

STM ATHLETIC GUIDELINES

St. Thomas More Athletics (STMA) Approved Guidelines Regarding Parish Sports Programs

(Approved April 13th, 2023)

1. Governing Body

The officers of STM Athletics are the governing body for Coordinators and Coaches of St. Thomas More.

2. STMA Player Commitment

I understand that playing for my school's team is an honor and privilege, and my actions and decisions affect my teammates, my coaches, my school, and my parents. I also understand that playing time is earned, not given. Therefore, I promise to conduct myself in accordance with the following:

- I will do my best to maintain appropriate academic and behavioral expectations as outlined by STMA.
- I will respect ALL my coaches and their decisions.
- I will not argue with my coaches.
- I will be alert, I will hustle, and I will be actively involved and participate in practice sessions.
- I will practice with the same intensity as in the game.
- I will attend all practices and games, and be on time, unless I have notified the Head Coach within a reasonable amount of time of my absence.
- I understand that being on time means on the field/at the gym with all the necessary clothing and equipment I need to play/practice.
- I will treat officials, parents, coaches, and my teammates with respect.
- I will refrain from making derogatory comments about my teammates, coaches, fans, and officials.
- I will encourage my teammates.
- I will be honest.
- I will have integrity.
- I will not make excuses.
- I understand my commitment I made to my team and I will honor it.

3. STMA Parent Commitment

I understand the commitment my child and I made to this team and I will honor it.

Therefore, I promise to conduct myself in accordance with the following:

- I will respect all the coaches and their decision.
- I will maintain appropriate behavior and will demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- I will remember the game is for the kids, not adults.
- I will make sure my child attends all practices and games, and I will make sure they are on time, unless I have notified the Head Coach within a reasonable amount of time of my child's absence.
- I understand that being on time means on the field/at the gym with all the necessary clothing and equipment I need to play/practice.
- I will treat other parents, coaches, and my child's teammates with respect.
- I will refrain from making derogatory comments about my child's teammates and their coaches.
- I will not approach my child or any coaches during a game, unless they are injured, or thought to be injured.
- I will work with the coaches of my child's team, not against.
- I will cheer as loud as I can for my child and their team.

4. Player Eligibility

The officers of STMA reserves the right to reject any player from registering or remove the player from their current team during the season based on the conduct of the player or the player's parents.

5. Coaching Guidelines

STM Athletic Programs are designed to provide an environment that is fun, but competitive, instructive, and that is taught good sportsmanship. STM Athletic Programs must promote good sportsmanship, and the programs will be a model for children's athletics in the Parochial School System. In order to accomplish this, coaches must follow some basic guidelines that are set by STM Athletics as they practice and compete during the season.

- Coaches must conduct themselves as positive representatives of STM and set an example for good sportsmanship. Coaches must also encourage good sportsmanship from their players during practices and games.
- Coaches must plan, and run practices so that ALL players have the opportunity to improve their skill level through instructions and participation.

- Coaches at STM must incorporate these guidelines in their coaching strategy.
- Coaches will encourage competitiveness, while also developing good sportsmanship.
- Coaches must demand a drug and tobacco free sports environment for their players and must assist by refraining from their use at ALL sporting events.
- Coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years old.
- Coaches must complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course.
- Coaches must complete the Concussion and Brain Injury Training.
- Coaches may not add ANY player to their team or allow any person who is not on the official roster to practice or play with the team until that person has fully registered with the team and appears on the team's official roster.
- Coaches must attend all monthly STM Athletics' meetings, during the season in which they are coaching, to the best of their ability

Although the officers of STM Athletics believe there will never be any complaint regarding the conduct of STM Coaches, a procedure has been established to review those complaints that shall result in deviation from STM Athletics' Coaching Guidelines or any complaints the officers of STM Athletics believe need addressed. Prior to any action being taken, the officers of STM Athletics will review the complaint that was received and will obtain the coach's version of events. If the complaint is found to have merit, a conference may be held with the officers of STM Athletics, the coach, and the complainant. The officers of STM Athletics will decide what action, if any, is necessary. If the coach is required to step down, a replacement coach will be assigned to complete the season.

