

## COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

The athletics ministry at Saint Katharine's is part of a comprehensive youth ministry program. We strive through athletics to foster the spiritual, physical, moral and emotional growth of young people. The purpose of our athletic programs is to use sports as vehicle to teach Catholic values and principles of faith, character development, and sportsmanship. In keeping with those objectives, we ask that our coaches subscribe to the following:

I, as a coach of St. Katharine's student-athletes understand that I must:

- be worthy of trust in all I do and teach student-athletes the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.
- be faithful to the spiritual, educational and character-development missions of the parish and assure that these objectives are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals; always place the spiritual, emotional, physical and moral well being of athletes above desires and pressures to win.
- be candid with student-athletes and their parents about my expectations, rules and policies regarding playing time. Meet with either the athletes or the parents on an individual basis to discuss issues relating to the student athlete.
- treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of student-athletes
- be a good sport, teach and model class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage student-athletes to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- not engage in or allow trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
- not engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, sporting events or any other situation where the behavior could reflect badly on the parish or the sports program.

- use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to student-athletes or others.
- maintain appropriate, professional relationships with student athletes and respect proper coach/teacher-student boundaries.
- prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship and vigorously advocate the concept of pursuing victory with honor in all communications.
- foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and the six pillars of character.
- strive to improve coaching competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching principles and current strategies, character-building techniques, and first-aid and safety.
- maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and assure that my student-athletes know and understand the rules.
- strive to provide challenging, safe, enjoyable, and successful experiences for the athletes by maintaining a sports environment that is physically and emotionally safe.
- follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured student-athlete is ready to play.
- assure that student-athletes understand that participation in parish sports programs is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent their team and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Require student-athletes to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.
- control my ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration; don't retaliate.
- put the well being of student-athletes above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.

**I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct. I will act in accord with this code.**

**Coach Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

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