

# **Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Office**

## **Catholic School Athletic Association (CSAA) Handbook**



**2025-26**

# **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HANDBOOK**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- I. MISSION**
- II. PHILOSOPHY**
- III. GENERAL INFORMATION**
- IV. MEMBERSHIP**
- V. LEAGUE MANAGER**
- VI. SPORTS PARTICIPATION**
  - A. TEAMS**
  - B. COACHES**
  - C. PLAYERS**
- VII. LEAGUE PLAY**
  - A. RULES**
  - B. SCHEDULING**
  - C. RESCHEDULING GAMES**
  - D. FORFEITS**
  - E. GAME MANAGEMENT**
  - F. OFFICIALS**
  - G. PRACTICE**
- VIII. FINANCES**
- IX. SANCTIONS**
- X. PROTESTS / COMPLAINTS / APPEALS**
- XI. REVISIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO POLICY**
- XII. CODE OF CONDUCT**
- XIII. CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT WITH SIGNATURE PAGE**

## I. MISSION STATEMENT

The Catholic Schools Athletic Association (CSAA) provides an organized structure of interscholastic athletic programs for the students of the schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge to participate. The CSAA emphasizes fair competition, developing character and good sportsmanship, building teams as moral communities, and encouraging talent.

## II. PHILOSOPHY

Administrators of the Catholic elementary and middle schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge consider and use the uniqueness of the schools' circumstances to provide the best Catholic education possible for their students. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge endeavor to Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, Encourage Talent, and Embrace the Future for all students within their schools. Within this basic tenet, the priority of such schools is the overall development and growth of each of their students--spiritually, socially, mentally, emotionally, and physically. CSAA-sponsored interscholastic athletic programs shall provide a medium by which students can:

- Develop an awareness of their abilities
- Learn and improve their athletic skills
- Acquire the true meaning of and practice sportsmanship
- Be a part of a team effort
- Enhance their self-esteem and feelings of belonging
- Form foundations for a healthy adult lifestyle

Such programs should emphasize the positive accomplishments of the individual through recognition, praise, and positive constructive criticism. Athletics should be a component of, and interact with, the spiritual, social, and academic components of the overall school program. Administration, faculty, staff, parents, and fans are necessary components in nurturing a positive Catholic athletic experience.

## III. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Levels of Competition

Development of the skills fundamental to each sport receives primary emphasis on each athletic team offered in the CSAA. Each team's experience, however, may be slightly different depending on the level at which the team is competing.

LEVEL	Varsity	Junior Varsity	Developmental
	Teams at this level strive to prepare students for high school athletics.	Teams at this level serve as transitions from the developmental level to varsity level teams.	Teams at this level emphasize the development of fundamental skills.
SKILLS EMPHASIZED	-Advancing game strategies -Leadership skills on and off the field/court -Individual fundamentals reinforced and extended	-Importance of team cohesion -Individual fundamentals introduced and reinforced -Formal game strategies introduced	-Basic individual fundamentals -Introduction to team dynamics and rules of formal competition

#### **IV. MEMBERSHIP**

- A)** The CSAA leagues are open to any Catholic elementary or middle school in the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Principals must submit their school's intention to participate by the deadline set by the League Manager. Principals will receive information on joining the league at least two weeks prior to this deadline.
- B)** Any school not in the Diocese of Baton Rouge may, by written petition, request the Advisory Council to participate in a sport on a one sport-season basis. Approval of the Superintendent is required to approve such a request.
- C)** Principals of member schools are responsible for cooperating with the diocese and overseeing all activities in their schools to assure compliance with CSAA policies.
- D)** Select Principals will be invited to serve on the CSAA Advisory Council by the Superintendent. Principals may make recommendations for bylaws and policy amendments to the CSAA Advisory Council. The duties of the CSAA Advisory Council include:
  - 1.** Advise the Catholic Schools Office in matters pertaining to athletics.
  - 2.** Assist the Catholic Schools Office in coordinating all CSAA activities throughout the school year.
  - 3.** Serve as a Board of Appeals in CSAA matters if necessary.
  - 4.** Meet semi-annually to receive regular reports from the League Manager on the activities of the CSAA.
  - 5.** Advise and counsel the League Manager on CSAA rules and policies and assist in making any necessary revisions.
- E)** A mandatory meeting for Athletic Directors of all participating schools will be held annually in August. In the event the Athletic Director cannot attend, a representative designated by the Principal must be present. Important league information will be presented at this meeting.
- F)** Final approval for all matters pertaining to the operation of the CSAA rests with the Superintendent of Schools of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. The Superintendent reviews and approves all policies, proceedings, and activities to assure coordination with diocesan policy. The Superintendent may assign a designee to fulfill such responsibility. The Superintendent of Schools reserves the right to amend or change this handbook at any time.