The coaches of STM are a valuable resource for our program and they are appreciated. Without you as a volunteer, STM could not offer a quality program without a significant increase in participation fees. The officers of STM Athletics realize that requiring a coach to step down is a very serious action, one that will only be taken after significant review and discussion by the officers of STM Athletics.

6. Safe Environment Training

Safe Environment Training is required for "all personnel of the Omaha Archdiocese, i.e. priests, deacons, paid staff and volunteers, who have regular contact with children and young people at the time they enter service in the name of the Church". Training successfully completed by volunteers and employees is effective for three years. A continuing education process is in development by the Archdiocese of Omaha. Training sessions run approximately three hours. For a training session to be successfully completed, an individual must be present for the entire session. Training dates are posted on the Archdiocesan web site on a regular basis (www.archomaha.com). All necessary forms are made available at the time of training and a registration fee to cover training costs is required, checks made payable to the Archdiocese of Omaha.

7. Sport Coordinators

Sport Coordinators will be appointed by the officers of STM Athletics. The sport's coordinator shall be the primary person in charge of the sport for STM Athletics and will attend and coordinate with league meetings, request expenditures for equipment and uniforms, handle complaints, divide up players on teams as necessary, handle tournaments and schedules and deal with all issues with the sport. All requests for expenditures must be submitted to the officers for approval. The officers of STM Athletics recommend getting pre-approval from the officers of STM Athletics prior to spending any amount you wish to get reimbursed for. The officers of STM Athletics will be available to consult with and assist the coordinator in any way they are able to.

The sport's coordinator must attend all monthly STM Athletics' meetings, to the best of their ability.

The sport's coordinator is required to include the President of STM Athletics in all communication that involves league registration, tournament registration, emails between other schools or organizations, and any other communication that he/she request.

The sport's coordinator is required to hand over any information (i.e. all notes, books, files) they have that involves the particular sport they were involved in to the President of STM Athletics prior to vacating the position. They must also, to the best of their ability, assist their successor in the following sport's season. If the sport's coordinator does not fulfill this requirement, they will no longer be a member, in good standing, of STM Athletics. Their spouse will also no longer be a member, in good standing, of STM Athletics.

8. Youth Baseball/Softball

Coordinator

A Baseball/Softball coordinator will be appointed by the officers. If there is enough interest, with approval from the officers of STM Athletics, Baseball and Softball can have separate coordinators. The coordinator shall be the primary person in charge of the sport for the STM Athletics and will attend and coordinate with league meetings, request expenditures for equipment and uniforms, handle complaints, divide up players on teams as necessary, handle tournaments and schedules and deal with all issues with the sport. The officers of STM Athletics will be available to consult with and assist the coordinator in any way they are able to.

Registration

Registration forms and registration fees are due at sign-ups. Registration fees will be refunded to registrants who are not placed on a team due to numbers. Other refunds will be on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the officers of STMA. The Baseball/Softball Coordinator shall advise the officers of STM Athletics each year on the recommended registration fee, concession fee, late fee and uniform deposit. After the officers of STM Athletics and the coordinator establish what the fees and deposits will be, the coordinator will then set-up the registration for the sport.

Length of Season

The season length varies each year. The start of practice is at the discretion of each coach.

Player Eligibility

The program is open to players who are STM students. Players must be children of STM registered parishioners or: (1) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More 5-day School; or (2) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More CCD program. At times students from other Omaha Archdiocesan Parishes may be eligible on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the officers of STM Athletics. Coaches may not add any player(s) to their team or allow player(s) to practice until the player(s) has fully registered and appears on the Coach's official roster.

The officers of STM Athletics will address late registrations, players playing out of age brackets and other issues which may arise on a case-by-case basis. The STM Baseball Team shall be each player's primary team unless otherwise approved by the officers of STM Athletics. Players shall follow the STMA Player Commitment. Player's Parent(s) shall follow the STMA Parent Commitment.

