

ATHLETIC MISSION STATEMENT and POLICY

Athletic Mission Statement

“Consistent with St. Mary’s High School as a whole, the Athletic Department is committed to the quest for excellence; to the personal formation of our students in their development as whole persons – spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially, through a commitment to teamwork and the development of a strong sense of community. All of this is done within a firm foundation of time-honored Catholic values.”

The purpose of athletics at St. Mary’s High School is to provide every student the opportunity to become a spiritually, intellectually, and physically stronger person. St. Mary’s High School focuses on each student as a complete person and encourages him/her to develop to her/his own potential and to explore all aspects of the human experience. The Athletic Department’s goal is to help develop the student athletes’ personal and athletic skills and to promote competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork in an environment that is educational, enjoyable, and fair.

St. Mary’s Athletic Department fosters an atmosphere that enables the student athlete not only to be coached in the intricacies of his or her individual sport but to learn the values and lessons of life that are closely associated with the Catholic experience. We will work together with a purpose of commitment and with a sense of family and Christian values that has been known for decades as the “Spirit of St. Mary’s.”

Interscholastic athletics can, and should be, a fun, rewarding, and memorable part of the high school experience. While academics offer the primary source for formal education, athletics contributes to the total value of that education in many different ways. Building upon the concepts of teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, and self esteem, the athletic experience helps to provide for a well rounded educational experience. Athletic participation is a privilege and not a right. To those who strive to succeed in the classroom comes the privilege to compete outside of it.

Being an athlete, the parent of an athlete, or the coach of an athlete is often a very challenging experience. Sometimes this relationship can become complicated due to the nature and structure of athletics in general. It is the intent of this handbook to provide some insights as to the role and responsibilities that the athletes, the parents, the coaches, the athletic director, the principal, the pastor and the spectators share, separately and together, in the realm of Catholic high school athletic participation.

Father John Kingsbury, C.Ss.R., Pastor

Richard A. Bayhan, Principal

Phil Buckingham, Athletic Director

Athletic Department Goals

The athletic department at St. Mary's High School strives to

- Instill in every student athlete a sense of self-esteem, responsibility, confidence, dignity, self-discipline, and competitiveness through an emphasis on Catholic values, fair play, teamwork, leadership, scholarship, and respect.
- Assist, advise, and aid in the organization and conducting of interscholastic athletics.
- Devise and prepare rules that will stimulate fair and wholesome competition.
- Reinforce the concept that athletics are an integral part of the educational and spiritual program.
- Guide competition so that the students, coaches, parents, school, and community can secure positive benefits from athletic contests.
- Promote a spirit of sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for the rules and opponents in all contests.
- Accept decisions of sports officials without protest.
- Encourage the athletes, coaches, and spectators not to bring individual attention to themselves by celebrating excessively or by taunting players, coaches, officials, or spectators.

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT ATHLETES, COACHES, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, PRINCIPAL, PASTOR, PARENTS, and SPECTATORS

Responsibilities of the Student Athlete:

The student athlete understands that participation in athletics at St. Mary's is a privilege, not a right. Further, the student athlete understands that the coaches and administrators at St. Mary's are acting in the best interest of the individual, the team, and the athletic program when they make their decisions.

The student athlete will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The student athletes will display Catholic values including fair play, teamwork, leadership, scholarship, and respect.
- The student athletes will place the team's goals, welfare, and success before individual interests.
- The student athletes will attend all practices and games, including weekends and holidays. Excused absences include funerals, college visits, religious holidays, religious school retreats, and meetings with teachers for extra help with classes. Athletes should notify coaches in advance of the absence to let them know if they are not going to be at practice.
- The student athletes will be receptive to coaching.
- The student athletes will take proper care of all team-issued equipment. Detentions will be given and report cards withheld for uniforms not turned in within two weeks from the end of season.
- The student athletes will clean up the turf field and surrounding area after practices and games.
- The student athletes will follow all team rules. They will remember that they represent not only themselves but St. Mary's, the coaching staff, and their parents.
- The student athletes will report all injuries to the coach and the athletic trainer.
- The student athletes will not participate in and will strongly discourage in others the following behaviors: hazing, fighting, foul language, angry outbursts or gestures, taunting, physical abuse, overzealous celebratory displays, and other conduct that berates or threatens competitors, officials, coaches, spectators, or teammates.
- The student athletes will accept decisions of school and league officials without protest and without questioning their judgment, honesty, or integrity.
- The student athletes will extend professional courtesy to officials, opposing players and coaches, teammates, and spectators.
- The student athletes will remain academically eligible to compete in the athletic program. They will cooperate with all teachers, administrators, staff, and classmates at all times. (See the student handbook for academic eligibility and probation policies.)

