

# St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School



## Athletic Manual



## 2020-2021

Forming the complete child through faith, reason and virtue.



Greater-Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA)

Athletic Director: Tom Walsh



## Our Philosophy

The philosophy of our athletics program is to develop in each child a strong moral compass and the ability to work as a team member to achieve our goals as one team and one family. The whole child is developed, physically, intellectually and spiritually. Our faith is what guides our athletics program and it is our guiding light as we progress throughout the years.

## Our Offerings

St. Mary Magdalene offers a wide variety of sports to include football, soccer (K3-8<sup>th</sup>), volleyball, basketball, track and field, softball, baseball, and chess club. Our athletic program falls under the jurisdiction of the school, and is administered by the Principal, the Athletic Director, full and part-time coaches and parent volunteers. St. Mary Magdalene is a member of the Greater-Houston Catholic Athletic Association (GHCAA).

GHCAA is a competitive league for our middle school students. Each sport will set its own practice schedule and most GHCAA sports will have two games during the week. Some sports may require tryouts to make the team. Participation in middle school sports is a serious commitment. Parents are responsible for helping with transportation to and from games and some practices, dependent on the sport. There is a fee associated with each sport. **To be eligible for practice or game participation, a student must attend school that day and be present on campus no later than 11:30 A.M.**

**All students need to have a physical after June 1, 2020, with the form completed, signed, and turned into the school nurse before they can tryout. No physical, no participation.**

## Eligibility and Student Commitment

Participation requires commitment by the student to attend all practices and games with the exception of illness. Parents must contact the coach in the event their student will miss a practice/game.

## Grade Level Requirements

All students that attend SMMCS may participate in our intra-school soccer program. All other sports, with the exception of chess club (3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>), must be in middle school to qualify.

## Financial Obligations

Each sport will require a separate financial obligation in the form of an athletic fee or sign-up fee.

- Football \$80
- Volleyball \$75
- Soccer \$75
- Basketball \$75
- Track \$75
- Softball \$80
- Baseball \$80

***\*\*Each family is required to be financially up-to-date with all school payments in order to continue with sports each semester.\*\****

## Probation and Eligibility Requirements for GHCAA

Students will be placed on probation based on academic and behavior issues on report cards. A student with two grade averages below 78 will be placed on *partial probation*. Students on partial probation may participate in practices and join team for games but not participate in games. A student with three or more grades averaging below 78 and/or one or more grade averaging below 70 will be placed on *full probation* (the student may not participate in practices or games). Students may be placed on probation at any time for behavior/character concerns from either administration or staff. **Probation status is checked every two weeks and if the grades or behavior have shown positive progress to acceptable levels then the athlete will be able to practice and play.**

## Sportsmanship

Any student or parent whose conduct, dress, public or private remarks, or other display of behavior of unsportsmanlike conduct might discredit the reputation of the school, may cause a student or parent to be declared ineligible for athletic competition or participation. These decisions are made in conjunction with the Principal, Athletic Director, and coach.

## SMMCS Athletic Codes

### The Coach

All coaches will:

- be Safe Haven trained without exceptions.
- treat all athletes fairly, without bias and in a Christ-like manner.
- show professional loyalty to other coaches and administration.
- take roll at practices and games and are responsible to stay with the last child until the child is picked up by an approved adult.

- use positive motivation and avoid criticism of players, coaches, referees and spectators.
- maintain consistent communication with parents and Athletic Director.
- always use safe practices to guide all practices and games and never put a child in any undue danger or peril.
- adjust practices and games according to any weather related concerns and contact the Athletic Director with any changes.
- communicate with the Athletic Director to verify athletes eligibility based on probation standards and adhere to all probation standards for athletes.
- not tolerate the use of any performance enhancing drugs and will notify the Athletic Director and parents immediately upon knowledge of such drug use.
- assess all injuries carefully before allowing athletes to return to play, contacting the school nurse when necessary.
- always conduct themselves as positive role models for all the athletes.

### **The Student-Athlete**

As an SMMCS athlete, you will:

- accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- learn the rules of the game thoroughly.
- treat opponents the way you would like to be treated.
- respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials.
- maintain good grades and good behavior.
- exemplify Christian behavior/attitude at all times. Profanity of any type is unacceptable.
- always be open and honest about any injuries before participating in any practices or games.

### **Spectators**

Spectators will:

- always conduct themselves in a positive manner, always acting as a representative of the school and the church.
- always show respect for the other teams and their supporters.
- respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- use only cheers that uplift the teams involved.
- always follow the rules and guidelines of any facility/field where an athletic event is taking place.
- be sure to ensure the safety of other children who are spectators by supervising them inside and outside of the facilities where the event is taking place.
- remember to play with the athletes before and after the events.

## General Information

1. Head coaches are responsible for any team selection that is required.
2. Parents are requested to attend any pre-season meetings that are required by the school for any given sport.
3. GHCAA is a competitive league and playing time is not guaranteed in every game. Coaches will, however, make every effort to allow every athlete to participate in each game when it is possible. This does not include our intra-school soccer teams not associated with GHCAA.
4. Students are expected to be picked up immediately at the end of a game or practice. **A 15-minute grace period for athletes will be allowed prior to a late fee of \$1.00 dollar per minute fee being assessed.** Please be aware that this policy is to ensure that coaches will not have to stay excessively late after games/practices as they too have important things to attend to outside of coaching. If changes to game or practice times occur, we will adjust this policy accordingly. Thank you for your understanding of this important policy.
5. Students may be required to furnish some of their own equipment for games/practices. Any socks purchased by students for use during a game must match uniform colors.
6. Students should never play when injured. Concussions are a very real and serious part of athletics and must be treated as such. All precautions must be made to ensure that students that have suffered from a concussion do not return to practices or games until cleared medically by a doctor to return. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide insurance coverage for their child or to pay medical expenses. The school nurse and Athletic Director must be notified in the event of any injury.

**ATHLETIC AGREEMENT FOR  
ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL**

We have received a copy of the 2020-2021 Athletic Manual, containing the rules, regulations and expectations of the St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School Athletic Department. We have reviewed the contents of the Athletic Manual, and agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained in the Athletic Manual.

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Athlete's Signature

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Date

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Parent's/Guardian's Signature

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Date

Revised 09/11/2020