

Holy Cross Middle School

Athletic handbook for student-athletes

2011-12

Middle School Athletics

Holy Cross believes interscholastic athletics are an important part of a student-athlete's total educational experience. The success of our athletic programs is based on student-athletes' abilities to balance their participation with their academic requirements. In athletics, our goal is to provide a structured environment where our student-athletes can develop responsibility, work ethic, and self-discipline.

Holy Cross sponsors interscholastic teams in the following middle school sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, 7th grade football, flag football, soccer, swimming, and wrestling.

Tiger Cub Athletic Club (TCAC)

The purpose of the Tiger Cub Athletic Club (TCAC) is tied to the mission of Holy Cross to educate the whole man. TCAC is a sports activities club open to all students in grades 5-8. Students are given the opportunity to develop physical and social skills through friendly competition. No student is cut from any sport and rules of participation guarantee "fair play". Student leadership is fostered by allowing students to form teams and to exercise strategies during competition. **Participation** and **Sportsmanship** are prime values encouraged by the program.

Metro Sports

The metro athletic program is one in which teams compete against other teams in the area and represent Holy Cross in the Metro Middle School League. At the beginning of each season, players try out for a spot on the roster of teams representing Holy Cross at various grade levels. **Participants must be an active member of a TCAC roster to be allowed to participate on a metro team in that particular sport.** Varsity head coaches will determine which teams will be offered in their individual sports.

Eligibility based on academic grades

In order to be eligible for athletics, a student at Holy Cross Middle School must have passing grades in all subjects during any given six weeks grading period.

At the end of each six weeks period, any student-athlete failing a subject will be given a **two week** probationary period to pull up his grade to a passing one. If this occurs, at the end of the **two weeks** he will be reinstated on the team. **During the probationary period, the student-athlete will not be able to practice or play in games scheduled.** This should be a time used for academic improvement

Eligibility based on behavior

Middle School Athletics are privileges afforded to students who represent Holy Cross in a positive manner. Students may be denied participation in the Middle School Athletics Program if they fail to maintain good behavior. The Middle School Athletic Director will meet with the Dean of Boys to review students' discipline records each six weeks to determine their eligibility to participate in the Middle School Athletic Program.

Middle School students who are suspended **may not participate** in practice or games for **one week** from the date of suspension.

Attendance at school

Attendance at school is an expectation of our student-athletes. A student is not allowed to participate in after school activities if he is not in attendance on that day. Student-athletes must attend at least one-half of the total class periods to be eligible for the practice/game that day. Students with an excuse from parent(s) may be exempt from school and permitted to practice or compete on the day of competition. These absences will require an administrator's approval.

Dual Participation

Participation on a school athletic team and a non-school activity at the same time is generally allowed. Student-athletes who participate in non-school activities while participating on a school athletic team **MUST** make their school participation the priority. A student-athlete may not miss any activity related to the school athletic team to participate in a non-school activity. An exception **could** be granted if the student-athlete requests a waiver from the athletic director in writing. Consequences will be enforced by the head coach of that particular team.

Student-athlete who withdraws or is dismissed from a team

Any student-athlete who withdraws or is dismissed from a particular team before the season has ended for that sport **may not** practice or try out for another sport before the season has ended for the sport he had withdrawn from or been dismissed from.

Student-athlete and parent code of conduct

Athletic achievement requires commitment from all athletes, parents, coaches, and administrators. To be a successful program, effective communication must occur. The athletic department and administration believe strongly in being accessible to parents and supportive of the coaching staff.

A player should understand that playing on a team is a privilege, not a right, and should strive to do everything that is asked of them during practices and games.

A player should understand that academic commitments have the highest priority and will make every effort to maintain a good scholastic and behavioral record.

A player participating in athletics is expected to follow all team rules, regulations, and guidelines established by the coaching staff and athletic department.

A player will conduct himself on and off the playing field in a manner which will bring credit to himself, his team, and Holy Cross School.

A player should remember that as a member of the Holy Cross athletic program they are representing the school in the community and should do their best to uphold a positive image for Holy Cross School.

A parent should not discuss with a coach: playing time, team strategy or play calling, or other student-athletes.

Procedure for concerns

1. Make an appointment with the coach. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before, during, or following a contest or practice.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the coach.
3. If the meeting or discussion with the coach does not result in a resolution to the problem, please contact the athletic director to discuss the situation. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

I/We have read and understand the Holy Cross Middle School athletic policies and guidelines.

Student-athlete (Print)_____ **Grade**_____

Student-athlete (Sign)_____

Parent/Guardian (Sign)_____

Date _____

*** Please sign and return to the coach of the first sport you are participating in this year, Coach Serio, or the middle school office.**