

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK
(revised August 12, 2013)

I. IHSA REGULATIONS

All students involved in interscholastic athletics are required to adhere to all IHSA regulations, including regulations regarding athletic eligibility. The “Key Provisions Regarding IHSA Rules,” which details IHSA athletic eligibility rules, is provided on the Mater Dei website, www.materdeiknights.org (“Athletics” menu, “Athletic Policies” page). Questions regarding a student’s eligibility must be directed to the Principal, who possesses the complete *IHSA Handbook*.

II. ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND PERMIT AGREEMENT

A student participating in athletics will receive this athletic handbook. Both a student and his/her parent(s) must sign an agreement card indicating that they are aware of the policies and agree to abide by the policies.

III. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

A student must have a physical examination card, properly signed by the attending physician, on file with his/her coach.

IV. ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY

While athletics play an integral role in the education program, the phrase “student – athlete” indicates that a student’s academic responsibilities have priority over his/her athletic responsibilities. Moreover, an athlete must serve as a model student. Thus, regular attendance to both school and practice is mandatory.

- A. ABSENTEEISM A student who is not in attendance by 11:30 a.m. will not be permitted to participate in athletic activities held at any time during that school day, unless he/she has received prior permission from the Administration.
- B. TRUANCY Because truancy reflects not only on an individual student, but also on his/her team and the entire athletic program, a student deemed truant by the Administration will be reported to his/her coach.

V. UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, AND LOCKS

After receiving his/her uniform, equipment, and lock, a student is responsible for those items. If an item is lost or damaged, the student will reimburse Mater Dei for the cost of replacing the item.

VI. TRAINING REGULATIONS, MISCONDUCT, AND PENALTIES

As an athlete, a student is observed by both his/her fellow students and the community, regardless of his/her desire for such recognition. Moreover, observations of a student’s conduct extend to his/her private life. Finally, a student’s conduct reflects not only on him/her, but also on his/her team and the entire athletic program. Therefore, a student is expected to demonstrate high caliber behavior at all times. Therefore, in addition to the policies stated in the *Student Handbook* and the *IHSA Handbook*, a student is subject to the policies stated in this handbook at all times, specifically on campus and off campus when school is in session and out of session.

In the event that a student is accused of violating a policy stated in this handbook, he/she will meet with the Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and coach to discuss the alleged violation, after which the Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and coach will determine appropriate disciplinary action. When applicable, such disciplinary action will be consistent with the policies established by the coach and the policies stated in this handbook, the *Student Handbook* and the *IHSA Handbook*.

A. SUBSTANCE ABUSE The terms utilized in this substance abuse policy, are defined as follows:

athletic contests official team events scheduled by the Athletic Director. Additional events scheduled by a coach (such as a “blue and white” game or public performance) or events involving individual team members (such as the IHSA three-point contest) do not meet the definition of athletic contests. An athletic contest which is canceled or for which a student is ineligible, due to academic, attendance, or disciplinary policies, will not fulfill a suspension.

in-season after the IHSA sanctioned start date, when a student is a potential member (during try-outs) or an official member of an athletic team.

out-of-season before the IHSA sanctioned start date, when a student is not a potential member (during try-outs) or an official member of an athletic team.

school year begins the day after the last day of a school year (including the summer) and ends the last day of the next school year. (example: if the 2012 – 2013 school year ends May 23, 2013, the 2013 – 2014 school year will begin May 24, 2013, and will end on the last day of the 2013 – 2014 school year)

suspension period during which a student is not permitted to participate in athletic contests. At the discretion of the coach, a student is permitted to practice, unless he/she is ineligible due to academic, attendance, or disciplinary policies. In addition, before the end of the season, should a student remove himself/herself or be removed by the coach from the athletic team of which he/she was an official member at the time he/she served a first or second violation suspension, the suspension will be considered unfilled and reinstated for the next athletic team of which he/she is an official member, regardless of school year.

violation possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of tobacco, illegal drugs, or unauthorized prescription drugs; possessing drug-related paraphernalia; selling, distributing, or attempting to sell or distribute tobacco, illegal drugs, unauthorized prescription drugs, or drug-related paraphernalia. A violation of this substance abuse policy is not based on legal action.