#### **V. LEAGUE MANAGER**

The League Manager shall be hired as an independent contractor by the Superintendent with the advice and counsel of the CSAA Advisory Council. The League Manager is responsible for handling all aspects of CSAA activities, including the following:

- A)** To coordinate with the Catholic Schools Office for successful operation and programming of athletics between and among participating schools across the diocese.
- B)** To ensure quality programming and implementation of all aspects of CSAA activities.
- C)** To consult with the CSAA Advisory Council in planning for successful athletic activities.
- D)** To provide a League Manager Report at each CSAA Advisory Council meeting.
- E)** To work with school Athletic Directors and Coaches to create game schedules, obtain venues, and engage officials for contests.
- F)** To arrange for safety seminars, coaching clinics, and any other activities necessary for certification of coaches.
- G)** To enforce all CSAA rules and policies for proper functioning of league play.
- H)** To administer day-to-day operations and to handle any controversies that may arise.
- I)** To hear and respond to all complaints presented by member schools and associated stakeholders.
- J)** To create an annual budget for the CSAA and establish and oversee the league finances.
- K)** To perform any other duties required to maintain the athletic league in conjunction with the Catholic Schools Office.

## **VI. SPORTS PARTICIPATION**

Every participating school is encouraged to enter a team in each league of the CSAA program where possible. Participation in the girls' leagues is limited to eligible girls and participation in the boys' leagues is limited to eligible boys. Each school Principal shall be responsible for all the school's teams, coaches, and students participating in the CSAA.

### **A) Teams**

1. The CSAA will provide leagues in the following sports:
  - a. Fall (Sept and Oct)—Football and Girls Basketball
  - b. Winter (Dec, Jan, and Feb)—Boys Basketball
  - c. Spring (Mar and Apr)—Volleyball
2. Varsity Teams
  - a. Varsity teams may be entered by schools in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades (only 6th and 8th grades in football).
  - b. Each school can enter only one Varsity team per league unless given special permission by the League Manager.
3. Junior Varsity Teams
  - a. In the sports of Boys Basketball, Junior Varsity (JV) teams may also be entered in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. JV teams are for those athletes who are not a member of the Varsity teams.
  - b. A school can enter as many JV teams as it has players for, however the school must enter a Varsity team in order to play in the JV league.
4. Divisional Teams
  - a. In the sport of Girls Basketball, 7th and 8th graders will play together in one league. The teams in the 7th/8th grade league will be divided into Division I and Division II according to the strength of the team.
  - b. In the sport of Volleyball, all teams in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will be divided into Division I and Division II, by grade, according to the strength of the team.
  - c. Division I is for those teams with more skilled and experienced players. Schools may request to play in either division; however, the final decision will be made by the League Manager. Schools may have more than one team in a division.
5. Developmental Teams
  - a. Developmental Teams may be entered in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in Basketball, 4th grade in Football, and 5th grade in Volleyball.
  - b. A school can enter as many Developmental Teams as it has players for.
6. Due to a low number of players, students from more than one grade in a school may be combined to make a team, but that team must play in the league of the students in the higher grade. Mixed teams with players from more than one grade will be allowed to play in the JV league.
7. Students are not allowed to play on a team from another school, except for merged teams in Football approved by the League Manager.

