



Athletic Handbook

Revised July 2016

FOREWARD

This handbook is designed to provide information about the athletic programs offered at St. John Vianney High School. We encourage students to accept the challenge of promoting the values of competition, based on a concept of citizenship that includes loyalty and dedication to a cause that is found in the world of athletics. The decision to take advantage of this portion of our co- curricular program will be educational, challenging and rewarding. All of this will assist students with their growth spiritually, emotionally, socially, mentally and physically through competitive athletics.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

St. John Vianney High School's athletic program is an important part of the school's Marianist approach to educating the entire person. We are dedicated to forming young men for spiritual, academic and personal excellence in the Catholic Marianist tradition. Interscholastic sports are provided in the total school program for their many educational values. We believe that interscholastic athletics supplement the secondary curricular program and become a vital part of a student's total educational experience. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to make maximum use of his education.

Vianney's athletic vision is to produce well rounded scholar-athletes whose priorities are based on living a good Christian life. High school athletics should be a great educational experience providing lasting values to the student.

Vianney is committed to creating and maintaining a competitive sports program consistent in quality and outcomes with the spiritual and academic aspects of St. John Vianney High School's mission.

CONFERENCE AFFILIATION

Vianney is a cooperating member of the Metro Catholic Conference and is committed to adhere to the rules and regulations of the M.C.C. Presently there are five member schools: Chaminade College Prep High School, Christian Brothers College High School, DeSmet Jesuit High School, St. Louis University High School and St. John Vianney High School.

In addition to competing for a conference championship, an all-sports trophy is presented to the school which has the best overall record in 10 recognized varsity sports.

VIANNEY SPORTS BY SEASON

FALL

Cross Country V, JV, F
Football V, JV, F
Soccer V, So, F
Swimming V

WINTER

Basketball V, So, F
Wrestling V, JV, F

SPRING

Baseball V, So, F
Golf V, JV, F
Tennis V, JV
Track V, JV, F
Volleyball V, So, F

RESPONSIBILITIES

All student-athletes should be in school to secure the best secondary education they are capable of achieving. Participation in our athletic programs plays a significant part in the total educational development. However, with this decision comes certain responsibility if the value of athletics is to be achieved.

- Developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Desiring to serve others.
- Striving to achieve sound citizenship and desirable social traits, including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, dependability and respect for others and their abilities.
- Maintaining academic and eligibility standards as established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association and St. John Vianney High School.
- Learning to attain physical fitness through good health habits.
- Showing respect for both authority and property.
- Learning the spirit of hard work and sacrifice.
- Being willing to accept the leadership role that is instilled through the athletic program.
- Keeping in mind that all student-athletes are in the public eye, have an obligation to create a favorable image and gain the respect of your teammates, your opponents and the entire Vianney community and the community at large.

BASIC POLICIES FOR PARTICIPATION

- A student-athlete must pass all 4 classes each semester.
- If it is necessary to be absent from practice or a contest, the student-athlete is expected to obtain permission from the head coach prior to the scheduled practice or contest.
- In the event that a student-athlete is suspended from school or the team, he will not be eligible for practice or competition until all disciplinary requirements established by the Administration have been fulfilled.
- In the event that a student-athlete is assigned a Detention Period, he is not allowed to practice or compete in a contest.
- Members of an athletic team are expected to be well groomed. Once a student-athlete has been selected to become a member of a team, the choice has been made to uphold the standards of our school community and adhere to all school rules.
- Only uniforms issued by the Athletic Department will be permitted for contests.
- Any student-athlete, whose appearance becomes habitually unacceptable, will meet with the coach of his team, the Head Coach of the program and the Director of Athletics to discuss the future participation of that student-athlete.
- Offensive or foul language will not be tolerated from student-athletes.
- Team selection is the sole responsibility of the coaches of each sport.
- Awards (letters or certificates) are given to members of each team based on the criteria set up by each sport.
- Smoking, use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol by student-athletes are not permitted.

REQUIRED FORMS

In order to participate in an athletic activity all students-athletes must have the following forms complete and on file:

- **MSHSAA Physical Examination/Form:** The student-athlete must have a physical examination in order to participate in our athletic program. The physical must be taken on or after February 1 of **the previous** school year and previous to the season of the sport for which he is trying out. One physical exam will carry over to other sports if he wishes to participate in more than one sport. It is recommended that the physical be as close to the first season as possible. The form is available on the Vianney website. Please read the entire form and complete all areas.
- **Insurance:** All student-athletes who participate in any sport must be covered by personal accident insurance, and the name of the company and policy number must be on file in the Director of Athletic Office. This information can be put on the same form as the physical form.
- **Athletic Application and Personal Information:** All information in this section is necessary for completing state requirements. The student-athletes signature indicates that he has read and understands all eligibility requirements from the state and Vianney.
- **Parents' Permission and Authorization for Treatment:** This gives Vianney permission to have a student-athlete treated in an emergency, if parents/guardians cannot be contacted. It also permits the student-athlete to travel to all events sponsored by St. John Vianney's Athletic Department. Parent/guardian signatures indicate understanding of the dangers involved in sports participation and gives permission for the student-athlete to participate.
- **Emergency Information:** This entire section must be filled out. Coaches will carry this information with them in the event of an emergency.

STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

Participation in the sports program at St. John Vianney High School is a privilege. Respect for himself and his team requires each student-athlete to accept responsibility for his academic standing and behavior. According to MSHSAA standards, a student-athlete must pass all 4 classes for the previous semester to remain eligible for all activities.

