



**Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools
2025-2026 Student-Athlete
Parent/Student Handbook**



St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

At St. Mark School, athletics are an extension of our Catholic faith and academic mission. Through sports, we encourage students to develop their God-given talents, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and grow in character, teamwork, and faith. Every practice, game, and interaction is an opportunity to live out the Gospel message.

For Student-Athletes

Play for God's glory. Use your talents with gratitude and always give your best effort.

Show respect. Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials with kindness and fairness.

Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Celebrate with gratitude and accept losses with dignity.

Demonstrate good sportsmanship. Refrain from negative talk, taunting, or unsportsmanlike behavior.

Encourage your teammates. Support one another and build each other up.

Be responsible. Arrive on time, care for equipment, and represent St. Mark School proudly at all times.

Students and parents should recognize that participation in our athletics program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those who possess the character, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the St. Mark School community in a favorable way. By joining the St. Mark School Athletics Program, a student becomes a representative of his/her team and of St. Mark School.

Initials: _____ Sportsmanship

All student-athletes are expected to represent St. Mark School in an exemplary manner. Student-athletes are expected to display the best of Catholic values, morals, courtesy, and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The consequence for unsportsmanlike conduct during a practice or game will be at the discretion of the

athletic leadership and coach at that time with subsequent investigation and disciplinary action by the principal. This can range from sitting out at practice to a one-game suspension. In extreme cases when an athlete has been ejected from a game, multi-game suspensions and dismissal from the team may be appropriate.

Initials: _____ **Attendance**

A student-athlete must be in school for a **full-day** in order to attend or participate in any after school activities including athletic practices, games, and as a spectator at games or tournaments. A student-athlete will not be allowed to attend or participate in a practice or contest the day he/she is absent from school unless he/she has received prior authorization from the principal.

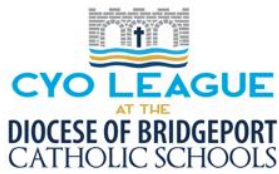
If the practice, game, or tournament falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the student-athlete will not be allowed to attend or participate if he/she is absent from school on the preceding Friday without prior authorization from the principal. Consideration will be given to absences for reasons such as but not limited to dental/orthodontic appointments, attending funeral services, and preventative care doctor appointments (not for sick visits).

All student-athletes must recognize the time commitment made to a team. One is expected to attend all practices and games. If one cannot attend a practice or game, the coach **MUST BE** notified in advance. If a practice is missed during a week without a valid reason, that player cannot start in the upcoming game.

Initials: _____ **Student-Athlete Behavior Expectations**

A student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others behaviors that reflect good sportsmanship. If behavior infractions occur, student-athletes may face both school and athletic consequences. If a student does not meet the expected behaviors in the classroom or school environment, it will be the principal's decision whether or not the student will be eligible for upcoming games.

Player ejection for a flagrant foul will receive a minimum of a 1 game suspension to be enforced for the next game. The offending player's school principal will receive written notification. If such conduct continues, the Diocese and/or principal reserve the right to remove the offending player from the team roster.



**Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools
2025-2026 Student-Athlete
Parent/Student Handbook**



St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Our Commitment

As members of the St. Mark School community, we pledge to uphold this Code of Conduct. Together, we will ensure that all athletic events reflect the mission of our school and the teachings of our Catholic faith.

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Initial each section of the Code of Conduct above that applies to your role in the 2025-2026 St. Mark School Athletics Program.

I have read the 2025 -2026 Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools Student-Athlete Parent/Student Handbook, St. Mark School Amendments, and Athletics Code of Conduct and agree to adhere to the code of conduct as stated.

*Student-Athlete Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Team: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Team: _____

**one per student-athlete*



**Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools
2025-2026 Student-Athlete
Parent/Student Handbook**



St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

At St. Mark School, athletics are an extension of our Catholic faith and academic mission. Through sports, we encourage students to develop their God-given talents, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and grow in character, teamwork, and faith. Every practice, game, and interaction is an opportunity to live out the Gospel message.

For Coaches

Model faith and integrity. Lead by example through patience, respect, and Catholic values.

Promote respect. Encourage student-athletes to honor God, the game, and everyone in attendance.

Foster teamwork and growth. Help every player improve in skill, confidence, and faith.

Pray together. Begin and end practices and games with prayer, giving thanks for the God-given abilities to play.

Focus on character over competition. Winning is important, but Christ-like conduct is essential.

Coaches are first and foremost educators and must serve as role models for student-athletes to emulate. They must embody the Catholic characteristics prevalent at St. Mark School. No coach may coach alone. The Diocesan Code of Conduct including the “Rule of Two” must be followed at all times, at practices, team conferences, as well as at games. All coaches must be VIRTUS compliant. Department of Children and Families (DCF) mandated reporter training for community providers is required every year. DCF completion certificates must be submitted to the principal.

Initials: _____ Language

Language should be appropriate and constructive at all times. Coaches are expected to not only monitor their own language, but they should also set and enforce standards of appropriate language for our student-athletes. This includes, but is not limited to swearing, harassment, exclusionary language, sexual innuendo, personal attacks, and unsportsmanlike gestures. Coaches are also responsible for the conduct of their fans

throughout the game. Fans will be removed from the gym for repeated inappropriate conduct during the game. If such conduct continues for subsequent games, the Diocese will instruct the coach and the principal to prohibit the fan from attending any games.

