

SMA VOLLEYBALL HANDBOOK 2020

Parents and Players,

Welcome back to all of our returning families and welcome to the program to our new families. Listed below are some of the basic guidelines of our program. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE that there may be changes to the schedule and each team/coach may have additional policies of their own. **Be sure to go to the Youth Sports link at smachurch.com to sign up for one of the volunteer opportunities. IF THERE IS A FUNDRAISER THAT WE DO NOT DO AND YOU THINK MAY BE A GOOD IDEA, PLEASE CONTACT ME (athletics@smachurch.com) TO DISCUSS; IF IT CAN HELP THE PROGRAM AND THE KIDS, I AM ALL EARS.**

Note: pre-JV refers to 4th graders; JV refers to 5th and 6th grade while Varsity refers to 7th and 8th.

Changes for 2020(changes related to COVID-19 will be communicated separately):

- A parent/guardian of each player MUST attend the pre-season parent meeting. Failure to attend will result in your child missing practice until you speak with the Athletic Director. The meeting is important to deliver the church and the program's expectation for both parents and players.
- All volunteer opportunities related to game day (scorebook, team mom, lines, etc.) must be cleared by the Athletic Director or Jack Edmiston before the season begins.

Important Dates:

- All dates are tentative at this point and will be relayed as information becomes available.

CYM Handbook

The following are CYM rules that must be followed. This is not the full set of policies; practice policy, weight rules, and position rules are highlighted. A link to the full handbook is provided at the bottom.

Playing Time

The most important policy of this program is that we create the next generation of high school volleyball players. Our goal, first and foremost, is to have your daughter enjoy volleyball so that she continues to play as a 9th grader. With that said, there are a few details to stress.

- a. CYM has an equal play policy for all volleyball from Pre-JV (4th grade) up to levels Y and O for Varsity (7th and 8th grade). This means that all of our coaches will, to the best of their ability, play everyone an equal amount.

- b. Equal play may not mean 50% of each and every game; it may not be possible given the speed at which sets move. Equal play means that as the season moves on, everyone is receiving as close to equal opportunity as can be given.
- c. At the C level of the Varsity, the coach is not required to play everyone an equal amount. However, our varsity coach will be instructed to only take players that they will play. We do not have to have a set number of players on the roster; if that means that our 10th best player is better suited to play on the Y level instead of playing a little on the C, that is what we will do.
- d. If your daughter plays another sport or has another time consuming activity while our season is going on and misses a more than ¼ of the practices, the coach may contact the athletic director to discuss playing time.
- e. If practices are missed for academic or personal reasons it will not be held against the player.

Parent and Player Conduct:

Each player's parent will sign a copy of the SMA Parent Code of Conduct. Each Coach will establish specific team rules during August practices and will conduct a short parent meeting to review them. Violations of the SMA Parent Code can result in parents not be allowed to attend practices or games.

All players are expected to attend every practice; if a practice is going to be missed, the coach should be notified as soon as possible.

Coach-Parent Communication

The method of communication (team communication app, email, text chain) will depend on the coach but each head coach is required to communicate practice and game schedule and any changes to the schedule as soon as possible.

- Weather-related cancellations—decision to cancel practice will be made by 5pm if weather is a factor. Once practice is cancelled, it will stay cancelled.

24-hour rule

Games can be tense, exhilarating, and, unfortunately, frustrating experiences for players, parents, and coaches alike. St. Mary's has a 24 hour policy which means that any issues that may arise in relation to playing time or another similar issue should wait until Monday to contact the coach. **PLAY CALLING OR OTHER COACHING DECISIONS (DECLINE/ACCEPTING A PENALTY, USE OF TIMEOUTS, ETC.) ARE NOT FOR DISCUSSION.**

If there is a parent issue, please follow the chain of command and contact the head coach first. After speaking with the coach, please contact Volleyball Coordinator, Jack Edmiston. If a resolution cannot be reached, contact the Athletic Director, Mike Pietlock, at athletics@smachurch.com.