Selection of Coaches

There will be a registration form for parents, or other adults, to indicate an interest in coaching. The officers of STM Athletics will select coaches from a pool of interested parent(s) as well as any other qualified individuals indicating a desire to coach one of the STM Baseball/Softball teams. STM Baseball/Softball Coaches shall complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course and the Concussion and Brain Injury Course. All coaches are subject to the St. Thomas More Youth Coaching Guidelines. All coaches must also follow all applicable league and organization guidelines that they are involved with, as long as they don't conflict with STM Athletic Guidelines.

Playing Time/Participation Guidelines

Practices will allow ALL players the opportunity to improve their skill level through instructions and participation. The amount of playing time in each game, for any grade, may be altered at the discretion of the STM Baseball/Softball Coach. However, all players must play in games.

9. Youth Basketball

Coordinator

A Basketball coordinator will be appointed by the officers. The coordinator shall be the primary person in charge of the sport for the STM Athletics and will attend and coordinate with league meetings, request expenditures for equipment and uniforms, handle complaints, divide up players on teams as necessary, handle tournaments and schedules and deal with all issues with the sport. The officers of STM Athletics will be available to consult with and assist the coordinator in any way they are able to.

Registration

Registration forms and registration fees are due at sign-ups. Registration fees will be refunded to registrants who are not placed on a team due to numbers. Other refunds will be on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the officers of STMA. The Basketball Coordinator shall advise the officers of STM Athletics each year on the recommended registration fee, concession fee, late fee and uniform deposit. After the officers of STM Athletics and the coordinator establish what the fees and deposits will be, the coordinator will then set-up the registration for the sport.

Length of Season

The season length varies each year. The start of practice is at the discretion of each coach.

Player Eligibility

The program is open to players who are STM students. Players must be children of registered parishioners and: (1) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More 5-day School; or (2) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More CCD program. At times, students from other Omaha Archdiocesan Parishes may be eligible on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the STM Athletics. Coaches may not add any player(s) to their team or allow player(s) to practice until the player(s) has fully registered and appears on the Coach's official roster.

The officers of STM Athletics will address late registrations, players playing out of age brackets and other issues which may arise on a case-by-case basis. The STM Basketball Team shall be each player's primary team unless otherwise approved by the officers of STM Athletics. Players shall follow the STMA Player Commitment. Player's Parent(s) shall follow the STMA Parent Commitment.

Selection of Coaches

There will be a registration form for parents, or other adults, to indicate an interest in coaching. The officers of STM Athletics will select coaches from a pool of interested parent(s) as well as any other qualified individuals indicating a desire to coach one of the STM Basketball Teams. STM Basketball Coaches shall complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course and the Concussion and Brain Injury Course. All coaches are subject to the St. Thomas More Youth Coaching Guidelines. All coaches must also follow all applicable league and organization guidelines that they are involved with, as long as they don't conflict with STM Athletic Guidelines.

Playing Time/Participation Guidelines

Practices will allow ALL players the opportunity to improve their skill level through instructions and participation. The amount of playing time in each game, for any grade, may be altered at the discretion of the STM Basketball Coach. However, all players must play in games.

10. Youth Micro Soccer

Registration

Micro youth soccer is offered in the Fall and/or Spring, based upon availability of a coach or coaches for instruction. The registration fee shall be determined by the officers of STM Athletics, with advice from the Soccer Coordinator.

Player Eligibility

The program is open to players who are STM students. Players must be children of registered parishioners and: (1) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More School; or (2) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More CCD program. At times, students from other Omaha Archdiocesan Parishes may be eligible on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the STM Athletics. Coaches may not add any player(s) to their team or allow player(s) to practice until the player(s) has fully registered and appears on the Coach's official roster.

The officers of STM Athletics will address late registrations, players playing out of age brackets and other issues which may arise on a case-by-case basis. The STM Soccer Team shall be each player's primary team unless otherwise approved by the officers of STM Athletics. Players shall follow the STMA Player Commitment. Player's Parent(s) shall follow the STMA Parent Commitment.