- The student athletes will adhere to the disciplinary guidelines of the school. (See the student handbook for disciplinary eligibility and probation policies.)
- The student athletes will adhere to St. Mary's High School Drug & Alcohol Policy.
- The student athletes will behave in an appropriate manner when riding on school buses to and from athletic events.
- The student athletes will maintain appropriate standards of grooming and wear official school or athletic uniforms, or appropriate attire, at all practices and games. Uniforms and attire will be worn and personal appearances maintained in a manner that will bring credit to St. Mary's.

The Coaches

The primary mission of a St. Mary's coach is to be a role model for the student athletes by showing them what a good Catholic adult should be. Additionally, a coach's mission is to help the athletes maximize their individual potential while focusing on the team's goals. Following a well-defined coaching philosophy, the positive coach and role model is a key ingredient in the success of his or her student athletes. All coaches operate under a coaching philosophy. It may be by instinct, or it may be formally documented. St. Mary's High School allows each coach to develop his or her own coaching philosophy as long as it follows the mission statement of the school, the athletic department, and the coach's fundamental responsibilities.

Responsibilities of the Coach:

The coaches will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The coaches will become STAND certified and maintain STAND certification for the length of their tenure at St. Mary's. All STAND documentation will be kept in the Athletic Director's office.
- The coaches will be positive role models for the student athletes and parents and understand that they exert a tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education and personal development of the players.
- The coaches will strive to instill in every student athlete a sense of self-esteem, responsibility, confidence, dignity, and self-discipline through an emphasis on Catholic values, fair play, teamwork, leadership, scholarship, and respect.
- The coaches will present themselves as appropriate role models.
- The coaches will have fair tryouts that use a systematic method of choosing players.
- The coaches will establish written team rules that are consistent with the athletic code.
- The coaches will determine a style of play, including offensive and defensive philosophy.
- The coaches will teach, instruct, and oversee all practice sessions.

- The coaches will adhere to in-season practice and out-of-season workout regulations.
- The coaches will determine starting lineups and decide how much playing time to give team members.
- The coaches will establish team rosters with #, year, height, weight, and position to be turned in to the athletic office the day after handing out uniforms.
- The coaches will establish a fair system of choosing team captains.
- The coaches will coordinate and communicate with players regarding practice sessions.
- The coaches will provide appropriate supervision at all times. (Before, during, and after practices and games)
- The coaches will clean up the turf field and surrounding area after practices and games.
- The coaches will be aware of, understand, and follow all rules governing practice and competition.
- The coaches will inform the athletic director in writing the next school day after a contest if a coach or player is ejected from that contest for any reason.
- The coaches will call in game results to appropriate people and places. Varsity coaches must call *The Capital*, *The Sun*, *digitalsports.com* and *The Washington Post* newspapers after every home game. JV & Varsity coaches must call the MIAA/IAAM to report conference games. Please call or email the athletic office to give game results and scores after every game.
- The coaches will not remove a team from a contest as a form of protest.
- The coaches will adhere to policies that do not force athletes to specialize or restrict them from participating in other sports.
- The coaches will allow students to participate in one school sport without requiring, as a prerequisite, participation in another school sport.
- The coaches will emphasize good academic and disciplinary standing of all participants by a regular check of their academic and disciplinary standing, both in and out of season.
- The coaches will utilize the best and most current teaching, coaching, and training methods by attending coaching clinics and through affiliation with professional associations and publications.
- The coaches will take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use.
- The coaches will under no circumstances, partake or allow the use of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco during practices and games or when student athletes are present.
- The coaches will take an active role in the prevention of performance enhancing drug use.
- The coaches will establish a Christian tone by exchanging friendly greetings before and after the game.
- The coaches will teach and model to the student athletes that both teammates and opponents are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity. If their team should lose, then their focus

will be on improving their team's performance and not on what the other team, coach, or official did.

- The coaches will not indulge in conduct that will incite student athletes or spectators against the officials, other spectators, or opposing players. They will not allow public criticism of their athletes, the officials, spectators, or opposing players.

The Athletic Director

The Athletic Director is responsible for planning, managing, coordinating, operating, and evaluating athletic and activity programs for St. Mary's High School. The Athletic Director's job is very complex and diverse; however, there are four basic responsibilities of most athletic directors: rules compliance, the academic success of student athletes, fiscal responsibility, and competitive success.

