



**Athletics Department  
Guidelines and Policies**

**&**

**Student-Athlete Registration Packet**

2018-2019 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the St. Mary's Cathedral School Athletic Department (SMCSAD)!

The St. Mary's Cathedral School Athletic Department and Administration would like to thank you for all your support and sacrifice during our athletic seasons. We are very grateful for the time and effort your child puts in to our sports, and the time and effort you put in with the various duties of being a "sports parent". We all wish to see the students strive and succeed while simultaneously keeping them out of harm's way. All of us at St. Mary's wish to thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and we acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices you make for your child every day.

We are all deeply vested in our children's athletic endeavors. As parents, we know you want to see them do well and excel. At this age level, we are trying to teach these young athletes and lay the foundation for them to perhaps play competitively at the high school level. Throughout the athletic season, we want the athletes to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically while improving upon their skills in their chosen sport. We want the athletes to have fun, forge team bonds, and learn real-world skills that help with communication, group dynamics, leadership and service. Parents/guardians should not let their desires, emotions, or dreams interfere with the experience for their child(ren).

As a school and Athletic Department, St. Mary's strives to create the most favorable environment for our athletes and parents. We also uphold the rules and guidelines set forth by the All Catholic Conference (ACC). It is our hope and full intention that the policies contained herein will benefit all parties involved, especially our student-athletes.

We sincerely hope we can all give our athletes, your children, a truly positive learning and spiritual experience that will last them for years to come.

Yours in Christ,

Mr. Flor, Principal

Coach Moses, Athletic Director

## St. Mary's Athletic Department: Uniform Return Policy

Each athlete competing in any sport(s) is issued a regulation St. Mary's Cathedral School athletic uniform. The uniform is an "INVENTORY ITEM," and is the property of St. Mary's Cathedral School Athletic Department (SMCSAD). Because uniforms are very expensive, we try to get several seasons of use from them.

- Therefore, uniforms will be handed out/assigned to athletes for ONE season's competitions.
- The uniform MUST be returned at the end of that particular season.
- Coaches reserve the right to collect uniforms at the end of each game as well.
- Some uniform items are considered "personal attire" and are purchased individually by the athlete (knee pads, arm sleeves, braces, etc...). These items are the personal property of the athlete.
- Other items may be gifted to the athletes by the Athletic Director or Coaches, and the athletes will be allowed to keep these (headbands, t-shirts, wristbands, etc...).
- The Athletic Director and/or Coaches will provide detailed instructions on the washing and drying procedures for uniforms (some uniforms can NOT be put in the dryer), or each uniform package will contain instructions on proper care and maintenance of the garment.
- The Athletic Director and/or Coaches will provide detailed instructions on how the uniform is to be returned at the end of the season.

The return of uniforms is crucial and will allow us to guarantee the maximum participation in each sport.

- Athletes and their families who have failed to return their uniform will be notified by the SMAD.
- Athletes will return the uniform to the St. Mary's Athletic Director or designated Coach(es) at the end of the season unless otherwise noted.
- Athletes who do not return the uniform within the designated time will be charged for the uniform.
- The athlete will have a "flag" placed on his or her file/transcript until the uniform is returned or the item has been paid for. This means transcripts and other school documentation may be withheld. The student may not be able to participate in any school event(s) or participate on any St. Mary's athletic team(s).
- Future participation will require a uniform deposit.

Enforcement of this policy will begin the moment your child joins a sport team for St. Mary's and will continue for his or her time at SMCS. If your child has any uniform belonging to St. Mary's from the most recent seasons or any past seasons, please return them immediately. Thank you for your cooperation, continued support, and the sacrifices you make every day for your child/children.

## St. Mary's Athletics Department: Concussion Course for Students

In light of recent concerns and issues centering on concussions, we all need to be informed on this subject. All student-athletes at St. Mary's will take the very informative "Concussion Course for Students" provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The course only takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and will be done with Coach Moses in the school Computer Lab.

## St. Mary's Athletics Department: Parent Code of Conduct

As we embark on a new athletic calendar year, we are looking forward to a year filled with excitement, enthusiasm, and energy. We want our athletes to engage in team sports in a competitive league with other teams who share the same religious views, values, ethics, and goals as we do.

The St. Mary's Cathedral School Athletic Department strives to provide a positive youth sport experience by encouraging parents, coaches, officials, and other league players to demonstrate good sportsmanship at practices and games. All parents and their guests are to conduct themselves in an orderly and positive fashion towards all players, coaches, officials and city staff. Failure to meet or abide by these rules may be cause for removal from the game/practice, field, or court at the discretion of the St. Mary's Athletic Director, Coaching Staff and/or Administration.