Selection of Coaches

There will be a registration form for parents, or other adults, to indicate an interest in coaching. The officers of STM Athletics will select coaches from a pool of interested parent(s) as well as any other qualified individuals indicating a desire to coach one of the STM Basketball Teams. STM Basketball Coaches shall complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course and the Concussion and Brain Injury Course. All coaches are subject to the St. Thomas More Youth Coaching Guidelines. All coaches must also follow all applicable league and organization guidelines that they are involved with, as long as they don't conflict with STM Athletic Guidelines.

11. Youth Soccer

Coordinator

A Soccer coordinator will be appointed by the officers. The coordinator shall be the primary person in charge of the sport for the STM Athletics and will attend and coordinate with league meetings, request expenditures for equipment and uniforms, handle complaints, divide up players on teams as necessary, handle tournaments and schedules and deal with all issues with the sport. The officers of STM Athletics will be available to consult with and assist the coordinator in any way they are able to.

Registration

Registration forms and registration fees are due at sign-ups. Registration fees will be refunded to registrants who are not placed on a team due to numbers. Other refunds will be on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the officers of STMA. The Soccer Coordinator shall advise the officers of STM Athletics each year on the recommended registration fee, concession fee, late fee and uniform deposit. After the officers of STM Athletics and the coordinator establish what the fees and deposits will be, the coordinator will then set-up the registration for the sport. Registrants may not participate until the Nebraska State Soccer Association (NSAA) has issued a player pass.

Length of Season

The season length varies each year. The start of practice is at the discretion of each coach.

Player Eligibility

The program is open to players who are STM students. Players must be children of registered parishioners and: (1) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More 5-day School; or (2) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More CCD program. At times, students from other Omaha Archdiocesan Parishes may be eligible on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the STM Athletics. Coaches may not add any player(s) to their team or allow player(s) to practice until the player(s) has fully registered and appears on the Coach's official roster.

The officers of STM Athletics will address late registrations, players playing out of age brackets and other issues which may arise on a case-by-case basis. The STM Soccer Team shall be each player's primary team unless otherwise approved by the officers of STM Athletics. Players shall follow the STMA Player Commitment. Player's Parent(s) shall follow the STMA Parent Commitment.

Selection of Coaches

There will be a registration form for parents, or other adults, to indicate an interest in coaching. The officers of STM Athletics will select coaches from a pool of interested parent(s) as well as any other qualified individuals indicating a desire to coach one of the STM Soccer Teams. STM Soccer Coaches shall complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course and the Concussion and Brain Injury Course. All coaches are subject to the St. Thomas More Youth Coaching Guidelines. All coaches must also follow all applicable league and organization guidelines that they are involved with, as long as they don't conflict with STM Athletic Guidelines.

Playing Time/Participation Guidelines

Practices will allow ALL players the opportunity to improve their skill level through instructions and participation. The amount of playing time in each game, for any grade, may be altered at the discretion of the STM Soccer Coach. However, all players must play in games.

12. Volleyball

Coordinator

A Volleyball coordinator will be appointed by the officers. The coordinator shall be the primary person in charge of the sport for the STM Athletics and will attend and coordinate with league meetings, request expenditures for equipment and uniforms, handle complaints, divide up players on teams as necessary, handle tournaments and schedules and deal with all issues with the sport. The officers of STM Athletics will be available to consult with and assist the coordinator in any way they are able to.

Registration

Registration forms and registration fees are due at sign-ups. Registration fees will be refunded to registrants who are not placed on a team due to numbers. Other refunds will be on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by the officers of STMA. The Volleyball Coordinator shall advise the officers of STM Athletics each year on the recommended registration fee, concession fee, late fee and uniform deposit. After the officers of STM Athletics and the coordinator establish what the fees and deposits will be, the coordinator will then set-up the registration for the sport.