The central part of the Athletic Directors responsibility is the assurance that all St. Mary's High School athletic programs are run fairly and professionally within the school's vision of student athletics and with the spiritual growth and development of the student as their top priority. Consequently, he is to provide independent advice to student athletes and coaches and assist in mediating disputes. This must be done in strict confidence that secures the rights and interests of student athletes.

The Athletic Director is responsible for hiring coaches that will motivate student athletes and bring continued success, discipline, and Christian values to our athletic programs. The Athletic Director understands that sports can and should enhance the character of our student athletes and uplift the Christian values of our school. The Athletic Director establishes a framework of principles and a common language of values that can be adopted and practiced by the coaches, student athletes, and spectators.

The responsibilities of the athletic director:

- The athletic director will present himself as an appropriate role model.
- The athletic director will ensure that tryouts are fair and that the coaches use a systematic method of choosing players.
- The athletic director will approve of the Head Coach's coaching philosophy and style of play.
- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches adhere to in-season practice and out-of-season workout regulations.
- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches establish written team rules that are consistent with the athletic code, and he will sign off on those rules.
- The athletic director will approve the method that the coach chooses for the selection of team captains.
- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches coordinate and communicate with players regarding practice sessions, both optional and mandatory.
- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches provide appropriate supervision at all times. (Before, during, and after practices and games)

- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches are aware of, understand, and follow all rules governing practice and competition.
- The athletic director will investigate and inform the principal in writing if a coach or player is ejected from a contest or practice for any reason, what action was taken, and a recommendation of any further action that should be taken by the school.
- The athletic director will exhibit professional respect to players, coaches, parents, spectators, and officials from his team and others.
- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches adhere to policies that do not force athletes to specialize or restrict them from participating in other sports.
- The athletic director will allow students to participate in one school sport without requiring, as a prerequisite, participation in another school sport.
- The athletic director will emphasize good academic and disciplinary standing of all participants by working closely with the school administration.
- The athletic director will ensure that all coaches utilize the best and most current teaching, coaching, and training methods by supporting their attendance at coaching clinics and through affiliation with professional associations and publications.
- The athletic director will take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and under no circumstances will partake or allow these activities to occur during practices, games, or when student athletes are present.
- The athletic director will take an active role in the prevention of performance enhancing drug use.
- The athletic director understands that the athletes are students first and athletes second. He will never allow any coach, or person representing St. Mary's, to recruit based on athletics alone.
- The athletic director will clean up the turf field and surrounding area after practices and games.
- The athletic director will verify all of the coaches' STAND documentation and maintain accurate and updated files on each coach.

The Principal and the Pastor

The building of a fundamentally-sound athletic program is the responsibility of the entire school administration. This responsibility is not, and cannot be, limited to the athletic director. Supervision of the athletic program starts at the very top. The pastor, followed by the principal, is the foremost person responsible for supervising the athletic program. While the day-to-day operation of the athletic department is the responsibility of the athletic director, having the athletic department supervised by people responsible for the total welfare of the school is important to the development of the student athlete as a whole person. The presence of the pastor and principal is important in order to demonstrate to students, coaches, and parents that they have the program's interests at heart, are concerned about young people, and are sincere in wishing them success and achievement.

Leadership Responsibilities of the Pastor and the Principal:

- The Principal and Pastor will ensure that all St. Mary's Athletic Programs are run fairly and professionally within the school's vision of student athletics and with the spiritual growth and development of the student as their top priority.
- The Principal and Pastor will help instill in every student athlete a sense of self-esteem, responsibility, confidence, dignity, and self-discipline, through an emphasis on Catholic values, fair play, teamwork, leadership, scholarship, and respect.
- The Principal and Pastor will never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character and Christianity that are consistent with a Catholic School education at St. Mary's High School.
- The Principal and Pastor will ensure that Athletic Director and coaches set a professional tone for both practices and games.
- The Principal and Pastor will take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and under no circumstances will partake or allow these activities to occur during practices, games, or when student athletes are present.
- The Principal and Pastor will take an active role in the prevention of performance enhancing drug use.
- The Principal and Pastor will work with the athletic director and director of admissions to ensure that recruitment is based on identifying student athletes who fit within the academic and disciplinary standards and expectations of St. Mary's High School.

Principal's Responsibilities Include:

- The principal will ensure that the athletic department is achieving competitive success.
- The principal will ensure that student athletes are achieving academic success.
- The principal will approve a fiscally responsible athletic budget.
- The principal will have final approval of the coaching staff.

