

St. Matthew Parent and Athlete Agreement



The goal of the St. Matthew Athletic Department is to provide a program where the student can develop physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. In order to accomplish these goals, the coaches and staff need the support of the parents. We ask the following of both parents and students:

Good Sportsmanship: Good sportsmanship is expected from everyone. The coaches and players are expected to and are held accountable for representing St. Matthew School with dignity and class. We expect the same high standards of behavior from all adults. Certain behaviors are considered inappropriate. The athletic department reserves the right to remove any person or bench any player who exhibits the following types of behavior:

- Berating, humiliating or taunting the coaches or players
- Berating or harassment of game officials
- Profane, racist or sexist remarks directed at the coach, players, spectators or officials

Respect coaches: Coaches are to be treated with respect. They are volunteers who put in many hours and do it because they enjoy athletes and the sport. It is important that conversations at home regarding the coaches are put in a respectful tone. We can't expect your child to respect his/her coach if you don't. Please allow your coach to coach: do not try to help at practices or games unless asked to do so.

Be on time: Players must be on time for games and practices. They must also be *picked up on time*.

Attend all practices and games: Any players missing a game or practice may experience the minimal playing time at the next game. Every effort will be made to provide advance notice regarding practice schedule changes. A practice that has been rescheduled is **not optional** unless specifically referenced as such by the coach. Siblings may not come to practice unless accompanied by a parent.

Excused Absences: The ONLY excused absences are those due to illness, injury, medical appointments, death in the family or academic conflicts. In the event of a medical appointment we ask that every effort is made to schedule these appointments around team events and not in conflict with them. Injured players are strongly encouraged to attend practice to observe and participate in whatever way possible.

Unexcused Absences: Players must call their coaches promptly if they will miss a game or practice. If a reason is not provided for the players absence **in advance** (whether or not it is an excused absence as defined above), the absence will be considered unexcused. Following the second unexcused absence, a player may not participate in the upcoming game. Each additional unexcused absence will result in an additional game suspension and may result in the athlete's dismissal from the team. Players serving a game suspension are strongly encouraged to attend the game in support of their teammates. Under no circumstance is attending the practice or game of a non-St. Matthew team, which is directly or indirectly in conflict with the school team game or practice, considered an excused absence.

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Understand playing time: Due to the nature of athletics and competition, not all players will get the same playing time. Playing time can also be determined by attendance at practices and games, punctuality and behavior.

GRIEVANCES: If you have any concerns about your child's coach or your child's participation on a team, you are to follow the steps listed below until you feel the issue is resolved;

1. Have your child speak to the coach. Sometimes the coach is unaware of your child's concern or feelings. Also, it is important to teach our students how to communicate with adults.
2. Arrange an appointment to speak to your child's coach.
3. Arrange an appointment with, call or write to the appropriate Commissioner.
4. If you have followed steps 1-3 above and still feel the issue has not been adequately addressed, arrange an appointment to meet with the Athletic Director.
5. If you have followed steps 1-4 above and still feel the issue has not been adequately addressed, arrange an appointment to meet with the Principal.

The St. Matthew Athletic Department thanks the parents for their support.

I/We agree to uphold the above expectations.

Parent – Print Name

Athlete Signature

Parent Signature

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