

**SAINT MARY SOCCER POLICY  
ON  
PLAYERS AND PLAYING RULES**

**For Coaches & Parents**

August 14, 2006

# **POLICY**

## ***Applicability Of Policy***

This policy applies to coaches, players and parents of St. Mary Parish and/or School and parents and youth players registered to play Campbell County Recreational Youth Soccer through or with St. Mary Parish and/or School.

## **RECREATION ROSTERS**

- All Saint Mary recreation rosters are compiled and completed by CCYSI. All rosters are final. There will be no switching of players by coaches or players parents. In the event that a player has been switched without the approval of CCYSI, the result will be an immediate forfeit for all games for the remainder of spring/fall season in which was registered. Please see CCYSI web site for concurrence.

## **PLAYING TIME**

- The coaching staff will make every effort to see that all youth who participate in the St. Mary Recreational Soccer Program as players will receive at least 50% (half of the game) playing time at each organized regular season match. This applies for all age levels U8-U14 boys and girls. Also; see CCYSI web site for concurrence.
- If a coach enters any pre-season, during season or post-season tournament representing St. Mary parish and/or school, each player listed on the tournament roster will receive at least 50% playing time in each match of the tournament. This applies for all age levels U8-U14 boys and girls. Some of the notable tournaments are: Bluegrass State Games, Fall Recreational Cup and Town and Country Recreational Tournaments games, etc.

## **VIRTUS TRAINING**

- Any Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager associated with a St. Mary recreational soccer team must have proof of having participated in a diocesan Virtus training program and proof of continuing education through the Virtus Online program. VIRTUS is the brand name that identifies best practices programs designed to help prevent wrongdoing and promote "rightdoing" within religious organizations. The VIRTUS programs empower organizations and people to better control risk and improve the lives of all those who interact with the Church.

## **USE OF SAINT MARY PRACTICE FIELD**

- Practice times will be discussed between the Field Coordinator and the coach; the Field Coordinator will make final decision. On days of Holy Obligation, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Parish Feast Day the field will be closed. All fields being used for practice must be cleaned up after use. Please have respect for the following coach and/or field maintenance crew.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

- All coaches, players and parents/spectators must abide by the code of conduct listed below:

### ***Coaches***

Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to maintain a high level of sportsmanship, professionalism and integrity both on and off the field. A coach's primary responsibility is for his/her players to have fun, to develop soccer players and to instill a passion for the game. A coach's performance is not measured in wins and losses, but rather in what you teach your players in terms of technique, sportsmanship and fair play. Coaches must maintain respect for the game as well as for the referees. Coaches are charged with the responsibility of controlling their players and parents at all times during a match. Coaches lead and teach by example; your players will be a reflection of you.

- Coaches and assistant coaches are looked upon for basic knowledge of the game. Try to initiate the best you can the fundamentals of the game
- Coaches and assistant coaches should use positive reinforcement when dealing with players, never use foul or abusive language and never abuse a player mentally, verbally or physically.
- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to have respect for the authority of the referee and his/her assistants. They shall not harass, abuse or berate the referee during or after a match. They will not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both on and off the field. They are to teach the players the laws of the game, rules of fair play and proper match behavior.

### ***Players***

Players play soccer to have fun, to learn and develop a passion for the game, as well as to improve their skills. Players have a responsibility to their team, coach and soccer organization. They are representatives of the club as well as the team, coach, parents and the community. Players must maintain a high level of

sportsmanship and fair play. Players must have respect for their coach, opponents and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.

- Players will play within the laws of the game and the spirit of the game.
- Players are expected to be on time (the best they can) and prepared for matches and training sessions.
- Players will display self-control in all situations and will not use foul or abusive language at any time before, during or after a match or training session.
- Players will show respect toward the referee and his/her assistants, as well as towards the opponents. They shall not harass, abuse or berate a referee for any reason.

### ***Parents / Spectators***

Parents / Spectators must set the example for the children by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. Parents / Spectators participate in a match by watching, cheering and supporting the efforts of all participants of the match. Soccer must be fun. The game is for the children; their participation and enjoyment of the game are the most important elements.

Parents have responsibility to the coach, team and soccer organization of which they are a part of. Parents/Spectators must have respect for their coach, all children on the team, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.

- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for the authority of the referee and his/her assistants. They shall not harass, abuse or berate the referee during or after the match. They shall not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for the coach and his/her assistants; they should never criticize a coach in a public manner. Do not coach from the sidelines; let the coach do his/her job no matter how much you may disagree. If there is a problem, talk to the coach after leaving the match, preferably the following day. If you do not get a proper response please contact the Soccer director or the Athletic director of your organization.
- Parents/Spectators are not to use foul or abusive language towards anyone for any reason.
- Parents/Spectators are encouraged to get involved with the organization and promote the game in a positive way.
- Parents/Spectators must demonstrate the utmost in sportsmanship and integrity; they are the role models for their children.

## **Discipline**

St. Mary strives to put forth a soccer program that is both enjoyable and a learning experience for the children. Winning is second to making sure each child receives the attention, playing time and dignity he or she deserves.

Any coach, assistant coach, manager or parent found to be in violation of any of the policies or codes of conduct are subject to immediate dismissal from the match. Furthermore, the coach, assistant coach or manager is subject to review by the soccer committee and athletic director as to their future coaching opportunities.

**I have read and understand the St. Mary Policy and Code of Conduct handbook and agree to follow all policy and codes to their fullest intent.**

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Signed

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Date

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Witness