- The principal, after review with the athletic director, will inform the pastor in writing if a coach or player is ejected from a contest or practice for any reason, what action was taken, and a recommendation of any further action that should be taken by the school.
- The principal will ensure that the Athletic Department adheres to school and league policies.
- The principal will emphasize good academic and disciplinary standing of all participants by a regular check of their academic and discipline standing with athletic director, both in and out of season.
- The principal will verify all of the coaches' STAND documentation.

Parents

The main responsibility of the parents is to support the student athletes, the team, and the athletic program as a whole. The parents need to understand and appreciate the difficult job that a coach has in balancing the good of the individual athlete with the good of the team. The parents will follow the chain-of-command when they have disagreements with the way a team or the athletic program is run. Most importantly, parents should understand and support the mission that St. Mary's athletics can and should enhance the character of our student athletes and uplift the Christian values of our school.

Responsibilities of the Parent(s):

The athletic administration at St. Mary's supports the following positive expectations of parents:

- Parents will serve as beacons of good sportsmanship and Christian values.
- Parents will serve as good role models for the students, athletes, and other fans.
- Parents will support their child and attend as many contests as possible.
- Parents will avoid putting pressure on their child to start, score, or be the star of the team.
- Parents will support the coach in public around other parents and fans.
- Parents will avoid speaking negatively about the coach in front of their child. It may create a major barrier in the child's hope for improvement in the sport.
- Parents will encourage their children to communicate with coaches as the first, most important step in problem solving.
- Parents will understand the ultimate purpose of the athletic program at St. Mary's. It exists as an integral part of the total educational mission of the school.
- Parents will understand and appreciate the fact that participation in athletics is a privilege and not a right.
- Parents will contribute as members of the booster clubs. This means volunteering to help with projects and committees.

- Parents will appreciate the educational opportunity that their child is receiving in our athletic program. This includes the enormous time and effort provided by the coaching staff.
- Parents will attend the pre-season parents' meetings and read the Athletic Handbook.
- Parents will show respect to everyone involved in high school athletics -- the coach, athletes, fans, officials, and administrators.
- Parents will follow the chain of command at St. Mary's when they have a concern.
- Parents will express concerns and questions in a courteous and civil manner and do it at the right time and in the proper setting.
- Parents will abide by all policies, regulations, and procedures for our athletic program.
- Parents will understand that the goals of the team and the athletic program are more important than the hopes and dreams they have for their child.
- Parents will avoid constant and chronic complaining.
- Parents will be active in the college recruiting process.
- Parents will follow the guidelines outlined in this book.
- Parents will take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use and under no circumstances will partake or allow these activities to occur during practices, games, and on site tail gaiters.
- Parents will take an active role in the prevention of performance enhancing drug use.

Responsibilities of the Spectator(s):

The athletic Administration at St. Mary's High School supports the following positive expectations of spectators:

- Spectators will allow the players to play.
- Spectators will allow the coaches to coach.
- Spectators will allow the officials to officiate.
- Spectators will allow the other spectators to observe.
- Spectators should direct no comments at players or coaches from another team.
- Spectators will not taunt or boo.
- Spectators will create a positive atmosphere in which athletes can perform.
- Spectators will re-enforce the policies set forth in the team rules, team handbook, and this handbook.

Failure to follow these rules will result in dismissal from a contest and repeated offenses will result in an indefinite suspension.

Post Game-Practice Responsibilities:

Athletes should not be found loitering on school or facility property after games. In an effort to avoid potential risk of injury, property damage or theft, the following responsibilities have been established:

For the Coach

- Call in game results
- Supervise locker rooms until all athletes have vacated.
- Secure all equipment, locker rooms, and appropriate facilities.
- Supervise lobbies, hallways, and/or pick-up areas until all athletes have left or been picked up.
- Clean up the turf field and surrounding area.

For the Athlete

- Complete any post-game team responsibilities
- Arrange for transportation
- Clean up team areas of the athletic facility, both home and away.
- Clean up the turf field and surrounding area.
- Leave school/facility property within one half hour after the conclusion of practice or games. Waiting or “hanging out” is not permitted.

