

## SAINT VINCENT MARTYR SCHOOL

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, COACHES, & SPECTATORS

A student-athlete, parent/guardian, coach, &/or spectator is to conduct himself/herself in a manner that honors the sport and Saint Vincent Martyr School (SVMS), and demonstrates respect to all players, coaches, officials, and spectators. The essential elements in this “Code of Conduct” are **honesty** and **integrity**. Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these elements will bring credit to the school, the team and themselves. St. Vincent Martyr School supports the following behaviors for those participating or involved in any way with the sports program:

- A. The essential elements of this “Code of Conduct” must be adhered to:

The ideals of Catholic education and the mission of SVMS must be supported and promoted, and the established school policies and practices as set forth by the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, the Pastor and the School Principal must be followed. Student-athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, and spectators are reminded that the athletic program is sponsored by SVMS and cannot be separated from the school’s administration. The Principal will be advised of any problems that may arise.

- B. The concepts of sportsmanship and fair play are essential to the game, and must be taught and developed both at home and during practices and games. Permitting, encouraging or condoning any act or conduct that is dangerous or demeaning to a player, coach, official, spectator, or anyone connected with the function of the game is unacceptable.
- C. The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play or the skills of the game. The emphasis on “Win at all costs” is contrary to our school’s philosophy. The student-athlete, parent/guardian, coach, &/or spectator will **accept defeat gracefully and victory humbly**.
- D. Derogatory comments are unacceptable. Use positive reinforcement with student-athletes and adults alike. Improper language of any sort or any degree is *never* to be tolerated.
- E. Student-athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, &/or spectators must never openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass, or threaten an official or umpire. To do so is a violation of the rules of the game and must be considered unacceptable conduct.
- F. Knowledge of the Rules of the game must be respected and adhered to by all student-athletes, parent/guardians, coaches and spectators, both in the letter and the spirit of the game. The Rules are designed to protect the student-athletes, provide common standards and control the game. Attempts to beat these Rules, to take unfair advantage of an opponent or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct is considered unacceptable conduct. The safety and welfare of all is of the utmost importance.

- a. With regard to playing time and substitutions for the student-athletes participating the Travel Basketball Program, the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams play under the rules of the Morris County Catholic Basketball League.
  - b. Play time for other sports will vary and the coach(es) will relay that information to the student-athletes and parents.
  - c. The coach(es) will take into consideration the student-athletes attendance at practice, attitude, behavior/conduct, and ability when determining play time for soccer, volleyball, softball, and baseball. Equal playing time is not guaranteed.
- G. Participating in sports for SVMS is a privilege not a right. A student must earn this privilege through both conduct and academic performance. If a student-athlete is not able to balance both his/her studies **and** playing on a team, team participation must be limited. To qualify academically, the student-athlete must adhere to the following policies:
- a. A student must indicate by his/her attitude that academics come first.
  - b. A student whose average falls below a "C" will be deprived of playing sports temporarily. Neither will he/she be permitted to attend practices, either as a player or a spectator. He/she will be reinstated on the team if/when their grade(s) are above a "D" average.
  - c. An "I" &/or a "U" may not appear anywhere on a Progress Report or Report Card. Student-athletes will not be permitted to play on the team or attend practices. He/she will be reinstated on the team if/when their grade(s) are at or above an "S."
  - d. Students playing sports must not expect or request a lessening of homework due to practices or games. Neither is the student or parent to request the delaying or retaking of a test because of sports.
- H. A student-athlete who has either been absent from school or goes home sick during the day is not permitted to attend an athletic practice or game the same evening.
- I. With regard to use of the school building, the following must be adhered to:
- a. A student-athlete must be on time for all practices and games. No student may enter the building unless a coach is present. A parent/guardian must not leave a student-athlete at the school unless two coaches or one coach and one other "approved" adult is present. A parent/guardian must pick up his/her child promptly at the conclusion of all practices and games.
  - b. A student-athlete must remain in the gym for practices and games. He/she may not roam the halls or go anywhere in the building other than the bathroom, lobby or gym.
  - c. A student-athlete, parent/guardian, coach, and/or spectator may not go to any classroom or locker after 3:30. Anyone found upstairs, at a locker or in any part of the building other than the gym, lobby or bathroom will be suspended for one game.
  - d. A student-athlete may not go outside without permission from the coach and may never go alone.
  - e. A student-athlete may not use the telephone without permission from the coach.

- J. A parent/guardian will support the coach and his/her decisions. A parent/guardian agrees not to speak to the coach for 24 hours prior to and/or 24 hours after a game regarding the coach's philosophy or the student-athlete's playing time. There is a grievance policy in place and we ask that you use that form if you feel necessary. This form can be found online.
- K. The student-athlete's uniform will be properly cared for at all times and will be returned in good condition at the end of the season. Student-athletes and parents/guardians will be charged the replacement cost for uniforms which are damaged beyond normal wear and tear and/or lost.
- L. When the student-athlete is at practice or a game they will be physically and mentally present and aware of their surroundings. They will pay attention and listen carefully to their coaches. If a student-athlete is disruptive or uncooperative a parent/guardian will be called and the student-athlete will be asked to leave.
- M. Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people, as well as with adults. To that end, coaches are asked to be faithful in executing this Code of Conduct. It is unfair to every coach and player if one individual decides to be lenient in the execution of these roles. A coach must: treat all players with respect; inspire in the athletes a love of the sport and the desire to compete fairly; discipline those individuals who display unsportsmanlike conduct; respect the judgment and interpretation of the rules by the officials; and know that he/she is a teacher and understands that the athletic arena is a classroom.

***If you plan on participating in any sports program and/or attending any SVMS sporting event for the 2016-2017 school year, please sign, detach, and send in the bottom portion to Miss Amy Nauta ASAP.***

We, the \_\_\_\_\_ family, agree to abide by the SVMS Athletic Code of Conduct.

Student-Athlete &/or Spectator Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents'/Guardians' Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_