### **B) Coaches**

1. Athletic experiences play an important role in the spiritual formation of students in Catholic education. Genuine and lasting spiritual development is only possible through careful and conscientious preparation by those in leadership positions. Coaches, as team leaders, are chosen not just to be mentors and role models for student-athletes, but also to be witnesses. Prayer should become an intentional component to a team's culture, not just a rushed event before or after a game or practice. Rather than emphasizing winning, prayers should focus on embodying the spirit of Christianity. Coaches are encouraged to build and create spiritual traditions into their approach to coaching in the Catholics School Athletic Association.
2. Coaches are called to be models and witnesses to their faith each day and as such, coaches are expected to uphold high standards of conduct in and out of season.
3. Verbal and non-verbal language should be appropriate and constructive. Coaches are expected to not only monitor their own language, but they should also set and enforce standards of appropriate language for their athletes. This includes, but is not limited to

swearing, harassment, exclusionary language, sexual innuendo, personal attacks, and unsportsmanlike gestures.

4. Although opponents are not a part of a team's school community, they are members of the larger body of Christ and should be treated as such. Coaches should model such respect for their athletes and should instruct players on how to welcome their opponents and all visitors in a way that conveys a sense of hospitality and community.
5. In a Catholic school, it is essential to demonstrate respect for all members of the school community. There is not an expectation that all students will be able to be members of a team, but when cuts are necessary, students should be treated fairly and with compassion. Coaches should provide individualized feedback to players rather than simply posting a list of team members. When individuals fail to make a team, alternative team roles should be considered, if possible.
6. Coaches' certification requirements are set by the Diocese and the League Manager. It is the responsibility of the Principal of each school to ensure that all coaches at that school meet those requirements.
7. The Head Coach of each team in any CSAA game must be a high school graduate, who has reached the age of eighteen years.
8. Every coach must complete a coach's certification and registration form with the Principal in order to coach in CSAA league games. This application form must be signed by the named coach and the Principal and kept on file at the school.
9. Each school will provide the name and contact information for all coaches to the League Manager on the Coaches / Site Supervisor Information Form prior to the start of league play.
10. The Head Coach, or a member of the school faculty, must accompany each team at each league scheduled contest. That person is responsible for the conduct of everyone associated with the team, including players, assistant coaches, students, parents, and fans.

### **C) Players**

1. A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to all students as set forth in the Catholic School Athletic Association Handbook and their respective school athletic handbook. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage behaviors in others that reflect good sportsmanship. If behavior infractions occur, student-athletes may face both a school and an athletic consequence.
2. A participant must be a student at the school that the team represents. (Exception: Football mergers between schools approved by CSAA League Manager.)
3. Players must be eligible under Baton Rouge Diocesan Catholic Schools Office academic standards. In addition, it is suggested that the respective Principals declare ineligible any player who has not shown enough application in his or her schoolwork.
4. Students can participate on a team on or above his or her current grade level; however, a student can only be on one roster and play on one team. Students are not allowed to play on a team in a lower grade.
5. Age requirements:
  - a. Minimum age: There is no minimum age requirement for participation on CSAA teams. However, coaches should consider a younger student's size, strength, and athletic ability carefully before allowing him or her to play with students in a higher grade.
  - b. Maximum age: Students will not be allowed to participate if they have reached the following ages prior to August 1st of the current school year:
    1. Grade 3: Age 10
    2. Grade 4: Age 11
    3. Grade 5: Age 12
    4. Grade 6: Age 13
    5. Grade 7: Age 14
    6. Grade 8: Age 15
6. A student may participate in the CSAA program as an 8th grade student only once in a sport. Therefore, a student repeating the 8th grade may participate only if that student did not

- participate on a CSAA team in that sport during the previous year.
7. A roster for each team shall be prepared and submitted to the League Manager prior to the deadline. It shall include the certified team members, coaches, and managers permitted to sit with the team on the bench. The official team roster form prepared by the League Manager is the only form that will be accepted.
  8. A player may be listed on only one roster; participation on more than one team is prohibited. Exceptions for special circumstances must be approved by the League Manager.
  9. Official team rosters must include the student's:
    - a. Name
    - b. Grade
    - c. Date of Birth
    - d. Jersey Number
    - e. Weight (4th and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Football Leagues only)
  10. Official team rosters must be signed by the Principal or Athletic Director.
  11. Each Principal shall be responsible for the eligibility of all players submitted on the team roster.
  12. Participation in any league game by an ineligible player shall result in a forfeit by the team with the ineligible player with possible further sanctions from the CSAA.
  13. Any roster additions after the deadline must be approved by the League Manager.
  14. Schools should have each player on their team's roster receive an annual physical examination prior to participation in play or practice with a CSAA team.
  15. Each student participating in CSAA activities is required to provide proof of health insurance as well as a release form for emergency treatment.
  16. All students in the Diocese of Baton Rouge receive accident insurance coverage. Brochures outlining the coverage and claim procedures are available at each member school.