ATHLETIC LEAGUE AFFILIATIONS

Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) Girls League

The purpose of this organization is to provide structured and organized support for interscholastic competition for female students at member schools. To achieve this it is the intention of this association to regard athletes and competition in the context of the educational process. The educational objectives of athletics in the IAAM include promotion of the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well being of all students. The IAAM embraces the highest ideals of fair play, integrity, dignified and ethical conduct, and respect for self, opponents, and officials. The IAAM values the diversity of its member schools and respects the unique qualities among these institutions. Consequently, it is expected that coaches are an extension of their school's philosophy and objectives. A good example will be set through behavior, attitude, and self-control in an educational setting. We, the IAAM, expect sportsmanlike behavior from our coaches, our participants and our spectators. We are playing in the spirit of the game and winning is not our only goal.

Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Boys League

The purpose of this association is to organize, oversee, and promote athletic activities among the member schools in a manner consistent with their shared mission of educating young people.

To achieve this, it is the intention of the MIAA to:

- Regard athletics in the context of the process of education.
- Support and respect the particular missions/philosophies of member schools.
- Promote good sportsmanship through both policy and practice.

****The above information has been taken from league documents.*

**St. Mary's High School
Athletic Department
"Athletic Chain of Command"**

Pastor

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Principal

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Athletic Director

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Head Coach

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Assistant/JV Coaches

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Players/Parents

Should any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the Player-Coach Relationship, the athlete should first contact the appropriate coach (either assistant coach or head coach). If there is no resolution at this level, he/she could then move onward to the next level in the "Chain of Command" hierarchy until resolution is achieved.

If an issue reaches the athletic director, then he will be responsible for mediation of the question throughout the remaining process. This must be done in strict confidence that secures the rights and interests of St. Mary's, the student athletes, and the coaches. The issue in question will be addressed along with resolution in writing with the Principal and Pastor at regular staff meetings or at special meetings if warranted.

Parents are asked to respect this "Chain of Command" model with respect to questions or concerns regarding problem resolution. Parents are asked not to get involved with this process until after the player has first spoken to the appropriate coach. In some cases, if the issue warrants, then the parents can address the issue/concerns directly with the athletic director.

Relationships

Player-Coach Relationship:

The player-coach relationship is perhaps the most critical relationship in athletics. Players rely on coaches to teach fundamentals, game strategies, sportsmanship, and life lessons. Coaches rely on players to take what they've learned in practice and apply it to game situations. In spending 15-20 hours a week together for 10-12 weeks, players and coaches form special relationships. In most instances these relationships are priceless. Occasionally, these relationships sour over different situations, but it is asked that the player and coach share a common level of respect for each other to make this relationship work. It is important for coaches and players to be aware of each other's needs.

Parent-Coach Relationship:

Please allow the coaches to do the job for which they were hired.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not approach the coach immediately after a game. At this time, coaches have other responsibilities, and it may be a very emotional time. Call and make an appointment for a later time and approach this meeting in a calm, logical, and adult manner.

As a parent, you should refrain from speaking with your son/daughter during an athletic contest. This can be a disruption to players and coaches. Please wait until after coaches and players post-game responsibilities before speaking with your child. These team meetings are essential to the learning process and are an important part in building team unity and togetherness.

Parent-Player Relationship:

Sometimes parents may try to re-live their own athletic experiences through the real-life athletic efforts of their children. Being positive and supportive is very important, but adding pressure and unrealistic expectations may be extremely harmful. Allow your child to enjoy and grow from his/her own athletic experiences.

After a game, instead of dwelling on his/her play, how many points he/she scored or if he/she were in the starting lineup, etc., ask about how the team did in general, how the game went, did your child play hard, give 100%, and have a good experience? It is the child's perception of the game that really matters, not that of the parents. Encourage your child to have open communication with the coaching staff. Parent/coach discussions should occur only after the player has discussed the issue with the coaches.

Relationship with Officials:

The home team does not assign the officials. A sport commissioner assigns all officials, and neither team has a say in which officials are assigned to a given contest.

Officials agree to and follow a code of conduct and ethics. They do not have a vested interest in which team emerges victorious. They are trying their best to officiate fairly and accurately. It is necessary to understand that officials are an essential part of the game.

While you may not agree with all their calls, please do not harass or taunt them. Parents are good role models for their children. Other spectators and even the athletes often follow the example of the adults. Here at St. Mary's, we expect players, coaches, and fans to behave in a sportsman-like manner at all time. Failure to do so could result in dismissal from a contest(s). Coaches, the athletic director, and school administrators work hard to promote and establish good working relationships with game officials, which can be easily damaged or destroyed by spectator interference.

Please allow the players to play!

It is the expectation of St. Mary's High School, and more specifically the athletic department, that all student athletes will conform to and demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play in all athletic contests. This concept is presented to the athletic staff and to the athletes several times throughout the year.

