

**MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
TAMAQUA, PA**



**STUDENT-ATHLETE
HANDBOOK/CODE OF CONDUCT
2021-2022**

“This is what the Lord says: “Be just and fair to all.
Do what is right and good.” Isaiah 56:1

Dear Student-Athletes and Parents,

Every student-athlete and parent/guardian are required to read and become familiar with the Marian Catholic High School Student-Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct. The Handbook/Code of Conduct has been developed to ensure consistency of expectations and procedures for our athletic programs to help our students grow in the virtue of obedience, and not to stifle their personalities or rights. Being a Marian Catholic student athlete is a great responsibility, as the spotlight locally and throughout the region on high school athletics becomes greater with each passing year. As a Colt or Filly, your responsibility is to uphold the Marian Catholic Values while persuing excellence both on and off the field.

We firmly believe that athletics help foster a strong home and school partnership, along with consistent communications, will help our children achieve in a safe and positive school environment. The essential principles guiding this Athletic Handbook/Code of Conduct are loving our God, our neighbors, and ourselves. In this way, student athletes are representing Marian Catholic High School, their families, and the greater Marian Catholic Community in the intense spotlight of high school athletics. The principles and guidelines in the Handbook/Code of Conduct are the standardized regulations that all Marian Catholic student-athletes will be held responsible both on and off the playing surface.

The material in this Handbook/Code of Conduct directly concerns any student participating on a Marian Catholic High School athletic team. A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice to adhere to the rules and regulations of the athletic program of their choice. The following rules and regulations are provided for both the student athlete and their parents/guardians. It is our hope that this Student Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct will aid all athletes, parents/guardians and spectators of Marian Catholic High School.

Any questions or suggestions about the Handbook/Code of Conduct are most welcome and can be addressed to the Marian Catholic High School Administration, specifically our Athletic Director.

Good luck Colts and Fillies!

May God bless you,

The Marian Catholic High School Administration

Student Athlete Rules and Regulations

Presented for the use of Student-Athletes and their parents

Philosophy

We believe that the opportunity for participation in a wide variety of student-selected activities is a vital part of a student's educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to God, the school, to the activity, to other students, to the community and to the athletes themselves. These experiences contribute to the development of learning skills and emotional patterns that enable the student to achieve maximum benefit from his and her education. Being a member of an athletic team at Marian Catholic High School does not guarantee that you will get playing time. Playing time is earned and is at the sole discretion of the Coaching Staff. Marian Catholic High School student activities are considered a supplement to the school's spiritual and academic program which strives to provide experiences that will help to develop students spiritually, physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

Athletic Eligibility (See Attached Eligibility Policy)

1. Eligibility is determined on a weekly basis at Marian Catholic High School
2. Student-Athlete Eligibility will be from Monday through Sunday of the following week of the eligibility check.
3. Although this is a weekly check, it is a cumulative process. For academic related ineligibility it is important to understand the following: even though a student passed a test in a given week, that student remains ineligible to play because he/she was failing at the PIAA mandated eligibility check date.
4. All eligibility information is submitted by Friday (or the last day of school in a week) of each week to the Director of Enrollment Management, through the school's MMS system.
5. Student athletes who are ineligible are permitted to attend practice following tutoring sessions, but may not participate in games.

Attendance

All student-athletes are expected to attend school every day. Any student-athletes who has been absent from school is not eligible to participate in or attend any extracurricular school activity, game, practice or event held on that day. Any student-athlete arriving after 11:00 AM is considered absent for the day and is not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity, game, practice or event on that day, except with a doctor's note.

Absence from Practice

When students try out for a team, they have made a personal commitment to attend every practice. If they are absent from school, they cannot practice, unless they have a Doctor's excuse for that day allowing them to participate which was submitted to the Main Office. If they are in school and can not practice they must see their coach before practice and explain why they will be missing. An absence from practice without speaking with their coach in advance may lead to suspension from competition based on individual coaches decisions. Continued absences from practice will result in being removed from the team.

Conduct During Practice

Athletic practices are an extension of the school environment. Personal conduct and behavior at practice must be the same as expected in the classroom. Disrespect to coaches, using profanity, not following directions, etc. will not be tolerated. Student-Athletes that are involved in physical activity can be severely hurt if you are not paying attention. Practices are physical in nature. You will experience contact during practice. It is very important to know that physical contact during athletic practices and games is a normal occurrence and could lead to injury. In the event of an injury, athletes are to report it to the coach, who will in turn direct the student-athlete to the athletic trainer.

Equipment

The Head Coach issues equipment and uniforms at the beginning of the season. Issued items are the students' responsibility. All equipment and uniforms will be collected at the end of the season by the Head Coach. Turn in uniform and equipment on the day assigned. Giving equipment to a "friend" to turn in, or leaving it in a locker does not excuse the athlete from responsibility. If the Head Coach does not get equipment, athletes are responsible for replacing it!

