies that each parish has in place (e.g. fees for rental, time that the facilities would be rented).



It is our intention to state our expectations for behaviors and attitudes that should be displayed by all invested parties regarding appropriate Christian sportsmanship. We look forward to providing opportunities for appropriate athletic competition where students can learn athletic skills and life skills; where students, coaches and parents/fans will appreciate the gifts and talents of others as well as the opportunities to compete, win or lose. Our Good Sports program allows each of us to model, practice and learn *respect, gratitude and responsibility* among many other core values, through Christian athletic competition.

### Expectations for Parents and Fans

Parents should expect coaches and athletes to display appropriate Christian behavior, attitude and effort in practices and in competition. Parents should support coaches' efforts to teach athletes core values. This may mean that some athletes may be awarded playing time over others whose behavior, attitude or effort (regardless of talent) does not reflect the values of good sportsmanship. This includes working hard in practices, arriving consistently on time, demonstrating appropriate behavior, attitude, and effort in practices and games.

Parents should support coaches who are encouraged to play students who display consistent effort, show positive attitude, display appropriate behavior, and attend practices and competition over students who do not participate appropriately.

### Specific Goals/Expectations

- ✝ Parents should encourage prayer before and after practices and competition.
- ✝ Parents/fans should model good sportsmanship with their own and other teams (players, coaches and fans), before, during and after competition, win or lose.
- ✝ Parents/fans should not approach officials, the other team's coaches, players or parents/fans in a negative way.
- ✝ Parents should emphasize healthy behaviors regarding diet, rest and athletics.

- † Parents should help students balance academics and athletics, emphasizing academics come first.
- † Parents should recognize their behavior matters to their own children and the school/parish community and that their signature on the Code of Christian Conduct applies to parents in the stands.
- † Parents are the first teachers of their children and should remember that their modeling and behavior reflects on their own children, their family and the school/parish community.

Parents and Fans should...

- ❖ Show respect.
  - ✓ Cheer for a team, not against a team.
  - ✓ Celebrate talents and accomplishments of all athletes.
  - ✓ Respect all athletes, coaches, officials and other fans.
  - ✓ Do not approach officials, your coach, other coaches or fans before, during or after practice or competition with negativity.
  - ✓ Speak in a positive way about your athlete, other athletes, coaches, officials and your school.
  - ✓ Keep all things in perspective.
- ❖ Show gratitude and appreciation.
  - ✓ Appreciate the time and effort of volunteer coaches and officials.
  - ✓ Appreciate efforts and talents of all the athletes.
  - ✓ Be positive before, during and after the game with your athlete and others.
  - ✓ Appreciate the opportunities athletes have to participate.
  - ✓ Be grateful for the support and investment of time, talent and treasure of others and the school.
  - ✓ Keep all things in perspective.
- ❖ Show responsibility.
  - ✓ Communicate with and about athletes, coaches, and other parents/fans, in a positive and appropriate way.
  - ✓ Be on time.
  - ✓ Encourage team over individuals.
  - ✓ Do not leave siblings unsupervised.

(Adopted by East/West feeder schools for Mater Dei/Memorial 2010-2011)