



Saint Catherine of Siena Athletic Manual

Mission Statement: Saint Catherine of Siena School exists to provide a strong moral and religious education in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. The school environment promotes belief and trust in God, respect of self and others, academic excellence, and a lifelong appreciation of learning and ongoing spiritual formation.

Philosophy: The SCSS athletic program provides students with opportunities to participate in sports activities which are conducted in the context of the values of Catholic education. **All participants (students, coaches, faculty, and parents) are expected to support the efforts of the school to reinforce good sportsmanship, school spirit, fairness, and a healthy sense of competition.** At SCSS, we have a “no cut” policy. This means each student will play on a team regardless of skill level. If there are more than 12 boys or girls interested in playing at a given level, a decision will be made on adding another team. To best support a cohesive classroom spirit, SCSS teams are generally created by grade level.

Registration: Each student must complete a registration form and submit it to the Athletic Director during the first two weeks of school. A parent or guardian must also sign the form, agreeing with the rules of the team. If the form is not sent into school by **September 15**, then the student is not guaranteed to be eligible to play. The reason for the deadline is to gather a grid of how many teams will be playing, find coaches, order uniforms, and send in completed rosters to league officials.

Each student is expected to be covered by his/her own insurance in case of an injury. Student athletes must provide the school nurse a physical form completed and signed by their physician within the past year.

Eligibility: To be considered eligible to play sports at SCSS, a student must:

1. Be full- time at SCSS
2. Meet behavioral and academic eligibility requirements set by the Diocese of Bridgeport
3. Not yet completed eighth grade.

Academics: Student athletes are held to academic and conduct requirements in keeping with Diocesan policy and the mission of SCSS. **A student with below a C- in any subject will be deemed on probation.** The student will have a probation period of two weeks, when they have the opportunity to improve their grades in that particular class or classes. It is expected that during this probation period, the

student is taking responsibility in the classroom and is behaving well in school. The player is still considered a member of the team for those two weeks although not able to practice or participate in games. Each student is allowed 1 probation period for each season. After the probation period is over, the Principal and Athletic Director will make a decision on whether the student will be allowed back on the team. If a player has not improved his/her grades during this period then he/she will be removed from the team for the entire season.

Conduct/Effort: Any student with a mark of 'four' for conduct or effort on a report card will be removed from the team. He/she will be on a probationary period for two weeks after which the Principal and Athletic Director will make a decision on reinstatement.

Behavior/ Suspension: Any student that receives three detentions in one semester will be deemed ineligible to play. Any student who is suspended from school will be removed from SCSS teams without a probation period.

Fees: Each student athlete will be responsible for a registration fee of \$125.00. Students that have parents that coach will be responsible for registration fee of \$100.00.

Each family is responsible for the proper care of their child's basketball uniform. **Families that do not return their basketball uniforms in good condition will be responsible to pay the replacement cost of the uniform.**

Each team must have at least two coaches. If there are no coaches found for a particular team, that team will not be able to play and the fee will be refunded. This fee covers:

- Play in one league
- Participation in two tournaments
- Student attendance at family sports night

Note: If a team plays in an additional tournament they will need to gather the registration fee.

Levels of Play: There are 3 levels of play for boys and girls in grades 3 through 8. Each level is competitive and only serious players willing to commit themselves for the entire season should consider signing up.

The highest level of competition is VARSITY; this is for 7th and 8th grade students. This level requires a high level of commitment from each student athlete. **An ideal number for a team would be from 8-10.** The second level of competition is the JUNIOR VARSITY, which is comprised of students from grades 5 and 6. The entry level of competition is the JJV, which is comprised of students in grades 3 and 4. This is the introduction to the sport. This is a great opportunity to allow each student to become familiar with the rules and learn skills.

Student Athlete Responsibility

Attendance: In order to be a positive and productive member of a team, you must attend practices and games. If you are unable to attend a practice or game, you must contact either the coach or Athletic Director. If a practice is missed during a week without a reasonable excuse, that player cannot participate in the upcoming game. If a student misses school, they are not allowed to play in a game that same day. Transportation is not provided by leagues or tournaments. It is recommended to car pool and set up rides prior to practices or games.

Behavior: It is imperative that student athletes conduct themselves well on the court and in the classrooms, in keeping with our Catholic Faith. Athletes must treat other teammates, coaches, teachers, and referees with the utmost respect. If there are any issues, please contact the Athletic Director and it will be addressed immediately. If a player is ejected from a game, he/she will miss the upcoming game. If a student is removed from the classroom or removed from practice, it will be that particular teacher or coach's decision whether that student will be eligible for the upcoming game(s).

Revisions/Modifications to Policy: This manual is an ongoing process and can be modified at the discretion of the Principal or Athletic Director at any time. Suggestions for additional policies or guidelines should be directed to the Athletic Director.

Students and parents are responsible for signing off on the registration form that they have read the 2017-18 Athletic Manual and understand all of the information in it and will respectfully support the policies and expectations outlined in it.

Principal

Miss Eunice Giaquinto

Co- Athletic Directors

Mr. Mark Conklin

Mrs. Colleen Jacques

Coaches Responsibilities

1. Coaches involved in conference activities are approved by the Principal and are expected to be Christian models for the students and SCSS.
2. Coaches must meet the following qualifications:
 - a. Acceptance and a clear understanding of the school's mission and goals.
 - b. Ability to constructively teach all participants, regardless of skill level.
 - c. Ability to organize, run, and control practices.
 - d. Positive attitude and coaching style.
 - e. Good communication skills.
 - f. Adequate knowledge of the sport.
 - g. Ability to provide a safe and physical environment for all.
 - h. Exemplary sportsmanlike conduct at games and practices.
3. No coach may coach alone. The Diocesan Code of Conduct including the "Rule of Two" must be followed at all times. All coaches must be VIRTUS trained prior to the start of the season.
4. Any coach whose behavior and demeanor is not acceptable and such behavior does not enhance the SCSS goals and philosophy, may be dismissed by the Principal or Athletic Director. Behaviors which are not conducive to good discipline include:
 - a. Repeated screaming done by a coach or assistant.
 - b. Threats or unrealistic punishments.
 - c. Inconsistent adherence to rules.
 - d. Foul language.
 - e. Repeated warnings without follow up.
 - f. Preferential treatment or favoritism to certain players.
5. One coach from each team will submit a listing of the tournaments that they will be interested in participating in.
6. Coaches are expected to ensure the participation of all team members, more than 2 minutes in all league games and tournaments except for the Diocesan Basketball Tournament.

Coaches are responsible for signing off on the Registration Form that they have read the 2017-18 Athletic Manual and understand all of the information in it and will respectfully support the policies and expectations outlined in it.

Principal
Miss Eunice Giaquinto

Co-Athletic Directors
Mr. Mark Conklin
Mrs. Colleen Jacques