Theft

Stealing will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Any athlete involved in a theft will be immediately removed from their team and school discipline will be imposed.

School and Community Conduct, Citizenship and Social Media

Every student is expected to represent themselves positively in classes, school activities and on and off the playing surfaces. Athletes bear additional responsibility because they not only represent themselves, but also their family, team and their school. No athlete, no matter how important to a team, will be exempt from school rules.

Also, when competing in, traveling to and from, or watching contests Marian Catholic High School is being judged by our athletes' behavior. In winning be gracious, shake hands and congratulate the opponent for a job well done. In losing shake hands and congratulate the opponent. Treat your opponents if the scores were reversed. Temper tantrums and poor sportsmanship are signs of emotional immaturity. Throwing objects, kicking equipment, etc. does not change the score, it only shows immaturity. This behavior will not be tolerated by a Marian Catholic Student Athlete. Discipline and consequences for such behavior may be given out by the Head Coach and/or the Athletic Director.

As a spectator, have an appreciation for what it takes to be an athlete. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship is cheering for your team, not booing, yelling at or embarrassing the other team and/or officials.

The inappropriate use of social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, Tik Tok, etc. to make fun of, harass, intimidate, demoralize or bully will result in consequences consistent with Marian Catholic's Acceptable Use Policy as set forth in the schools Student Handbook.

Finally, in the community athletes are judged both as an individual and as a representative of Marian Catholic High School. Embarrassing, immature, or illegal actions by you reflect negatively upon the team and school. Disciplinary action may be taken by the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director for such negative actions.

Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, et.al

The use or possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages is absolutely forbidden on or off the campus.

1. The Athletic Department strongly agrees and endorses Pennsylvania State Law and school policies with regard to alcohol and drug use or possession.
2. Smoking or chewing tobacco, because of the demonstrated negative effects on health, is prohibited by athletes. The use of these products is illegal.
3. Any athlete suspected of drug (this includes tobacco) or alcohol abuse will be dismissed from an athletic team, appropriate help will be sought for the student with the consent of the parents or guardian and school discipline per the Marian Catholic Student Handbook.

Student Discipline

Being a Marian Catholic Student-Athlete is a privilege. Because of this student-athletes are held to a high standard both during competition and in the classroom. We expect our coaches to enforce the high standards of Marian Catholic. It is the recommendation of the administration that the following is enforced regarding student discipline issues.

1. If a student athlete receives disciplinary actions from the school, it is expected that a consequence come from their head coach as well.
2. For example, if a student athlete receives an after school detention, it is expected that the student athlete will do reminders from the head coach.
3. This consequence applies to all participants of the athletic program, regardless of being a manager, junior varsity player, role player, or star player.
4. If a student athlete receives a suspension (ISS/OSS) from school they are not allowed to stay after school or come back to school to attend an athletic team workout/practice/contest/event.
5. Athletics at Marian Catholic are a privilege, and student-athletes are expected to represent Marian Catholic and their families in a positive manner.

Guidelines for School Sponsored Travel:

1. The students in transit to and from athletic events are considered to be representatives of the school.
2. Students athletes are representing the school during all athletic events.
3. In regards to trips involving distance and/or overnight lodging; student athletes are representatives of the school at all functions contingent to the trip: meals, motels, dorms, touring, etc.
4. Since the school is acting as supervisory personnel in regard to student behavior, and since the group will be known as Marian Catholic High School while in restaurants and motels, etc., appropriate conduct of students is expected at all times.
5. Since students are attending school sponsored functions, the normal disciplinary procedures as detailed in the school Parent/Student Handbook and Student Athlete Handbook associated with such situations and behavior will be enforced.

Awards

An athlete will only receive one varsity letter. After receiving his/her letter, all additional letter winners will be awarded a pin of sports' significance

There will be no junior varsity letter winners, only varsity letter winners

Criteria for a varsity letter will be by the coaches discretion.

There will be an athletic awards ceremony at the conclusion of each athletic season which will recognize all student athletes.

Student Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct Acknowledgment Form

All student athletes and their parent/guardian must review and sign the Student Athlete Handbook Acknowledgment Form. This form must be submitted to their head coach and on file in the Athletic Office before student athletes can practice and/or compete.

Physical Examination Form

An initial preparticipation physical evaluation is required prior to an athlete participating in practices, scrimmages and or contests. Failure to submit the pre-participation physical to the Athletic Trainer by the due date may deem the student ineligible to participate in the activity. PIAA mandates athletes to complete all sections of the required CIPPE form prior to participation. Section 7 must be completed by an authorized medical examiner. The exam may not be performed earlier than June 1st of the current year. The PIAA approved physical examination forms can be found on the school website under athletics.

