

# **ST. JAMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

## **ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Diocese of Trenton Monmouth County Athletic Council's Rules and Regulations regarding eligibility are mandatory. A copy of this document is available upon request.

In addition, St. James Elementary School has adopted the following guidelines for students participating in the athletic program.

### **General Eligibility**

All participants must have proof of a current physical exam on file with the school nurse prior to any participation, including tryouts.

All participants must have a notarized medical treatment authorization form, signed by a parent or legal guardian, on file with the Athletic Director prior to participation.

All participants and parent/guardian must sign a copy of the St. James Elementary School Athletic Code of Conduct for each applicable sport prior to participation.

### **Academic Eligibility**

Academic requirements will apply to all sports participants, including student managers. Students receiving one F or a D in two or more subjects in any marking period will be placed on academic probation for the following marking period. Students on academic probation are ineligible to participate in athletics. At the midpoint of the next marking period a student's record will be reviewed by the subject teacher and principal. If the grade(s) are substantially improved, consideration will be given to declaring the student eligible for participation for the remainder of the marking period. A student who receives one F or a D in two or more subjects for a second consecutive marking period within the current school year will remain ineligible for the entire next marking period.

### **Age Eligibility**

Students will abide by the rules regarding age eligibility set forth by the leagues in which St. James participates.

### **Attendance Policy**

A student must be in school for at least 4 hours on the day of an athletic event, including practice, to be able to participate. Exceptions to this rule for extenuating circumstances (i.e. funeral) must have prior approval from the Athletic Director or Principal.

### **Athletic Equipment Accountability**

Athletic equipment (including uniforms) used by student participants must be returned or paid for at the end of the sport season. Equipment will not be issued for any upcoming season until a particular student's equipment account is cleared from the preceding season. Report cards and diplomas will not be issued if equipment return is outstanding.

## **Awards**

Awards are to be considered a privilege and are decided upon at the discretion of the coaching staff, faculty, team members and/or principal, as appropriate. Awards can be revoked and students may be eliminated from consideration for violation of athletic code policies.

## **Communication**

Coaches and school officials are permitted to use email, phone calls, and written notes to communicate schedule and team business to parents. All emails and written correspondence from the coach to team members and/or parents will be copied to the athletic director, principal and SJAA President(s). Parents are permitted to respond only with matters regarding a schedule conflict relating to their child. Any other parental communication not pertaining to that subject matter will be forwarded to the athletic director, principal and SJAA President(s). Conflicts between the coaching staff and a student or parent regarding playing time or other sport-specific issues should be brought to the attention of the SJAA Executive Board for review and response. Violation of this policy can result in disciplinary action and possible team and/or school suspension of a player. Unsportsmanlike conduct during games and inappropriate communication with the coaching staff can jeopardize parental attendance at school sporting events.

## **Conflicting Activities**

All athletes must commit to participation on a team and refrain from scheduling conflicting activities during the season. This includes all non-school athletic activities. Recurrent, unexcused absences from practices or games are grounds for suspension or removal from the team. The in-season sport will have priority for all scheduling activities except in circumstances of conflicting school tryouts. The athlete will not be penalized for absence from the new sport.

## **Injuries**

Any athlete, who sustains an injury during a school related athletic activity, must report it to his/her coach IMMEDIATELY. The coach will notify the school nurse and athletic director. Except in cases of emergency, it is the parents' responsibility to seek medical care. If requested by the athletic director, principal or coaching staff, medical clearance will be obtained from a physician and if not provided, continued participation will be at the discretion of the coaching staff.

## **Cause for Suspension from an Athletic Team**

Any conduct deemed inappropriate by the standards of the Code of Conduct included in the Student Handbook and the Constitution for Cooperation (Grades 6, 7, 8) will result in disciplinary action. It is the responsibility of the faculty, athletic director, principal and coaching staff to review behavior for enforcement of this policy at their discretion.

1. A first offense violator will face, at the minimum, suspension from play for a period of one week. This will include all games and practices and will commence from the date the offense is reviewed under the disciplinary policy. The magnitude of the offense will be taken into consideration when a decision regarding suspension is made.
2. Additional offenses can result in further suspension and or removal from the activity for the remainder of the season.
3. In addition, the disciplinary policy in the student handbook will be followed.

### **Cause for Suspension from an Athletic Team (cont)**

Suspension for causes other than those identified in the student handbook are at the discretion of the coaching staff, athletic director and principal. These violations include, but are not limited to multiple behavior warnings, insubordination, profanity, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, unexcused absences from practices or games, unsatisfactory destructive attitude, and a failure to follow any additional rules that the coach deems necessary. Disciplinary infractions, multiple behavior warnings and school suspensions are justification for suspension or removal from a team.

### **Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

A parent/guardian must attend a mandatory parent meeting at the beginning of the sports season. No student will be permitted to participate in the sports program unless a responsible adult attends the preseason meeting.

Parents/Guardians will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials, at all times. Parents/guardians, family members are to be respectful fans. Inappropriate language or gestures aimed at officials, coaches, other volunteers, athletes or visiting fans will not be tolerated. Parents/guardians are accountable for their own conduct as well as those attending on their behalf.

Any violation of these rules may result in loss of the privilege of attending any St. James sporting event or function and may possibly lead to a player's dismissal from the team.

### **Personal Conduct**

As an athlete, pride in your school, team, and yourself is all part of good sportsmanship. Your pride is reflected in your personal conduct. Student athletes will not violate the rules of common decency with one another. Student athletes shall respect the authority of the coaching staff, referees, officials and other school staff and shall conform to requests made by them. Student athletes will wear proper attire during all practices and games.

### **Violations of the Code of Conduct**

Failure to exhibit good sportsmanship in keeping with the behavior outlined above may, at the discretion of a coach, athletic director, referee or official, result in ejection from a sporting event and the requirement to leave the immediate area. Any coach, player, parent or spectator ejected from an event will receive a one-game suspension and may not attend the next event. Two ejections of a coach, player, parent or spectator will result in an automatic suspension for the remainder of the school year for ALL athletic activities

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**SIGNATURE PAGE**

I have read and agree to the SJAA Athletic Code of Conduct.

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Athlete's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date