

## **MESSAGE TO ATHLETIC PARENTS**

This handbook is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying.

St. Anthony School (SAS) strives to offer its student/athletes the best in coaching, facilities, and equipment, and the values of sportsmanship, fair-play, self-discipline and dedication are highly stressed.

SAS recognizes the values students gain from participation in a well-organized athletic program, and is dedicated to excellence in this pursuit. Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. The Athletic Handbook has been developed to give the SAS student/athletes and their families a better understanding of the policies, procedures, responsibilities and expectations involved in the athletic program.

## **STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

Athletics at St. Anthony School (SAS) are an integral part of the school's total educational program.

The athletic program is based on interscholastic competition. The level of participation is arranged for each boy and girl appropriate to his or her age, development, ability, and interest.

While St. Anthony School takes great pride in winning, it does not condone "winning at any cost!" and discourages any and all pressures which might tend to neglect good sportsmanship and good mental health. At all times the athletic program must be conducted in such a way as to justify it as an educational activity.

While varsity competition emphasizes winning, the purpose of the sub-varsity program is to prepare athletes for the varsity level. Winning is not the only goal of sub-varsity competition, or "end in itself," but this experience does attempt to teach team commitment and a winning attitude, and at the same time develop the skills of the individual athlete.

The purpose of the athletic program, regardless of age level is to develop endurance, strength, coordination, self-confidence, and teamwork as well as to develop recreational habits that will be of value in later life.

## **ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICY**

### **I. Information for Participants and Parents**

- A. The participation of all interested students is encouraged. However, we believe that athletics is an educational privilege, not a right. It involves commitment, self-discipline, and responsibility on the part of the student/athlete who is representing the team, the school, and himself/herself.
- B. All Broward Catholic Conference (ABCC) rules and regulations (grades 5-8) must be followed in all cases of competition, eligibility, and athletic standards. Each coach has the responsibility to know, to inform team members and parents, and to enforce school and ABCC regulations in these matters.
- C. Physical Examinations (Grades 5-8): The ABCC Constitution and By Laws states the following: The school shall have on file in the school office for each pupil participating in athletics a certificate by a physician that the pupil has been examined and has been physically approved for participation for that school year.
- D. Athletic Fee: A \$60.00 athletic fee is required for each sport a student participates in. This fee will help defray the costs of officials, uniforms, equipment and supplies, and the maintenance of the athletic facilities. This fee also contributes to the end of the year athletic banquet and awards.
- E. A display of unsportsmanlike conduct toward an opponent or official or use of profanity during a practice or contest is unacceptable.
- F. The SAS program provides equipment/uniforms required for participation. The student accepts full responsibility for the care of this equipment and for the return of the same equipment at the end of the season. The student who loses or destroys equipment through carelessness is responsible for its replacement. Athletes may be asked to purchase some uniform items or team supplies from the school at nominal cost. These items, of course, remain the property of the athlete.
- G. No athlete may quit one sport and turn out for another after the season has begun without the mutual consent of both coaches and/or athletic director.
- H. An athlete who is invited and elects to compete in a second sport in a single season *must* have permission and understand the requirements set forth by the coach of the first, or primary, sport. Under all circumstances the primary sport takes precedence over the second sport. Athletes who compete in a second sport will be expected to complete all requirements of the second sport that all other athletes must complete for that sport to be considered for an award in the second sport.
- I. Athletes are not permitted to compete on a non-SAS team during the current SAS season when that activity creates a conflict with an SAS team. A season begins with the first practice and extends through the final contest.
- J. Completion of the sports season is required in order for the student to be eligible for athletic awards and representation at the athletic banquet.
- K. Attendance Requirements

1. If, for any reason, an athlete is in school but must miss a practice session, clearance must be obtained from the team's coach and/or athletic director prior to the practice session.
2. An athlete must be in attendance at school by noon in order to participate in a game or a practice on the same day. An exception would be if the student has an approved medical appointment.
3. A student who has been injured and has had medical treatment cannot participate again until the date indicated by the student's doctor.
4. Unexcused absence from scheduled practice or games may subject the athlete to the following:
  - a. Suspension for one or more contest(s) following the first violation.
  - b. Suspension for the remainder of the season following the second.

L. Athletic Discipline

1. The discipline of an athletic team is the responsibility of the coach, the athletic director, and where it relates to school policy, the principal.
2. Athletes are required to follow all school wide policies prohibiting the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. A violation of such policy may subject the athlete to suspension and/or dismissal from the team.
3. An athlete who has been suspended from competition for the duration of a season for an athletic code violation, must have the approval of the athletic director to compete in any further athletics at SAS.
  - a. Students are ineligible for awards, certificates or letters for the activity. Students may not receive credit toward annual awards.

M. Transportation: Parents are responsible for transportation. Directions/maps will be sent home prior to an away athletic contest.

N. Cancellation of Games: Decisions to cancel athletic contests due to inclement weather will be made before 2:00 p.m. the day of the contest. In the event SAS is closed to bad weather, all sporting events will be postponed.

O. Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities: An individual student who attempts to participate in too many extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations.

1. The athletic department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity for a broad range of experiences in the area of extra-curricular activities; and to this end, will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.
2. Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid a continuous conflict. This would include being cautious about belonging to too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict does arise.
3. When conflicts do arise the sponsors will get together and work out a solution so the student does not feel in the middle. If a solution cannot be

found, then the principal will have to make the decision based on the following:

- a. The relative importance of each event.
  - b. The relative contribution the student can make.
  - c. How long each event has been scheduled.
  - d. Talk with parents.
4. Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he/she will not be penalized in any way by the faculty sponsor. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, they should withdraw from that activity.

P. Sportsmanship

1. The administration of SAS is committed to the practice of sportsmanship in the conduct of all interscholastic competition. To be successful, it is critical that everyone behave in a sportsman like manner- coaches, athletes, parents and other fans, spirit groups and officials. Unfortunately, the failure of even one of these groups can undermine the efforts of others.
2. Sportsmanship is defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. That means **everyone- opposing** teams, coaches and fans. And, of course, respect for officials.
3. Remember, competition is a **game**, not a war. To parents: Please fill our stands in support of your sons and daughters. We encourage you to bring your friends and neighbors and attend what we believe always is one of the “best” shows in town! We only ask that you BE A FAN, NOT A FANATIC.