

Monsignor Matthew F. Clarke School



2016 – 2017
Athletic Handbook

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Student Athlete,

Congratulations on making the sports team! At Monsignor Clarke Catholic Regional School, athletics are an important part of the total educational process. Athletes are expected to develop athletic skills, respect their teammates, respect the rules, their coaches and officials, and exhibit good sportsmanship at all times.

When you join one of the school's athletic teams, you become a representative of the school, and yourself and your family. All Monsignor Clarke School athletes must conduct themselves appropriately at all times so as to maintain self-respect and the esteem of those who are watching. We at Monsignor Clarke School take pride in our school teams and respect our teams as they represent us by displaying their hard work, athletic skills, fair play, and hospitality to visiting schools.

Remember to work hard, do the best you are able to do, win gratefully, and lose graciously. Above all, never forget that God is always with you.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Finnegan
Principal

WORDS OF WISDOM

*Watch your thoughts, for they become your words.
Watch your words, for they become your actions.
Watch your actions, for they become your habits.
Watch your habits, for they become your character.
Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.*

PLAYER'S PRAYER

Dear God,

We gather here today from different teams, but for the same reasons: to have fun, use our talents, work as a team, and play as Christian athletes. We ask You to watch over us as we play. Regardless of whether it's a great game or not, we're grateful for the opportunity to play together. We thank You for our coaches who teach and guide us; our families who support us; the referees; and our parishes and schools.

God, help us remember that You are with us in this game and always!

Amen.

Msgr. Clarke School Philosophy of Athletic Participation

The Interscholastic Athletic program at Msgr. Clarke School is an accepted and integral part of the curriculum which produces many benefits difficult to achieve in other areas of education.

Students on Interscholastic teams can often achieve greater measures of physical fitness, motor skills, and the development of sound social, emotional, and mental attitudes. The Athletic Department will strive to develop good sportsmanship, team play, a competitive spirit, and school loyalty in every athlete. Program participants will be expected to display the proper ideals of ethical conduct and fair play, and to show respect to officials, opposing teams, and fellow players. Also, the athletic program will strive to encourage a winning attitude while not losing sight of other related ideals.

The athletic program will provide instruction and encourage maximum participation in a wide variety of activities that should satisfy most of the needs and interests of the students. The health and welfare of the participants shall be the primary consideration in conducting the athletic program. Every student wishing to take advantage of the athletic program at Msgr. Clarke School should make certain that they are well aware of the rules and obligations they are assuming before deciding to try out for an athletic team. The student's first obligation is to the school team. There will be some games and practices during school vacations. All athletes are expected to make all practices and games during this time. All other conflicting sports obligations should be secondary. Also, parents should be familiar with the rules and regulations. Each student and parent should realize that participating in the school athletic program is a privilege of representing themselves and their school.

STUDENT PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

MISSION STATEMENTS / FEES

Diocese of Providence

Inspired by the mission of Jesus and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Providence are centers of education where students witness, share and grow in the Catholic faith community. Within a framework of Catholic Christian values, our schools strive to provide academic excellence, to nurture spiritual, physical and emotional growth and to assist students to become lifelong promoters of the Gospel message.

School Mission Statement

Rooted in the teaching of Jesus, the mission of Monsignor Clarke, a Catholic regional elementary school, is to educate students in a warm and nurturing environment, rich in Catholic faith and tradition. In partnership with parents/guardians, we inspire, challenge, and educate our children through word and example. As students grow in faith, love and knowledge, they become thoughtful and strong individuals who will become responsible leaders in our global society.

Catholic Athletic League

The Catholic Athletic League is organized in order to give the children of this Diocese a place to share, grow and interact in a safe environment.

The design of the league offers all children a place to compete in a caring, nurturing environment in order to help them develop emotionally and spiritually.

Sports Fee

In order to cover the transportation, field, coaching and officiating costs of sports, a \$150 fee is incurred per athlete per sport. **This amount is due before participation at the first game or meet.** After the first game or meet the fee will be placed on your FACTS account.

Sports Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in the school's extra-curricular sports program, a student must have at least a 2.0 in every subject and demonstrate Christian Values.

ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to participate in any extra-curricular or athletic activity, the student must:

- *maintain his/her best academic standards and put forth good effort in all classes.*
- *participate in group prayer before the start of game or activity.*
- *meet all eligibility requirements from the school he/she attends and, if applicable, the Catholic Athletic League.*
- *maintain a high standard of sportsmanship, citizenship, and respect at all times.*
- *accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school community.*
- *cooperate with peers, teachers, coaches, and adults in charge.*
- *treat others the way you would like to be treated.*
- *maintain a positive attitude.*
- *refrain from negative, derogatory, or hurtful remarks to your peers, opponents, coaching staff, and referees..*
- *attend all team meetings and practices.*
- *adhere to school behavioral expectations according to school handbook.*

A student who violates any participation requirement may be subject to disciplinary action which may include a warning, suspension, or removal from the activity. The school principal is the final recourse in all disciplinary infractions.

Student Participant Pledge

As a student participant, I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play and participation for enjoyment. I will not engage in any form of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language and unnecessary physical contact. I will show respect for all participants, coaches, referees, teachers, and group leaders. I understand the behavior and academic expectations of my school, and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student participant.

Student Signature _____ *Date* _____

Student Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Pledge

As a parent/guardian, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that extra-curricular activities are an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for all students. I will show respect for all participants, coaches, referees, teachers, group leaders, and spectators. I will participate by supporting, encouraging and uplifting all participants and groups. I understand the behavior and academic expectations of my child's school, and hereby accept the responsibility to be a good role model and I will encourage my child to do the same.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ *Date* _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ *Date* _____

Transportation Policy/Release Waiver

The Msgr. Clarke Athletic Department shall provide authorized transportation services for all student athletes and coaches to off campus practice facilities and to all away contests.

All student athletes must travel to and from athletic events with the coach. School buses will be provided for most events. No student athlete will be allowed to ride with another driver unless written permission is given by the parents, and turned into the principal. With prior approval by the principal and athletic director, an athlete may return home with his/her parents.

A Transportation Release Waiver has been included in the Athletic Handbook, and should be used when athletes will not be returning back from the contest with the coach. Please submit these forms to the Main Office **one day prior** to the event and no later than the morning of the event. Additional Transportation Waivers may be printed from the school website, www.monsignorclarkeschool.org under the Athletics' Tab.

Monsignor Matthew F. Clarke Catholic Regional School

WAIVER OF LIABILITY FOR TRANSPORTATION

This letter is a **waiver of liability** that will allow a student to

	leave a field trip/away athletic event with his/her parents upon completion of said event
	arrange transportation through their parents to and from a/field trip/away athletic event

The parents of _____
(STUDENT'S NAME – PLEASE PRINT)

are filing this liability release document for the following event:

NAME OF EVENT: _____

DATE OF EVENT: _____

PARENT PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION: _____

(PARENT'S SIGNATURE) **(DATE)**

(ADMINISTRATOR'S SIGNATURE) **(DATE)**

This letter is a **waiver of liability**. The document releases Monsignor Matthew F. Clarke Regional Catholic School and all employees of any and all liability for said student- athlete with regard to transportation as indicated above. This document is for **one** event only and must be filed with the school at least 1 full school day prior to that event.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If a parent is taking a student home from an event, they must identify themselves and their child to the teacher and leave with them.

Students may only leave an event with the person who has been identified on the waiver.

If a student is leaving an event with another student's parent, that needs to be cleared with the teacher and the Administrator before the student leaves school for the event.

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

...I will teach my child responsibility;

.... I will be sure my child makes every effort to attend practices and games on time;

....I will be sure my child is picked up from practices and games promptly at their conclusion;

....In the event my child cannot attend a practice or game, I will make sure my child calls the Coach and advises him/her;

....I will encourage my child to practice on his/her own to build his/her skills;

....I will teach my child to respect other people;

....I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy. I will demonstrate positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators;

....I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with officials, coaches, players, or parents. I will not shout at or confront officials or referees at any time. I will teach my child that teammates, coaches, and officials are human and sometimes make mistakes, which are part of the game. One person does not “make or break” the outcome of the game;

....I will allow the Coach to coach the game without interference from me and without comments regarding the officials;

....I will respect the Coach’s game plan and not shout instructions to players from the sidelines;

...I will teach my child that good sportsmanship is essential to CAL athletics;

....I will applaud good play by the opposing teams and players;

....I will applaud a good effort in victory and defeat;

....I will not condone the use of foul or inappropriate language or any unsportsmanlike conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures.