- At the general staff meeting in August, the issue of sportsmanship is addressed with all current year coaches.
- After team rosters have been established, each team is addressed by the athletic director or assistant athletic director regarding sportsmanship procedures.
- Spectators, including students, athletes, and parents, are addressed at the beginning of all home games over the public address system regarding sportsmanlike behavior.
- The St. Mary's High School Athletic Association and Royal Blue Club are addressed as to the need for good sportsmanship by spectators, including students, athletes, and parents.
- All athletes must sign an Athletic Handbook Compliance Form.

The Athlete's Sportsmanship Pledge:

As an athlete at St. Mary's High School, I will

- Uphold the values, morals, and ethics of a Catholic school.
- Represent St. Mary's High School, my coaches, my parents, and myself in a manner which is appropriate and just.
- Adhere to all team rules.
- Accept responsibility for my actions both on the playing field and in the classroom.
- Lead by example in the areas of self respect and respect for others.
- Compete to the best of my abilities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- Understand that academics take priority over athletics.
- Maintain academic and disciplinary eligibility.

TRAVEL

All athletes must travel as a team to all athletic contests. Once a game is over, they are expected to return to the school as a team. The only exception to this rule is if parents wish to take their own child home with them.

In order for any parent to transport a child other than his/her own, a previously submitted note must be written to the coach stating that transportation arrangement.

It is at the discretion of the coach whether or not to allow a players to ride home with their parents or if they must ride the team bus back to school.

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION:

The St. Mary's High School Athletic Association exists to support all teams in the Athletic Department. The Athletic Director serves as a liaison between the Athletic Association and the School. The Athletic Association runs and promotes various fund raising activities in an effort to provide funds for athletic purchases not covered by the annual athletic budget. This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's High School.

ROYAL BLUE CLUB:

The Royal Blue Club exists to support all teams in the Athletic Department of St. Mary's High School. The Athletic Director serves as a liaison between the Royal Blue Club and the School. The primary function of the Royal Blue Club is to provide athletic uniforms for all St. Mary's athletic teams. The Royal Blue Club also provides funds for athletic purchases not covered by the annual athletic budget. This group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at St. Mary's High School.

Risks Associated with Athletic Participation:

The very nature of the athletic competition provides for potential risk and injury to occur. Even with protective equipment, proper supervision, and sound instruction, injuries still do happen. On extremely rare cases, even death could result. All athletes and parents need to be aware of these potential hazards within the athletic arena. We in the St. Mary's High School Athletic Department will always do whatever we can to ensure that our athletes have a safe and healthy athletic experience.

Pre Tryout Eligibility Check List:

Athletes and their parents have certain responsibilities to uphold before tryouts begin. All of the following requirements must be satisfied before any student will be allowed to try out, practice, or participate on an athletic team at St. Mary's High School.

1. Physical Examination Form: This form must be completed, signed by the parent(s) and the physician and submitted to the Athletic Trainer to be placed on file. A physical must be taken "EACH" school year in order for athletic participation to be allowed. All physicals must be turned in to the Athletic Trainer by August 1 regardless of which athletic season the athlete will be participating.
2. Athletic Consent Form: This form must be completed and signed by the parent(s). Information must include sports to be played and insurance information. This form should be submitted with the Physical Examination and Compliance Forms to the Athletic Trainer.
3. Parent – Student Compliance Form: This form must be signed by parent(s) and athletes as evidence of reading and understanding the Athletic Handbook. The Compliance Form should be submitted with the Physical Examination and Athletic Consent Forms to the Athletic Trainer.

*Strict adherence to these deadlines is mandatory.

**ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
COMPLIANCE FORM**

As a student athlete and as the parent(s) of a student athlete, we have read and understand the contents of the "St. Mary's High School Athletic Handbook for Athletes, Parents, and Coaches."

We understand and will abide by the rules outlined in this handbook and accept the school administration's and coach's authority to enforce them.

We understand and will abide by the "Athletic Chain of Command."

We will strive to make the "Athletic Experience" a positive one for all involved.

We understand that failure to abide by these guidelines may result in suspension and/or dismissal from an athletic team. This also includes suspension and/or dismissal of athletes and spectators attending St. Mary's athletic events.

Your cooperation and support of the St. Mary's High School Athletic Department and the rules and regulation set forth in the Athletic Handbook are appreciated.

Athlete's signature

Parent(s) signature

Athlete's printed name

Parent(s) printed name

Date

Student's grade