## **VII. LEAGUE PLAY**

### **A) Rules**

1. Except as provided in CSAA League Rules, all rules will be in compliance with the National Federation of State High School Rules.
2. CSAA League Rules for each sport will be sent to each school prior to each sport season. These rules include information on equipment, uniforms, field and gym specifications, and special rules including:
  - a. Weight limits and restricted players in Football (except 8th grade league).
  - b. Mandatory play in all Basketball and Volleyball leagues (except 8th grade Varsity and Division I).
  - c. Special modified rules for Developmental and Junior Varsity leagues.
  - d. Any other exceptions to the National Federation rules.
3. Every Principal, Athletic Director, and Coach should have a complete knowledge and understanding of all league rules.

### **B) Scheduling**

1. The League Manager will draft a schedule for each league based on school location, enrollment, and venue availability, as well as other input from the Principals, Athletic Directors, and the Advisory Council.
2. In order to produce a schedule that is both accurate and timely, each school must turn in the following forms to the League Manager by the designated deadline:
  - a. The Schedule Form indicating the availability and willingness of a school to host a sufficient number of league contests for each of the school's athletic teams.
  - b. The Team Entry Form indicating which leagues the school is planning to enter teams in for that sport.
3. Any school withdrawing a team from the CSAA league after the scheduling process has begun will be required to pay a \$50.00 withdrawal fee to the CSAA.
4. The League Manager has the authority to reschedule games due to errors or oversights made in the original league schedule.

5. Teams participating in the CSAA leagues may schedule other games, but these games may not conflict with CSAA league games.
6. Schools may host tournaments, but play must not be in conflict with regularly scheduled CSAA play. The CSAA does not assume authority or responsibility for member school tournaments, that responsibility rests solely with the host school.
7. No team will be scheduled for more than two CSAA games or matches within a school week, Monday through Thursday.
8. No league game will begin prior to its scheduled start time.
9. No games will be scheduled for any team during the school's examination period.
10. No games will be scheduled on Sunday mornings or during the sacred days of the Easter Triduum.
11. The CSAA does not recognize or award any league championships. Furthermore, there will be no publication published by any CSAA school indicating a championship.

#### **C) Rescheduling Games**

1. Only the Principal of each participating school has the authority to approve schedule changes or game cancellations. Principals are advised to show all consideration and cooperation with other schools and the League Manager when making such a decision.
2. Whenever there is a schedule change, the League Manager must be notified immediately and informed as to why the schedule change was made and when the game is rescheduled for.
3. Rescheduling is the responsibility of the schools involved. When there is a conflict with the original schedule, both teams should work cooperatively to find a suitable time to reschedule the contest. The League Manager will be of assistance to the participating schools when needed.
4. The game(s) should be rescheduled on an available host site date based on the availability of the opponent to play on that date. If no alternate date can be agreed to, a visiting school requesting the schedule change will be required to pay a \$100.00 Loss of Revenue Fee to the home school. This fee may be waived by the League Manager if there are extenuating circumstances.
5. Whenever a game is rescheduled, the home school is responsible for informing the visiting school and the officials of the change in game time and date.