I understand the conduct expected of me as a parent. My failure to conduct myself in accordance with this Code may result in my removal from the contest, and/ or other sanctions.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Responsibilities of Coaches

Coaches are responsible for:

1. Giving all RIPCOA and CAL Eligibility/Assumption of Risk forms to the Athletic Director in a timely fashion.
2. Giving the Athletic Director team rosters one week prior to the first athletic contest.
3. The welfare of the athletes.
4. Working with the Athletic Director to track each athlete's educational progress.
5. Supervision of athletes during and after practice or an event. Coaches should remain until all athletes have left.
6. Obtaining a written request signed by a parent/guardian before releasing an athlete from riding the team bus.
7. Locking the gym after practice or a game.
8. Calling in scores to RIPCOA or CAL immediately after a home game.
9. Informing the school of any practice cancellations before 12:30 pm.
10. Fundraising if necessary.
11. Maintaining equipment, and reporting any damage to the gym, fields, or equipment to the Athletic Director.
12. Promoting sportsmanship and representing the Msgr. Clarke School in a positive way at both home and away games.
13. Keeping good rapport with the Athletic Director, communicating any suggestions, comments, or problems.
14. Leading a team prayer as part of pre-game activities.

Coaching positions are subject to review both in season and during the off season.
Any major infractions of these responsibilities may lead to dismissal.

CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

Catholic parishes, schools, and agencies will maintain an environment that is free from all forms of intimidation and harassment: physical, verbal, written, psychological, social, and electronic.

Catholic parishes, schools, and agencies will employ disciplinary practices that respect the dignity of each child. It is not acceptable to strike, shake or slap a child.

Adults will not provide a gift to an individual young person without prior approval from the administrator of the program.

Adults will meet with an individual young person in an open and public area.

Adults will not be alone with a young person in a residence, sleeping facility, locker room, rest room, dressing facility or other closed room or isolated area.

Adults will not provide alcohol, controlled substances or pornographic materials to young people at any time.

Adults will not use or be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances while participating in a youth activity. Adults or minors who are under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances are not permitted to participate in youth events. No alcoholic beverages will be accessible or served during events which are designed specifically for children.

Adults will not drive alone with a young person without parental or guardian consent.

Adults will report abuse or inappropriate activities involving a minor to appropriate personnel immediately.

Adults will cooperate fully with Diocesan and/or law enforcement personnel in any investigation of abuse of children and/or youth.

Msgr. Clarke School Athletic Program Procedure for Handling Athletic Complaints

All coaches, athletes, and parents/guardians are expected to read and follow the guidelines below. In order to insure the reasonable expression of differences that can occur in athletic activities, these procedures have been developed to establish a line of communication between school, parent, athletes, and coaches when a problem arises. Msgr. Clarke Administration will review these procedures with all athletic personnel at the start of each season. Parents should remember that all Msgr. Clarke athletic staff and students are required to follow these procedures. Should need arise, parents are expected to adhere to this process as well.

Procedure:

1. No conflict between a parent, student, official, or coach should be addressed during or immediately following a game. The game site, practice field, lobby, or locker room are not appropriate places to handle conflict or disagreement.
2. Coaches are **NOT** to meet or deal with conflict at these times or places.
3. Parents should contact the Athletic Director to arrange a meeting with the coach for the following workday.
4. We ask that parents and guests respect the decisions of the coaches and officials during contests and practice. We realize that you may disagree with these decisions from time to time. In order to teach sportsmanship and fair play, we need the adults to be visible role models. Keep cheering and comments in a positive mode and encourage our athletes.

The following steps should be taken in order for a problem to be resolved:

1. If athletes have an issue with a coach, a meeting should be arranged with the coach to discuss the situation. This should always be the first step with any conflict.
2. If a further meeting is needed, the coach, athlete, and/or parent may request the meeting. This should be done through the Athletic Director. The Athletic Director will keep notes of the meeting.
3. If the conflict is still not resolved, the Athletic Director will inform the Principal of the situation and they will decide how to proceed.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Athletic Participation Checklist

The following is required for participation in athletics at Msgr. Matthew F. Clarke Catholic Regional School:

- A \$150.00 fee per athletic sport to cover coaches, transportation, officiating and field costs.
- Eligibility and Participation Requirements Form (above) – signed by student and parent
- Parental Code of Conduct Form (above) – signed by parent/guardian
- Procedure for Handling Athletic Complaints (above) – signed by parent/guardian
- Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement Catholic Mutual (found at www.monsignorclarkeschool.org under Athletics Tab) – signed by parent/guardian
- Principal's Committee on Athletics Grade 6-8 Assumption of Risk for **soccer only** (found at www.monsignorclarkeschool.org under Athletics Tab) – signed by parent/guardian
- Concussion Pamphlet found on the homepage of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League website <http://riil.org/> – signed by parent