Length of Season

The season length varies each year. The start of practice is at the discretion of each coach.

Player Eligibility

The program is open to players who are STM students. Players must be children of registered parishioners and: (1) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More 5-day School; or (2) enrolled and in good standing in the St. Thomas More CCD program. At times, students from other Omaha Archdiocesan Parishes may be eligible on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the STM Athletics. Coaches may not add any player(s) to their team or allow player(s) to practice until the player(s) has fully registered and appears on the Coach's official roster.

The officers of STM Athletics will address late registrations, players playing out of age brackets and other issues which may arise on a case-by-case basis. The STM Volleyball Team shall be each player's primary team unless otherwise approved by the officers of STM Athletics. Players shall follow the STMA Player Commitment. Player's Parent(s) shall follow the STMA Parent Commitment.

Selection of Coaches

There will be a registration form for parents, or other adults, to indicate an interest in coaching. The officers of STM Athletics will select coaches from a pool of interested parent(s) as well as any other qualified individuals indicating a desire to coach one of the STM Volleyball Teams. STM Volleyball Coaches shall complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course and the Concussion and Brain Injury Course. All coaches are subject to the St. Thomas More Youth Coaching Guidelines. All coaches must also follow all applicable league and organization guidelines that they are involved with, as long as they don't conflict with STM Athletic Guidelines.

Playing Time/Participation Guidelines

Practices will allow ALL players the opportunity to improve their skill level through instructions and participation. The amount of playing time in each game, for any grade, may be altered at the discretion of the STM Volleyball Coach. However, all players must play in games.

13. Concession Director(s)

Committee

The Concession Director(s) will be appointed by the officers of STM Athletics. They will be the primary person in charge of the Concessions Committee.

Responsibilities

The Concession Director(s) will make suggestions on pricing and inventory to the officers of STM Athletics. Once suggestions are made, the Director(s) and the officers of STM Athletics will come up with pricing and inventory. The Concession Director(s) will make sure the concessions are stocked and ready to go each week. The Concession Director(s) will purchase inventory by way of SCRIPT gift cards purchased by the officers of STM Athletics. Every other week, the Director(s) will send the STM Athletics' Treasurer a copy of all purchase receipts and the Treasurer will keep the balances along with the Director(s). The Director(s) will also help make sure the shifts are covered for concessions and admissions during games. The Director(s) will be the point of contact if someone doesn't show up or the shift isn't covered. The officers of STM Athletics will make up the schedule for concessions and admissions shifts, but the Director(s) may be asked to do the scheduling.

The Concession Director(s) shall complete the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training course.

14. Sports Club Miscellaneous Guidelines

Game Admission

The officers of STM Athletics shall set game admission fees for basketball and volleyball games in the gym in consultation with and consistent with any league policies.

Gym Use/Scheduling

Any coordinators or coaches must work together with the officers of STM Athletics in regards to gym usage. The users of the gym must play and practice responsibly in the gym. The users of the gym are also required to do a minor clean-up of the gym after each use. If improper use of the gym occurs, the user may lose gym time or gym privileges.

Athletic Field Use/Scheduling

Any coordinators or coaches must work together with the officers of STM Athletics in regards to field usage. The users of the fields must play and practice responsibly in the field area. The users of the fields are also required to do a minor clean-up of the field area after each use. If improper use of the field area occurs, the user may lose field time or field privileges.

15. (Reserved for the future)

These St. Thomas More Athletic Guidelines, consisting of thirteen (13) pages, are approved, consistent with the St. Thomas More existing Bylaws, this 13 day of April, 2023 as set out herein, and repeal any inconsistent St. Thomas More Athletics Bylaws or other Guidelines.

/s/ David Wilson 04/13/2023
David Wilson, President Date

/s/ Andrea Carbonell 4-13-23
Andrea Carbonell, Vice President Date

/s/ Sarah Burrell 4/13/23
Sarah Burrell, Secretary Date

/s/ Christopher Kocol 4-13-23
Christopher Kocol, Treasurer Date