

**SAINT THOMAS MORE PARISH  
ATHLETIC CLUB  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Saint Thomas More Athletic Club is an organization committed to providing a safe and fun environment in which children can play sports, either at a recreational or competitive level, for the purpose of staying active as well as learning fundamentals and sportsmanship.

The Athletic Club relies solely on volunteers to teach, coach, mentor, organize, and discipline children ages 3 to 15. This is an extremely important responsibility, and all who agree to take on this challenge are greatly appreciated.

There is a code of conduct that all coaches, coordinators, and officers will uphold when representing the Saint Thomas More Athletic Club and Saint Thomas More Parish. Listed below is the Code of Conduct that all coaches will follow when representing Saint Thomas More Athletic Club, at all levels of competition. Every coach, coordinator, and officer will:

- 1). Be required to obtain the Safe Environment Training Certification issued by the Archdiocese of Omaha, prior to the start of practice of their respective sport and maintain the certification for the duration of their sport.
- 2). Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- 3). Instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities.
- 4). Respect the integrity and judgment of all game officials.
- 5). Avoid coaching behaviors that could incite fans.
- 6). Refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 7). Enforce penalties for participants who display unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 8). Adhere to the bylaws of the Saint Thomas More Athletic Club
- 9). Adhere to “playing time” guidelines of each league (ex: CYSL, P.A.L., CYO, etc.) that our teams play in. If the league ***does not*** have a “playing time” policy, adhere to The Saint Thomas More Athletic Club Policy, concerning “playing time” as follows:

**~On any team with 11 players or less, each player will participate in the equivalent of one quarter of the game, in each game.**

**~On any team with 12 players or more, each player will participate in at least four (4) minutes of play, in each game.**

**Definition of Unsportsmanlike Conduct**- Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include, but not be limited to the following: fighting, verbal abuse or dissent directed toward an official or opponent, racial or ethnic slurs, inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment, profanity, obscene gestures, flagrant and violent fouls, taunting, trash talk, cheating, throwing or abusing equipment, and physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent.

Complaints by any league (ex: PAL, CYO, CYSL, etc.) against a coach representing Saint Thomas More will be handled on a case-by-case basis, by the Officers of the Saint Thomas More Athletic Club.

Complaints by any parent/guardian against a coach representing Saint Thomas will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Officers of the Saint Thomas More Athletic Club.

Complaints against opposing coaches and or referees should be made to the chairperson of the respective sport, who will report the complaint directly to the league commissioner of the respective sport.

Any coach, at any level of competition, that is ejected from a competition shall be suspended from coaching for a minimum of one game.

Any coach, at any level of competition, ejected from a competition a second time in the same season, shall be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the year/season as a minimum.

Again, all volunteers are greatly appreciated and the entire athletic program would not exist without you. However, in very rare circumstances, some coaches forget to display good sportsmanship. In the event that the Saint Thomas More Athletic Club feels that any volunteer coach has not represented the Athletic Club and Parish properly, we reserve the right to reprimand and/or remove the coach from their position. Let's not forget the fact that we are all here for the benefit of our children.

By signing below, you agree to follow the Code of Conduct listed on this form and represent the Saint Thomas More Athletic Club and Parish to the best of your ability.

**Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Head Coach/Assistant Coach/Officer/Sports Coordinator**

**Sport Coaching:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_