Any student-athlete found in possession or use of a contraband substance, and/or consuming alcoholic beverages may result in the student-athlete being suspended from participating in practice or contest. He may be requested to participate in a testing procedure and complete an "Assessment Program" or "Choices and Consequences" offered at one of the many sites in the St. Louis area. The student-athlete may be suspended from competing with the team for one (1) week. A second offense may result in immediate dismissal from the team and further evaluation for the student-athlete. The second offense may also result in a 365 day suspension from any Vianney Athletic Team. A student-athlete who may be selling/providing such substances will be subject to the Substance Abuse Policy published in the Student and Parent Handbook. A student-athlete who comes forward for assistance with a substance abuse problem, either by himself, with the help of an adult or one of his peers, before a reported incident, may not be penalized for violation of the policy.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

In order to give the student-athlete a sense of responsibility and an appreciation of his equipment, he will be held accountable for the abuse or loss of all equipment issued to him. The student-athlete is responsible for the cost of any athletic equipment returned in unusable condition.

The following guidelines will reduce the chances for lost equipment:

- Do not exchange or loan any equipment.
- All lockers should remain closed and locked at all times.
- Any loss of equipment should be reported to the coach immediately.
- Any protective equipment that does not fit properly or that has defective parts must be reported to a coach immediately.
- All school equipment must be returned to the coach at the completion of the season and before the student-athlete will receive a letter award for that season. Grades and transcript will also be withheld until all equipment is accounted for.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All student-athletes representing St. John Vianney High School have the responsibility for exhibiting good sportsmanship at all times. Student-athletes will receive the ingredients of good sportsmanship through the teaching, coaching and examples of the coaching staff. There is an expectation for all student-athletes to exhibit what you learn.

Simple acts or gestures of respect such as displaying good conduct, cooperating with officials, shaking hands with opponents before and after the contest, showing self-control at all times, accepting decisions and abiding by them, accepting victory and defeat with pride and compassion and never being boastful or bitter will aid the athlete and the team to portray the standards of sportsmanship expected of student-athletes at St. John Vianney High School.

If a student-athlete should commit an unsportsmanlike act while participating in a high school event, he may become ineligible. A technical foul, red card, team point or any action which would disqualify a student-athlete from a contest may result in a one (1) game suspension, the one game being the next game. If a student-athletes conduct as a spectator is found to be unsportsmanlike, he could be barred from attending any athletic contest. The unsportsmanlike conduct of any spectator--regardless of age--could cause that spectator to be barred from attending school athletic contests.

MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate on a Vianney team, it is necessary and required that the student-athletes comply with all Vianney rules and regulations; all team rules and regulations, as well as the regulations established by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA).

All student-athletes must be a creditable school citizen. Creditable school citizens are those students whose conduct, both in and out of school, reflects credit upon themselves or their schools.

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS: BY-LAW 212.00

- a. Law Enforcement: A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc) or special condition of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon local school policies. Minor moving traffic violations shall not affect eligibility unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents or injuries. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.
- b. A student who violates a local school policy is ineligible until completion of the prescribed school penalties.

Each student-athlete is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his eligibility under the above standards. If the student-athlete does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student-athlete shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery.

Academics

- All student-athletes must be enrolled in courses offering 4 units of credit.
- The minimum academic standard is 3.2 units of credits or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, whichever is greater. Eligibility for the fall semester will be based upon a student-athlete meeting these standards during the spring of the previous school year.

Social Media Guidelines

Student-athletes are held in high regard and are seen as school leaders and role models for our students. All student-athletes should follow the social media guidelines.

CONDITIONING AND THE PREVENTION OF INJURIES

Proper sports conditioning will improve the power, speed and endurance of the student-athlete. It will also help strengthen muscles and joints, increase flexibility and maximize agility through the channeling of aerobic as well as anaerobic power. In addition to the benefit of increased performance, statistics indicate that sports conditioning will assist in preventing injury.

It's strongly recommended that all student-athletes not involved in a sport during an off-season participate in the conditioning program. The best course of action is to stay involved in a competitive program each of the three (3) seasons where conditioning is built into the sport.

SENIOR ATHLETIC AWARDS

The following awards are given to seniors during the Senior Honors Convocation. The recipients of these awards are chosen by the coaching staff.

- **Scholar-Athlete Award:** This award goes to the senior who is in the top 25% of his class academically and has made a major contribution to the sports program. He will be honored at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Scholar-Athlete dinner and at the Senior Honors Convocation.
- **United States Army Reserve Scholar-Athlete Award:** This award is given to an outstanding student-athlete who excels in both academics and athletics. He will be honored at the Senior Honors Convocation.
- **Bro. Joseph Lanfer, S.M. Award:** This award is presented to the most deserving athlete in the senior class on the basis of character, leadership and athletic ability. He must be in the upper half of his class and have competed in at least two (2) varsity sports.

ATHLETIC APOSTLES

Apostles are selected student-athletes that serve as “spiritual leaders” for their team. Their responsibility is to work with our campus minister to develop spiritual plans for the team.

ATHLETIC AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are students chosen by the Director of Athletics to serve at athletic events. Their responsibilities range from assisting the visiting team and officials to cleaning the facilities.

LETTERMEN’S CLUB

All athletes, in order to strengthen personal character, promote school spirit, and advance the significance of athletics and to help regulate the requirements for athletic awards, have established the Lettermen’s Club. All young men earning an athletic or manager letters shall be members of the Lettermen’s Club. All members are expected to abide by the rules listed in this Student Athlete Handbook and the school’s Student and Parent Handbook.