The following outlines the expectations that the St. Mary's Administration, Athletic Director, and Coaching Staff have put in place to guarantee a positive and fun environment for our parents and guests when attending an athletic event:

1. Parents, guardians and their guests will be positive role models for their child(ren) and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or any other related event.
2. Parents, guardians and their guests will not encourage any unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent, such as booing and/or taunting, or using profane language or gestures. Parents and guardians will also allow the coaches from St. Mary's to coach without interference and distraction to the St. Mary's players and coaches.
3. Parents, guardians and their guests will ensure that their child's playing environment is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at the sports event, including at or within the vicinity of the playing or practice fields and courts. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal by the proper authorities.
4. Parent, guardians and their guests will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss or confront coaches at the game field, court, etc. If needed, parents or guardians will request time to speak with coaches at an agreed-upon time and place. If parent/guardian find they are not satisfied after speaking with my coach, they understand they should then contact the St. Mary's Athletic Director responsible for the program.
5. Parent, guardians and their guests will ensure their child(ren) treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ability.
6. Parent, guardians and their guests will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes and the team ahead of any personal desire they may have for their child and in the desire to win.
7. Parent, guardians and their guests will emphasize practices and skill development and how they benefit their child by ensuring they arrive and are retrieved in a timely fashion at all scheduled practices and games.
8. Parent, guardians and their guests will inform the St. Mary's Cathedral School administrative office, its officials, and coach, of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child and/or the safety of others.
9. Parent, guardians and their guests will teach their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts in a sportsmanlike manner.
10. Parent, guardians and their guests will teach their child that doing one's best is most important, so that their child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or by his/her performance.

## St. Mary's Athletics Department: Play Like A Champion Today Parent Training

As mandated by the Archdiocese of Miami, all students who participate in athletics in the All Catholic Conference of Miami (ACC) must have a parent or guardian take the Play Like a Champion Today training course. This course originated at Notre Dame University. The course is designed to educate parents and guardians on how to exhibit sportsmanship, and how to incorporate religion, morals, and ethics into their experience as spectators of sports while setting a positive example for their children. The course will be offered six times in early September. At least one parent or guardian is required to take the course in order for the student to be allowed to participate in sports in the ACC. The cost for the course is \$15. Information on the sessions will be distributed and available on our school's Plus Portals site.

## St. Mary's Athletics Department: Parent Participation Guidelines

SMCSAD guidelines for parent involvement with the Athletic Department, the athletes, and while attending sporting events.

- St. Mary's athletes will be held in a designated area by Administration, the Athletic Director, or the head coach and/or assistant coaches. Parent or guardian access to this area and the athletes will be limited based on approval by the SMCS Staff.
- If a parent wishes to speak to his or her child/children, the parent may take his or her child for a short period of time with SMCS staff approval. This may be done so long as it does not disrupt what the representative from St. Mary's (Administration, AD, or Coach) is doing with the team. Please be respectful and let the representative know you need to briefly speak with your child.
- Per the All Catholic Conference (ACC) rules, any parent or guardian wishing to coach (if hired/approved by SMCS), be a "Team Mom or Dad," or be in close proximity of the student-athletes for an extended period of time must:
  1. Complete VIRTUS training. VIRTUS is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the United States with a "Protecting God's Children." VIRTUS is a Diocesan program focused on protecting our children. This program is required of any adult who wishes to volunteer his or her time in a Catholic school for all school-related activities.
  2. Pass an extensive Archdiocese of Miami background check.
  3. Sign a Diocesan Code of Conduct as well as a St. Mary's Code of Conduct.

Those wishing to coach must also attend and pass a "Play Like a Champion Today" workshop. The "Play Like a Champion Today" Educational Workshop provides leadership in a worldwide effort to promote an inclusive, developmentally-oriented youth sports culture. It does this by mainly educating ethically responsible sports leaders, coaches, parents, athletic administrators, and athletes. These people will in turn, reach millions of people. These workshops are held at various times throughout the year.

Note: Hiring of Coaches, assistant coaches, and parental or guardian involvement in the SMCS athletic program is at the discretion of administration, the Athletic Director, and Coaches who may already be in place in the program.



**Athletics Department & Program**  
**Policy Receipt & Acknowledgement Form**

I, as Parent or Legal Guardian, acknowledge that I have read the entire contents of the St. Mary's Athletic Department Guidelines & Policies packet and that of the St. Mary's Cathedral School Parent-Student Handbook and understand the consequences of any violations of the rules and policies of the school.

I agree to cooperate with the school in the interpretation and enforcement of the policies outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook and the St. Mary's Athletic Department Guidelines & Policies packet. I also understand that the school has the ultimate authority over the administration of the school and the interpretation of the school's rules and policies. Moreover, I further understand that all of the school's policies whether written or verbal are only guidelines and are subject to change at the sole discretion of the school with or without notice.

I also hereby acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms of the RELEASES outlined in the School-Sponsored Events Policy, the Participation in School Athletics or Organizations Policy, and the Use of Photos Policy.

I, (parent/guardian printed name) \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge I have read the St. Mary's Cathedral School Athletics Registration Packet in its entirety. I will abide by its rules without issue or incident. Failure to comply may have consequences including up not limited: withholding of grades, dismissal from game/practice, removal from an athletic event, and/or denial of participation in any future St. Mary's sporting events.

I, (student athlete printed name) \_\_\_\_\_, have read and been informed about the content, requirements, and expectations of the St. Mary's Athletics Department Guidelines and Policies for St. Mary's Cathedral School. I have received a copy of the policy and agree to abide by the policy guidelines as a condition of my participation in the St. Mary's Athletic Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Parent/Legal Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Student Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Grade)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature Student)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)