

**ST. PIUS X SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**2019-2020**

***Introduction & Mission***

The mission of the St. Pius X Athletic Association is to develop, administer, and oversee various youth sports programs for the members of St. Pius X parish and, in some instances, other youth. The Athletic Association's primary objective is to encourage its participants to excel in its programs while also always acting in a Christian manner. To help accomplish this objective, the Athletic Association strives to engrain in the participants of its programs (including coaches, players, parents, and fans) the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, and respect for authority.

Athletic programs are a form of "youth ministry," probably one of the largest and most pervasive forms of youth ministry that our Church offers. Coaches and fans should view themselves as youth ministers and representatives of our Church because that is exactly what they are. Behavior exhibited by all participants in the course of athletic programs, including practice and games, should be such that helps foster the faith and moral character of our children. All participants are expected to model Christian sportsmanship knowing that the school is judged more by the team's sportsmanship than by their record, and they must show respect for game officials, opponents, and opponents' fans at all times.

There is an expectation that faith and religious practices will take priority. In furtherance of the mission, all participants shall offer a team prayer prior to engaging in any match, game, meet or any other form of competition. Additionally, Sunday Mass times should be kept open on the St. Pius X campus.

***Code of Conduct for Coaches***

Coaches are a model for their players. Coaches must show respect for their players, game officials and opponents at all times. Coaches must instill and guide the team members with a sense of fair play and model winning and losing in a respectful, courteous and gracious Christian manner. They should never instruct or encourage student athletes to violate either the spirit or the letter of the rules of the sport or of the league. Coaches and parents bear a particular responsibility for what gets communicated to the boys and girls who are participants (and at times fans themselves) particularly at such young and impressionable ages.

As a coach, I agree to:

- teach players to play fairly and to respect the rules of the game;
- show respect to my players at all times;
- demonstrate and encourage qualities of good sportsmanship, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship;
- encourage my players to have confidence in themselves and provide positive feedback in dealing with their mistakes or performance;
- demonstrate and instill in players a respect and courtesy toward opposing players, coaches, fans, and officials through my words and actions, and refrain from profane language and gestures, booing, taunting, or refusing to shake hands;

- respect the decisions of the officials;
- be responsible for ensuring that the players and spectators (particularly parents) display conduct of respect and hospitality toward opponents and officials;
- be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other school and parish obligations and interests;
- show pride in being a coach by being neat and clean in appearance;
- never coach while under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- be organized and on time for all practices and games;
- do my best to provide all athletes with a positive experience in their respective sport;
- communicate to my players' parents/guardians prior to the first game my expectations, rules, and policies for the upcoming season, which must also conform to the rules and guidelines set forth by the Athletic Association and Sport Director;
- be fair and consistent in enforcing team policies;
- communicate throughout the season to my players and their parents/guardians all practice and game times, giving adequate advance notice;
- abide by all policies, rules, and guidelines, including, but not limited to, the completion of required training set forth by the Athletic Association, St. Pius X school or parish, and/or the Diocese of Covington;
- not undermine the authority of the school administration and/or the Athletic Association;
- uphold the academic, behavior, and disciplinary guidelines set forth in the St. Pius X Parent/Student Handbook in a confidential manner;
- pursue victory with honor.

### ***Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians***

Parental/guardian support is valued and encouraged. Most children learn by example, so you must be aware of the importance of setting a good example. Parents/guardians are expected to support and encourage their child's efforts. All comments from the stands should be supportive of the team's efforts. No negative comments and criticisms should ever be made during games. It is expected that parents/guardians act as role models for their children by putting wins and losses in their proper perspective. Parents/guardians should make no attempt to instruct players or the team from the stands. In addition, questioning, criticizing, or berating the coach and/or the referees does not set a good example for the young athletes involved in the contest.

As a parent/guardian, I agree to:

- encourage but never force my child to participate in sports;
- remember that children participate to have fun, and that the sport is for the youth participants, not the adults;
- inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others;
- learn the rules and policies of the league;
- be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and demonstrating positive support for my child and all players;
- not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, referee, coach, player, parent, or league official such as using profane language and gestures, booing or taunting;
- not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes;

- demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect;
- never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition;
- respect the officials and their authority during games and never question, discuss, or confront them at the game field;
- ensure that my child attends all practices and games on time and they are picked up at the scheduled end of practice;
- communicate with the coach in advance if my child is not able to participate or will be late and the reason why;
- refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team;
- respect my child's coach and support his/her efforts, never questioning, discussing, or confronting them at the game field, gym, or other place of contest. (It is required that I wait a "24 hour Cooling Off" period following a game to speak with coaches about a concern).

### ***Code of Conduct for Players***

Players participating in sports are acting as representatives of St. Pius X School and should always be a positive reflection of St. Pius X's mission and core values. How players conduct themselves during and outside of sports competition is more important than any game statistic.

As a player, I agree to:

- be kind and respectful to my teammates, coaches, officials, referees, opposing team, and fans;
- be supportive of my teammates by only making positive and encouraging comments;
- be respectful of my coaches by listening to and following their instruction and not being a distraction to the team;
- always shake hands with the opposing team and coaches and never boo, taunt, or make mean or nasty comments to them or about them;
- accept the decisions of the officials without argument;
- play fairly and not cheat;
- take care of my uniform and any equipment I am provided, and be respectful of all facilities where I practice or compete;
- have pride in being a player for St. Pius X by wearing a clean and neat uniform;
- work hard to improve my skills;
- never use mean, offensive, or profane language during practices, games, or competitions;
- be on time and prepared for all practices, games, and competitions;
- make schoolwork a priority and complete homework on time prior to practices and/or games.

Note: These rules apply to all behavior, including behavior during practices and games, at school, or on social media.

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

Behavior of any participants in the course of an athletic program that is disrespectful, unsportsmanlike, or contrary to the Catholic values of St. Pius X will not be tolerated. Violations of any aspect of this Code of Conduct should be immediately reported to the Sports Director and President of the Athletic Association. [NOTE: The identification and contact information for the Athletic Association Executive Committee and all Sports Directors can be found on the Athletic Association's website at <http://www.stpiusxathletics.com>.]

Failure to abide by the above Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal warning by Sport Director and/or Athletic Association Executive Board member.
- Review and ruling by Sport Director and/or Athletic Association Executive Board.
- Game suspension(s) with written documentation to be kept by the Athletic Association Executive Board.
- Suspension from all St. Pius X sponsored sports programs for a specified period with written documentation to be kept by the Athletic Association Executive Committee.

***I confirm that I have read, agree with, and will follow the above Code of Conduct set out by the St. Pius Athletic Association, as well as the academic and behavioral policies set forth in the St. Pius X School Parent/Student Handbook. Additionally, I acknowledge that there may be additional responsibilities set forth within the guidelines of each sport that I agree to make myself aware of and abide by.***

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_