



1601 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517
203.248.3114
www.stritaschool.org

Date: 10/16/2025

Re: Ministry of Athletics

Dear Parent/s of St. Rita Student-Athletes,

One of the most important lessons we can impart to our students and student-athletes in the Archdiocese of Hartford/St. Rita School is the practice of good sportsmanship, which reflects the values of Christianity and discipleship. Coaches, parents, and athletes all play a role in modeling sportsmanship—a lesson that extends beyond elementary and high school into life. As a diocesan community, we should begin by asking, “*What is sportsmanship?*” The NCAA defines it as “a set of behaviors exhibited by athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and fans, based on respect, fairness, civility, honesty, and responsibility.” For our Catholic community, we build upon this by understanding sportsmanship as the virtue of coordinating play and competition “in light of moral and spiritual values.”

In Catholic schools, athletics is integral to educating the whole person—mind, body, spirit, and imagination. Rooted in Gospel truths, athletics must reflect faith and values. Sportsmanship is not optional; it’s essential for living as Christians. Success in sports cannot exist apart from right relationships with others—our teammates, opponents, and everyone involved in the game. Being kind, fair, and respectful is the foundation of good sportsmanship. As Christians, we go further by showing gratitude to our opponents for their efforts, win or lose.

To support this mission, we partner with *Play Like a Champion Today* out of the University of Notre Dame, which provides Coach and Parent Codes of Conduct. These codes guide our community in creating an athletic culture infused with Gospel values. As we enter competitive play this basketball season, please review the Code of Conduct as a reminder of the values we uphold and the expectations for all.

Together, let us strive to sustain faith-filled sportsmanship, witnessing our Catholic values through athletics.

Blessings,


Joanna DeMilo-Robinson

Interim Principal


Jennifer Buchanon

Athletic Director



ST. RITA SCHOOL ATHLETICS

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this document is to secure the consent of the student-athlete and their parent/guardian for participation of the student-athlete in a St. Rita School athletics program in accordance with the following St. Rita School Student Athlete Code of Conduct as well as the Archdiocese of Hartford Center for Catholic Education & Formation Code of Conduct for Athletes and Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians. The student-athlete and their parent/guardian understand that the student-athlete will not be eligible for participation in sports at St. Rita School if this agreement is not signed.

1. I understand that my primary responsibility is to my academics, and that I must keep my grades within the required guidelines to be eligible for sports. If at any time I am deemed ineligible to participate by school administration, I will not be permitted to participate in practices or games.
2. I understand that my behavior in school determines my eligibility to play sports at St. Rita School. If I receive a detention in a sports season, I will be benched for a single game. If I receive more than one detention in a sports season, my status on the team will be re-evaluated by administration. Multiple benches up to removal from the team may be imposed.
3. Any concerns during the athletic season that a player has, should be addressed with the coach after 24 hours of the incident occurring, by the student-athlete only. This gives the coaches and players time to “cool off” before discussing an issue. If a follow up is needed, the Athletic Director will intervene at that time with the player and coach present. Only after this sequence, if there is no resolution, will the school administration get involved.
4. If there is a situation where a coach has to address a player about attitude or any other discipline issue, a written notice will be completed by the coach, signed by the Athletic Director, and kept on file for that student athlete. School administration will be notified of the incident.

5. I understand that unexcused absences from scheduled or rescheduled athletic contests and practices will not be tolerated. It is imperative that you contact your coach if you need to miss a game or practice. Continued absences will result in affected playing time.
6. I understand that part of my responsibility, as a student athlete, is being mature enough to communicate with my coach. I understand that it is my responsibility to contact the coach, not my parents, in the event that I am unable to attend a game or practice.
7. I will be supportive and respectful of coaches, other teammates, officials, and parents. I understand that being part of a team requires me to volunteer my time during the entire season, for instance, during the basketball tournament.
8. I understand that I am a very visible representative of St. Rita School and as such I will, at all times, exhibit the ethics, values, and Christian attitudes of St. Rita School on and off the field/game floor.
9. I am responsible for the uniform and equipment that I am provided. Uniforms should be returned in a timely manner. If a uniform is not returned within the time specified following a sport, I agree to pay the replacement cost.
10. If a player is hurt during the season and has to miss practices or games due to that injury, a note from the parent stating that the student athlete is cleared is required to return. If you are able to attend games and practices for observation during that injury, it is important to do so. You are part of a team.

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD

THE CENTER FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION & FORMATION

Catholic Elementary and Middle School Athletic Program Procedures

Code of Conduct for Athletes

The student-athlete in a Catholic school shall:

1. Start every competition with a team prayer.
2. Act in a Christian manner exhibiting good sportsmanship both on and off the court/field keeping in mind that they are an official ambassador of the Catholic school.
3. Respect opponents, officials, coaches, teammates, and spectators at all times.
4. Remember that participation is a privilege, not a right.
5. Remember that participation in athletic programs is an opportunity to learn and have fun and not focus on winning or pleasing other people.

6. Welcome opponents when they arrive and congratulate them sincerely at the end of the competition.
7. Be a good sport; applaud all good plays regardless of which team made the play.
8. Accept both victory and defeat with pride and honor – never be boastful or bitter.
9. Maintain grades (class work, homework, projects, and tests) giving the best effort in academics and in the life of the school
10. Maintain good behavior in school and at school events (even those not associated with athletic programs).
11. Listen to and learn from the coach.
12. Work hard to improve skills and help the team.
13. Follow all the rules and regulations set by the coach, school, sport/league, and archdiocese.
14. Co-operate with officials, coaches teammates, and opponents as without them there would be no competition.
15. Respect the judgement of the officials. Never argue or show disrespect to the officials or opposing coaches. Only the coaches should ask the officials for a clarification of the rules.
16. Attend all practices and competitions. If not able, the athlete or the parent/guardian should notify the coach in advance.
17. Respect school property at all venues and refrain from damaging or destroying that property. Return all school property including uniforms to the coach in a timely manner and in good condition.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

The parents/guardians of a student-athlete in a Catholic school shall:

1. Model Christian behavior for all students, spectators, and coaches, remembering that they represent the school and their child/ren in the community and at the sporting venue.
2. Encourage good sportsmanship, effort, and teamwork from the student athletes, coaches, and spectators.
3. Remember that a ticket or admission to a competition is a privilege.
4. Learn the rules of the sport so that the parent/guardian may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place or respectfully inquire of the coach about such situations after the competition.
5. Respect the judgements of the officials and efforts and strategies of the coaches by refraining from yelling, shouting, arguing, gesturing, or inciting other spectators to such behaviors.

6. Remember that athletic experiences are learning opportunities for the players.
7. Make sports a part of the child's life not everything in his/her life.
8. Keep winning (and losing) in perspective; help the child to do the same.
9. Help the student-athlete meet academic requirements as well as meeting the responsibilities of the team and coach.
10. Let the coach guide and instruct your child during competitions and practices.
11. Compliment and encourage all participants. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing.
12. Support all efforts to remove unsporting behavior from children's sporting events.
13. Refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco before and during competition and/or after competitions while still on or near the site of the competition.
14. Ensure that the student-athlete has returned all school property including uniforms in a timely manner and in good condition. Parents are responsible for replacing or repairing any missing, damaged, or destroyed property.