

## ***Diocese of Pittsburgh Athletic Philosophy***

***"The overall objective of Catholic School Sports is to provide each student with a positive Christian athletic experience through instruction, practice, and game participation. Although a reasonable competitive approach is encouraged, a win-at-any-cost philosophy is not."***

## ***Organization of the Athletic Program***

***Head Coach-----Athletic Director-----Principal-----Pastor***

**\*All parents are requested to follow the above chain of command. Handling of conflicts/concerns in this manner will serve as a model for effective problem solving for our student athletes.**

***"Pause for God"* is an approach requested of parents. When a conflict arises, parents are asked to pause and revisit their complaint 24 hours later with the coach directly involved. In doing so, clarity and calmness will be fostered in order to promote a more effective and successful communication with the coach/ athletic staff. In the event, a resolution cannot be obtained between coach and parent(s), the athletic team and the principal will be informed and facilitate final decisions regarding complaint resolutions.**

**\*OLMBSS offers an athletic program to all students as a privilege and not a right and be revoked at any time.**

### **Parents' Checklist for Student Athlete's Eligibility to Play:**

1. Complete the DSL form for Physician/Parent Release- Must be done yearly- [available online to be printed](#)
2. Complete the Athlete's Emergency Information Form- [online](#)
3. Read and Sign the Parent/Athlete Handbook form- [online](#)
4. Read and sign Parent Pledge- [online](#)
5. Must watch the Diocese video on parent responsibilities- [online](#)
6. Pay athletic fee per sport- [to office](#)
7. Candidate for an athletic team must be covered by family's insurance.

### **Common Asked Questions for Parents:**

1. Will my child have an "equal opportunity playing" time? *As a Catholic school, it is our goal for each child to play. As student athletes enter into higher grade levels (Varsity 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade), competition becomes more apparent and it becomes more difficult to fulfill equal playing time. The coaches have an obligation to communicate with parents their interpretation of equal playing time.*
2. Will my child be able to play if any of the required forms are not completed prior to the beginning of the season? *No. All forms are required to be completed prior to the sport's playing season.*
3. What are some reasons why my child would not have equal playing time? *The coach will have the discretion to decide these factors based on attendance to practice/games, behavior at practices/games, willingness to learn, attitude, and work ethic. An open communication between parent and coach must take priority in case a student athlete does not fulfill their obligations as an OLMBSS student.*
4. "Playing up" *In the event a grade level does not have sufficient members to form a team, the coach and administration may allow*

*students to play up. All decisions regarding a student playing up will be made by the Athletic Team and Principal. Coaches will need to bring these concerns prior to game times for approval. Parents will have to approve their child playing up as well. The student athlete will not be permitted to start on the team in which they are playing up on, or play more than half of the game's time. (For example, 2 quarters only in basketball)*

### **Parent Responsibilities:**

- 1. Parents are reminded that they are their child's primary role model.**
- 2. Follow the chain of command for addressing concerns and complaints. (\*remember to apply "Pause for God")**
- 3. Treat coaches, officials, OLMBS team members, and opposing team members with courtesy and respect at all times. Swearing or any type of profanity is prohibited at any sporting event!**
- 4. Any parent, student athletes, coaches representing OLMBS not abiding by the behavioral guidelines presented in this handbook will be asked to leave the sporting event/building by the coach or building official.**
- 5. Assist the student athlete in selecting the proper equipment for the particular sport and ensure it is well-fitting.**
- 6. Assist the student athlete in attending practices and take the necessary steps to ensure their child attends all practices/games.**
- 7. Be on time to pick up your child from practices/games.**
- 8. Maintain an open communication with coaches of situations that arise which conflict with practices/games *prior* to the student athlete's absence.**
- 9. Read, abide, and sign the guidelines presented by this handbook.**

## **Guidelines for Student Athletes:**

- 1. Be genuinely interested in learning the rules and skills required for the sport of interest!**
- 2. Be willing and able to devote the necessary time and attention to each activity!**
- 3. Be respectful of all coaches, administration, officials, fellow team members, and opposing team members at events, games, practices, and school!**
- 4. Respect all school property, both at OLMBSS and hosting schools!**
- 5. Represent OLMBSS in sportsmanship, behavior, Christian conduct, and appearance at all times!**
- 6. Attend practices/ games regularly. Notify coaches punctually if a conflict arises.**
- 7. Abide by all team guidelines and regulations established by the coach!**
- 8. Must sign and agree to the guidelines set for in this handbook.**

## **Student Athlete Eligibility Rules:**

- 1. Sports Physicals (DSL form) must be on file yearly updated prior to the beginning of practice.**
- 2. Student athlete must be covered by family's insurance.**
- 3. A student athlete will NOT be allowed to practice or compete in an event if they were not in school that day!**
- 4. If a student athlete is unable to participate in Physical Education class during the day due to illness/injury, they are not permitted to participate in a practice/game that day.**
- 5. Student athletes MUST maintain a "C" average overall in the core subject areas and keep up with school assignments/homework. Core subjects include Math, Science, Social Studies, Religion, Reading, English, Spelling, and Spanish. \*If the student athlete does not comply with above, a suspension of one week of all games/practices will be implemented. The teacher will re-evaluate after one week the student's**

progress. Once the academic performance meets standards, the suspension will be lifted. If academic performance remains below standards, the suspension will remain on-going with weekly re-evaluations.

6. If a student athlete is suspended from school, he/she will be suspended from the team and all school-related activities until suspension is complete.
7. The Principal may suspend a student athlete from participation in games and /or practices for unacceptable behavior or conduct at any time.

### **Student Athlete's Code of Conduct:**

1. Student athletes must display Christian behavior as he/she is a representative of OLMBSS.
2. Participation in a sport is intended to foster school spirit, loyalty, teamwork, responsibility, respect, and sportsmanship.
3. NO "on or off-the-court" incident will justify a student athlete arguing with officials, coaches, opposing team members, fellow team members, or guests! Any complaint the student athlete has must be discussed with his/her coach in a respectful and appropriate manner. ONLY the coach will handle further action/communication regarding the incident!
4. Student athletes are prohibited to swear or use any type of deliberate profanity at practices or games. Any such use of deliberate swearing/profanity will result in immediate or further disciplinary action and may result in further suspensions from the team.
5. Attendance at practice is mandatory, except in the case of an emergency or an excused absence. \*\*\*Failure to attend practice on a regular basis, regardless of the individual's skill level, may result in less playing time.