1. First Violation (in a school year)

For the first violation in a school year, when occurring in-season or out-of-season, a student will be suspended from the next two athletic contests (one contest for football) in which he/she is as an official member of an athletic team.

NOTE: Until fulfilled, the first violation suspension will continue to the next athletic team of which a student is an official member, regardless of school year.

2. Second Violation (in a school year)

NOTE: When a student and/or his/her parent(s) are forthcoming to the Administration regarding his/her second violation, either voluntarily or when initially questioned by the Administration, the second violation will be classified as in-season or out-of-season based on the date of the second violation.

However, when a student and/or his parent(s) are not forthcoming to the Administration, either voluntarily or when initially questioned by the Administration, and the Administration later verifies the second violation, the second violation will be automatically classified as in-season. In this case, if a student is not a potential member (during try-outs) or an official member of an athletic team at the time of the second violation, he/she will be suspended from all athletic contests for the next athletic team of which he/she is an official member, regardless of school year.

- a. out-of-season For the second violation in a school year, when occurring out-of-season, a student will be suspended from 50% of the athletic contests for the next athletic team of which he/she is an official member, regardless of school year.

NOTE: After the Athletic Director determines that a schedule is complete, a set number of athletic contests will be calculated. If a student must fulfill a first violation suspension, this calculation will not include those athletic contests. In addition, schedule changes occurring after this calculation will not be considered.

- b. in-season: For the second violation in a school year, when occurring in-season, a student will be suspended from the remainder of athletic contests for the athletic team of which he/she is a potential member (during try-outs) or an official member.

NOTE: If a student has not fulfilled his/her first violation suspension at the time he/she is removed from the athletic team, the first violation suspension will continue to the next athletic team of which he/she is an official member, regardless of school year.

3. Third Violation (in a school year)

For the third violation in a school year, in-season or out-of-season, a student will be suspended from all athletic contests for a period of 365 days from the date on which the Administration verifies the third violation.

4. Fourth Violation (cumulative)

For the fourth cumulative violation, regardless of school year, a student will not be permitted to participate on an athletic team for the remainder of his/her high school career.

- B. MISCONDUCT Should a student conduct himself/herself in a manner which is deemed unacceptable by the Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, or coach, he/she will be subject to disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and coach. When applicable, such disciplinary action will be consistent with the policies established by the coach and the policies stated in this handbook, the *Student Handbook* and the *IHSA Handbook*.

VII. ATHLETIC AWARDS

- A. ATHLETIC LETTERS In order to receive a letter, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. General Requirements

- a. A student must adhere to both the letter and the spirit of all policies established by the coach and the policies stated in this handbook.
- b. A student must complete the sport season. Under special circumstances, such as an accident, an injury, or an illness, a coach may recommend to waive this requirement.
- c. A student must not violate the policies stated in this handbook for a second time in a school year. More specifically, after violating the policies stated in this handbook for a second time in a school year, a student will be ineligible to receive a letter in the sport in which he/she was participating at the time of the second violation. (After violating the policies stated in this handbook for the first time in a school year, a student will be eligible to receive a letter in the sport in which he/she was participating at the time of the first violation.)

2. Specific Requirements

- a. A student must meet the requirements for earning a letter which are established by the coach. The coach will inform a student of these requirements at the start of the sport season. Under special circumstances, a coach may recommend to waive this requirement.
- b. A freshman student will receive the numerals of his/her graduation year.

- c. A freshman or sophomore student who successfully completes a sports season as a member of a junior varsity team will receive a junior varsity letter.
- d. A student who serves as a manager or a statistician will be eligible to earn a letter.
- e. After receiving his/her first letter, a student will receive a bar for each additional letter he/she earns (i.e. a student will receive only one letter during his/her career at Mater Dei).

B. SPECIAL TROPHIES AND AWARDS In addition to earning letters, a student may earn outstanding achievement awards, which his/her coach will award at the Athletic Awards Banquet. Moreover, the following awards are presented at the end of the school year: the Steve Becker Award, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* Scholar - Athlete Award, and the Army Reserve Scholar- Athlete Award.

C. ATHLETIC AWARDS BANQUET All students earning a varsity letter will be honored at an Athletic Awards Banquet. These banquets will be held at the close of the Fall, Spring, and Winter sports seasons.