Financial Aid

There are no financial grants for athletes. All students whether an athlete or not may apply to the school for financial aid. Financial aid is granted on the basis of the financial need of the student's family.

Locker Room

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ARTICLES.

The locker rooms for sport specific teams will be locked during the school day. Student-athletes should not keep valuable items in the locker room during the day unattended.

Use of the "Blue Rooms" for both boys and girls is a privilege, and can be taken away at any time by the Head Coach and/or Athletic Director.

Again, it is recommended that valuables are not kept in the locker room areas.

Transportation

When a team travels by a bus or van(s), no team member should normally travel by private car. At least two coaches (one being a paid coach) are required to travel on the team bus/van for safety and liability purposes. If there is an issue where less than two coaches can be on the bus please notify the Athletic Director beforehand. Head Coaches may grant permission for an athlete not to return to school on the team bus/van after an event if the

athlete's parents gave written permission to the head coach prior to the event. Athletes may only receive permission to be transported to the game by their own parent. At no time is any athlete permitted to drive themselves to or from an event without written permission from their parent/guardian and final approval given by the Athletic Director at least 24 hours before the event.

It is recommended that coaches hand out a Bus Form of their choosing prior to the season beginning for student-athletes who will not be going home on the bus after competitions.

Athletic Injuries

All injuries no matter how minor should be reported to the head coach immediately. It is the coaches' responsibility to report that injury to our Athletic Trainer. The injured student athlete is required to meet with the Athletic Director to complete an injury report for the schools insurance. After an athlete has been injured, only a doctor or athletic trainer (NOT THE COACH) will decide if and when the player may return to play or practice. There are no exceptions. The athlete must present the athletic trainer with a note from the doctor stating that they are cleared to participate. The Marian Catholic Athletic Training Room is set up and staffed with a certified athletic trainer from St. Luke's Health Network. The athletic training room is off limits unless granted permission to be in it from the Athletic Trainer.

Parent Responsibility

Parents of Marian Catholic High School Athletes have several responsibilities. First, you must help to endorse the school's rules and regulations by checking periodically on their grades, behavior, and attendance. Do not expect or ask the school to make exceptions to the school or athletic department rules and regulations.

Secondly, parents are expected to represent our school in a positive manner. Rude, arrogant, immature or disrespectful behavior as a spectator is a poor reflection upon you, the child's team, and the school. Adults must set good examples of sportsmanship for our children. Good sportsmanship is cheering for your team, not booing, yelling at or degrading the other team and/or officials.

Finally, parents have the responsibility to support their child's coaches and team. Negative comments about a coach or team members can only undermine the positive aspects of athletic participation. While winning is more pleasant than losing, being a gracious loser is also a part of life, which you should be willing to accept.

If parents work with the school to achieve these objectives, the children will develop into better adults, which is our ultimate goal.

“Ten Commandment of Sports - for Parents”

1. Be sure that your child knows that ...win or lose, scared or heroic...you love them, appreciate their efforts, and are not disappointed in them.
2. Try your best to be completely honest about your child’s athletic capability, their competitive attitude, their sportsmanship...and their actual skill level.
3. Be helpful...but do not coach them on the way to the field or court - or on the way back - or at breakfast.
4. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition...do not say, “Winning does not count”, because it does.
5. Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure...do not pressure them because of your pride.
6. Do not compete with the coach...remember, in many cases the coach becomes a hero to their athletes, a person who can do no wrong.
7. Do not compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with that of other members of the squad or team.
8. You should also get to know the coach so that you can be sure that their philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to expose your child to them.
9. Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reactions when they bring home tales of woe... or heroics.
10. And finally...make a point of understanding courage and the fact that it is relative. Some of us climb mountains but fear a fight...some of us fight but turn to jelly if a bee buzzes nearby. A child must know: Courage is not ABSENCE of fear, but rather, doing something in SPITE of fear.

Miscellaneous Items/Policies

Items that are not directly covered in this Handbook/Code of Conduct are deferred to the Marian Catholic Student Handbook. If a situation arises that is considered new, the Athletic Director will work with the parents, students, and coaches to resolve the situation.

Due Process

Any violation of the above school rules and regulations will result in a hearing with the athlete, the coach, moderator, and either the Athletic Director and/or Head of School. At this hearing, the athlete (and the athlete’s parents, if requested) will be given the opportunity to present their defense to the charges being made. A decision will be made and the athlete will be informed of the action being taken.

Contest Schedules & Results

The individual and team athletic game schedule and results can be found on Marian Catholic High School's BigTeam/ScheduleStar page. The link for the this can be found on the school website under athletics.