Initials: _____ Student-Athlete Playing Time

The St. Mark School sports program reflects Catholic values of cooperation, community, and the mission of the Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools. We believe all students should have the chance to participate in interscholastic athletics. While our teams strive to compete at their best, the focus remains on education, participation, and personal growth—not just winning. Our goal is to build self-esteem, confidence, teamwork, and sportsmanship in every athlete. All student-athletes in attendance will be given the opportunity to play in each game.

Initials: _____ Treatment of Opponents

Although opponents are not a part of our school community, they are members of the larger body of Christ and should be treated as such. Coaches are expected to model such respect for our student-athletes and instruct players on how to welcome their opponents and all visitors in a way that conveys a sense of hospitality and community.

Initials: _____ Coaching Requirements and Penalties

- Acceptance and a clear understanding of the school's mission and goals.
- Ability to constructively teach all participants, regardless of skill level.
- Ability to organize, run, and control practices.
- Positive attitude and coaching style.
- Good communication skills.
- Adequate knowledge of the sport and the rules of play.
- Ability to provide a safe environment for all.

Any coach whose behavior and demeanor is deemed unacceptable may be dismissed by the principal and/or the Diocese.

Behavior which is unacceptable includes:

- Repeated screaming by a coach or assistant.
- Threats or unrealistic punishments.
- Inconsistent adherence to rules.
- Foul language.
- Consistently running up the score against weaker opponents.

If either the Head Coach or Assistant Coach is ejected from a game, a minimum of a 2 game suspension will be enforced in the next two games. If warranted, the Diocese and/or St. Mark School reserves the right to replace the offending coach or coaches.

Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools
2025-2026 Student-Athlete
Parent/Student Handbook



St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Our Commitment

As members of the St. Mark School community, we pledge to uphold this Code of Conduct. Together, we will ensure that all athletic events reflect the mission of our school and the teachings of our Catholic faith.

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Initial each section of the Code of Conduct above that applies to your role in the 2025-2026 St. Mark School Athletics Program.

I have read the 2025 -2026 Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools Student-Athlete Parent/Student Handbook, St. Mark School Amendments, and Athletics Code of Conduct and agree to adhere to the code of conduct as stated.

Coach Name: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Team: _____

St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

At St. Mark School, athletics are an extension of our Catholic faith and academic mission. Through sports, we encourage students to develop their God-given talents, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and grow in character, teamwork, and faith. Every practice, game, and interaction is an opportunity to live out the Gospel message.

For Parents and Spectators

Initials: _____ **Be a witness of faith.** Remember that your words and actions reflect the values of our Catholic faith. Strive to be an example of Christ's love, patience, and kindness in all circumstances.

Initials: _____ **Cheer with grace.** Encourage all players with enthusiasm and positivity. Avoid criticism or negativity toward referees, coaches, players, or other spectators.

Initials: _____ **Support coaches and officials.** Recognize their service and leadership. Trust their decisions and show gratitude for the time and care they devote to our children.

Initials: _____ **Keep Christ at the center.** Let your presence at games be a reflection of Christian joy and humility. Pray for the safety, teamwork, and good sportsmanship of all participants before, during, and after each game.

Initials: _____ **Model forgiveness and respect.** When emotions run high, take a deep breath and respond with understanding and grace. Demonstrate how faith can guide us even in moments of competition or disappointment.

Initials: _____ **Build community.** Celebrate the gifts and talents of every child—on both teams. See every game as an opportunity to strengthen our St. Mark community and share God's love with others.

Initials: _____ **Reinforce faith at home.** Talk with your child about how playing fairly, supporting others, and showing respect are ways of honoring God through sports.

St. Mark School administrators and athletic leadership respect the primary role of parents as the first teachers of their student-athletes and will partner with them in the formation of student-athletes. Parents and other members of the community play a vital role in the holistic education of children including students' participation in school

sponsored athletics. Together, all stakeholders should actively work to ensure that the Catholic mission and identity of St. Mark School permeates the athletics program.

Five Ways to Support Your Student-Athlete

1. Be present – Show up to games, cheer, and support our teams!
2. Be positive – Children learn from modeling.
3. Encourage independence – Encourage student-athletes to be responsible for the care of their athletic gear, be prepared for practices and games, and to speak directly with their coach about any concerns.
4. Observe the “24 Hour Cushion” –Please allow coaches the time they need to process their decisions on game situations and decisions before approaching them with any questions. Coaches need not discuss playing time, coaching strategies and specific plays, or information pertaining to other athletes.
5. Model behavior expectations for visiting spectators – Take pride in our athletic program and model for visitors how we CHEER for our team rather than against our opponents, RESPECT the integrity and authority of game officials, ALLOW coaches to coach without criticism from the spectators, GRANT GRACE to allow referees to do their jobs and HELP clean up at the end of athletic events.



**Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools
2025-2026 Student-Athlete
Parent/Student Handbook**



St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Our Commitment

As members of the St. Mark School community, we pledge to uphold this Code of Conduct. Together, we will ensure that all athletic events reflect the mission of our school and the teachings of our Catholic faith.

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians 10:31

Initial each section of the Code of Conduct above that applies to your role in the 2025-2026 St. Mark School Athletics Program.

I have read the 2025 -2026 Diocese of Bridgeport Catholic Schools Student-Athlete Parent/Student Handbook, St. Mark School Amendments, and Athletics Code of Conduct and agree to adhere to the code of conduct as stated.

*Family Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Team: _____

Team: _____

Team: _____

**one per family*