



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



St. Mark School Amendments and Athletics Code of Conduct

Background

As a diocesan school, St. Mark School follows all policies and procedures outlined by the Diocese of Bridgeport, including those in the 2025–2026 Student-Athlete Handbook. However, the school administration retains the authority to add amendments to the diocesan handbook as needed. These additions are school-specific to ensure alignment with St. Mark School's operations, policies, and community.

Because the coaches at St. Mark School are parent volunteers, school-specific amendments are necessary to uphold the confidentiality and dignity of the children entrusted to our care.

St. Mark School Amendments to the Diocese Student-Athlete Handbook policy are indicated by italics.

Amendments

Initials: _____ **Academic Eligibility** - At the start of each new sports season, the grades of each student-athlete selected for a team will be reviewed by the *principal*. If there is any indication a student-athlete is failing to work up to his/her potential, or if he/she has a poor grade or behavioral issue during the season, a two-week probationary period will be put into effect. The student athlete will be allowed to continue participating on the team during the probation period but must demonstrate improvement in the problem areas, or dismissal from the team may result.

Initials: _____ **Expectations Of Our Student Athletes (2.)** 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 school administration. *If the practice or contest 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). 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 tournaments.

Student-Athlete Guidelines (3a.) *The athlete is required to travel to and from games under supervision of his/her parents.*

Initials: _____ **Student-Athlete Guidelines (5.)** All athletes must wear their appropriate team uniform (or sanctioned CYO attire) to all practices and games. *All student-athletes may wear their St. Mark School attire, basketball T-shirt, or other comfortable athletic clothing, as long as it is appropriate for school property and reflects the values of our Catholic environment and St. Mark School.*

Initials: _____ **Student-Athlete Guidelines (6).** A student will forfeit his/her right to participate in any sports activity or after-school program in the following ways:

a. A student who receives a report indicating an academic failure and/or *disciplinary matter* will be suspended from participation in games and practices for two weeks. Parents will be notified by the *principal*. If the student is maintaining passing grades after a two-week period, he/she will be allowed to rejoin the activity. An *unsatisfactory correction of behavior* will cause the student to be permanently removed from the activity until the next marking period.

b. Students cannot participate in practices or games until the probationary or suspension period has been served. At any time, upon *principal* review, a student can be removed or suspended for breaking any school rule, for poor sportsmanship or for poor academic performance.

c. If any student receives a third After School Detention, he/she will be automatically suspended from participating in all After School activities for two weeks. A review by the *principal* will decide reinstatement of that student. If a student receives a fourth After School Detention, he/she will be suspended from that team/club for the remainder of its season.

Initials: _____ **Diocesan Policy for League Participation by Catholic Schools** - An elementary Catholic School basketball team can play in one league and participate in no more than three, (3), tournaments excluding league playoffs and the Diocesan and New England tournaments. *For the 2025-2026 basketball season, the three tournaments will not include the host team's (St. Mark) tournament.*

School-Specific Policies

Initials: _____ **Financial Obligations** - Parents/Families of any student participating in a school-sponsored sport must be in good financial standing with St. Mark School. Any fees associated with school-sponsored sports including, but not limited to registration fees, are non-refundable.

Initials: _____ **Health Records** - Any student participating in a school-sponsored sport must have a current health record on file with the school nurse.

Initials: _____ **Prayer** - Athletics play a meaningful role in the spiritual development of students at St. Mark School. As such, prayer should be an intentional and integral part of each team's culture, not simply a routine or hurried gesture before or after games and practices. Coaches and athletes are expected to create space for thoughtful, reflective prayer that reinforces the values of faith, community, and gratitude, helping to connect the athletic experience with the broader mission of Catholic education.

Initials: _____ **Scheduling**- Our Catholic faith is central to everything we do. As such, it's important to understand that the scheduling of practices, games, and designated "blackout dates" is determined by the principal and CYO league officials. These dates will be communicated to coaches by the athletic department leadership and must be followed without exception.

1. No practices or games may be held before 12 noon on any Sunday.
2. No practices or games may be held during Holy Week.
3. If a school participates in a tournament away from "home," the principal and coach must provide an opportunity for the student athletes to attend Mass at a Roman Catholic Church on a Sunday or Holy Days.
4. No practices may be held on a day if school is closed due to inclement weather.

Initials: _____ **Transportation Policy** - In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Bridgeport, St. Mark School does not provide any transportation to or from athletic events. All transportation is the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians. St. Mark School and the Diocese of Bridgeport assume no liability for accidents that may occur en route to or from any sporting practice or activity.

REVISIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO POLICY

The principal may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed and has the final decision with regards to any policy. Parents will be provided changes. The principal has the authority to remove a student or cancel a season if student-athletes or their parents fail to uphold the standards of St. Mark School.



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Parent/Student Consent Form

After reading, parents initial each section of the handbook.

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 policies and procedures as stated.

Please note, both parents and students must sign this agreement.

FAMILY NAME _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student-Athlete Name: _____ Team: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student-Athlete Name: _____ Team: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student-Athlete Name: _____ Team: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Coach Consent Form

After reading, initial each section of the handbook.

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 policies and procedures as stated.

Coach Name: _____

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Team: _____