Meet the Colts & Fillies

Each athletic season Meet the Colts & Fillies will take place at the beginning of each athletic season. This will be announced by the school and the head coach will notify their teams and parents/guardians.

Athletic Award Ceremony

The Athletic Department will host an athletic award ceremony at the conclusion of each athletic season. All student athletes and managers will be recognized during this event. This will be announced by the school.

Social Media Team Accounts

The teams head coach and/or booster club is responsible to set up and run their own social media team account (ex. Facebook, twitter, etc.). The head coach is responsible to set up and run the teams MaxPrep page (this is optional).

Multi-Sport Athletes

Head Coaches are required to encourage their student athletes to play multi-sports. In the event a student athlete wants to play two sports in the same season they must declair in writing what their primary sport is to the Athletic Director and head coaches.

Chain of Command

At Marian Catholic High School, there is a specific chain of command for administration and faculty to follow. This is the same for the athetic department. Parents and student athletes should be talking with the assistant and head coaches about team and player concerns. The next step after this if not resolved is to contact the Athletic Director with the head coach. If a situation arises that needs the attention of the Head of School or other administration, the Athletic Director will discuss that matter with the Head of School and/or other administrative team members. At no time should a student athlete or parent be contacting the Head of School directly, without speaking to the Athletic Director first about a situation.

*Revised 7/21/21

Effective July 20, 2021 the following policy will be used regarding notification of eligible students during the summer and ineligible students during the school year.

Eligibility List (EL)

The Eligibility List will be used during the summer months. This list contains the names of students who can participate in school sponsored activities (academic, sport, extracurricular, etc.) during the summer months of the new academic year that begins July 1. Students who are not listed are NOT eligible to participate in any Marian Catholic sponsored activity. The reasons for not being on the list of eligible students will vary. If a student connected to your activity is not listed, they will most likely know the reason why. In any event, school personnel should direct the parent/guardian of the student to contact the Director of Enrollment Management for further information regarding eligibility if they are contacted.

Ineligibility List (IL)

The Ineligibility List will be used during the active school year. This list contains the names of students who cannot participate in school sponsored activities (academic, sport, extracurricular, etc.) from the first day of school until June 30. The reasons for being on the list of ineligible students will vary, with other reasons besides academics being included. If a student connected to your activity is listed, they will most likely know the reason why. In any event, school personnel should direct the parent/guardian of the student to contact the Director of Enrollment Management for further information regarding eligibility if they are contacted. Student athletes who are academically ineligible are permitted to attend practice following tutoring sessions, but may not participate in games. Student athletes who are on the list for reasons outside of academics may be corrected by the Head of School and the Athletic Director by the end of the school day the following Monday (2:30 pm).

Confidentiality

This list falls under the category of CONFIDENTIAL. Under NO circumstance is any Marian Catholic personnel permitted to ask the student “why?” Situations of this nature are to be handled with the utmost charity and concern for the well-being of the student and their family as part of the Marian family.

List Distribution

Both the Eligibility List and Ineligibility List will be issued on the Friday before the eligibility/ineligibility week (Monday-Sunday). Student athletes who are academically ineligible are permitted to attend practice following tutoring sessions, but may not participate in games. Student athletes who are on the list for reasons outside of academics may be corrected by the Head of School and the Athletic Director by the end of the school day the following Monday (2:30 pm). Errors on the listed will be corrected immediately and exceptions to the policy will be rare.

Expectation

This policy MUST be administered with the utmost fairness and confidentiality. Any Marian Catholic personnel who willfully chooses not to follow this policy will receive administrative consequence, which could include personnel file letter and/or suspension.



Student Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct

Acknowledgment Form

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Student Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct for Marian Catholic High School. I have reviewed the Handbook/Code of Conduct and understand its contents. I understand that I should speak with the administration with regard to any questions that I may have regarding the Handbook/Code of Conduct.

I understand that any action inconsistent with the Student Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct or failure to take action mandated by the Handbook/Code of Conduct may result in my removal from involvement with the team. My signature confirms I have read this Handbook/Code of Conduct and agree to follow the standards set forth in the Handbook/Code of Conduct.

I further understand that Marian Catholic High School has issued the Student Athlete Handbook/Code of Conduct for informational and guidance purposes only and that Marian Catholic High School does not intend for the Handbook/Code of Conduct to create any type of binding obligation on Marian Catholic High School. Marian Catholic High School may periodically review the Handbook/Code of Conduct and it reserves the right to amend or interpret the Handbook/Code of Conduct as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion. A copy of this acknowledgment form shall be placed on file in the Athletic Office.

_____	_____	_____
(Please Print Student Name)	(Date)	(Student Signature)
_____	_____	_____
(Please Print Parent Name)	(Date)	(Parent Signature)