#### **D) Forfeits**

1. Failure to play a scheduled league game will result in a forfeit. If by the visiting team, a forfeit fee will be charged for each scheduled game forfeited. A forfeit fee will be equal to the cost to the host site in official's fees plus an additional \$100.00 loss of revenue penalty. If by the home team, and the visiting team was not notified prior to traveling to the game, the forfeit fee will be \$50.00 paid to the visiting team.
2. Collection of forfeit fees will be as follows: The League Manager will receive notice of the forfeit from the home school. This report will include the number of games forfeited and the school which caused the forfeit to occur. The League Manager will then collect the fees from that school and forward them to the appropriate school. Forfeited games are not required to be rescheduled, but the schools involved may choose to do so at a later date.
3. A team will be allowed a maximum of fifteen minutes grace time after the game time shown on the schedule to field an official team to avoid a forfeit. If the team arrives five minutes or less after the scheduled start time, the event will proceed as scheduled. If the team arrives five to fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time, for Football and Basketball, the game will be reduced by one minute of playing time in each quarter. For Volleyball, the match will be reduced from 25-25-15-point games to 20-20-15. The Site Supervisor, in conjunction with the officials, will mark the time and make the final decision.
4. If a team cannot field the appropriate number of players at a host site, the game will be forfeited, and no official game will be staged at the site for that grade division. Officials will not be required to officiate a practice or scrimmage session but may choose to do so at their own discretion.
5. The League Manager reserves the right to waive the forfeit fee if it is determined that a team was unable to play due to extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the school.

## **E) Game Management**

1. All participating schools will have the opportunity for hosting games on the schedule if they can provide the proper facilities for such. All playing standards required by the official rules of each sport and the CSAA must be met by the host school to be allowed to host CSAA games. This includes proper lighting where required, official field/court size requirements, field/court markings, and proper maintenance and safety precautions.
2. Schools that do not have facilities for hosting games may seek approved sites for games for which they are to be the host. The host school should check with the diocesan insurance carrier at least two weeks in advance for sites not owned by the school in case an insurance certificate needs to be secured. The League Manager must approve all host sites.
3. Spectators may not bring outside food or drink containers into the facility of any CSAA contest. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at CSAA games is prohibited.
4. Each host school will lead a general public prayer before each CSAA league contest.
5. Each host school must have a Site Supervisor present for each league scheduled event.
6. Each school will provide the name and contact information for the Site Supervisor, as well as any alternates who may serve in that capacity, to the League Manager on the Coaches / Site Supervisor Information Form prior to the start of league play.
7. Site Supervisor Responsibilities include:
  - a. Provide access to the facility and ensure that it is prepared for the upcoming contests.
  - b. Provide necessary equipment for the teams' warm-up and play.
  - c. Keep the scheduled contests running on time
  - d. Provide for the collection of an admission fee from spectators.
  - e. Ensure that scorekeepers, timers, and scoreboard operators are in place and working cooperatively with game officials.
  - f. Meet the visiting coaches upon arrival and show them where their team's dressing facilities are. Provide any other assistance they may require.
  - g. Meet with game officials upon arrival and provide any assistance required.
  - h. A few minutes prior to the start of the game, have a one- to two-minute meeting with the officials and both head coaches to go over any special CSAA rules and answer any questions they may have concerning those rules. Have the officials sign the Game / Match Report and inform them when and where they are to be paid.
  - i. Control spectator behavior, insofar as it can be reasonably expected. Working with the game officials and visiting coaches, remove unruly spectators or anyone who interferes with the orderly progress of the game or match.
  - j. Be prepared to call local law enforcement if a situation becomes uncontrollable or dangerous.
  - k. Collaborate with the game officials to determine if the contest should be postponed due to unsafe conditions or any other emergency.
  - l. Fill out a Game / Match Report after each contest and file it at the school. Game / Match Reports and Mandatory Play Forms are to remain with the host school until ten days after the regular season has ended.
  - m. Ensure that the Game / Match Report is signed by the Principal and sent to the League Manager within twenty-four hours if there are any ejections or unsportsmanlike actions during the event.
  - n. Site Supervisors are not allowed to serve as a coach for a team while they are fulfilling their duties.
  - o. For Site Supervisor duties specific to each sport, refer to the CSAA League Rules for that sport.

## **F) Officials**

1. Information on officials, including Assignment Secretary contact information and officials' fees, will be sent to each school by the League Manager prior to the start of league play.
2. Officials will be assigned to league games by the Assignment Secretary based on the schedule provided by the League Manager.

3. Officials will be paid in accordance with the Officials Fee Schedule for each sport provided by the League Manager.
4. Officials are to be paid by the host school no later than immediately following the last contest of the day.
5. Officials should be notified by the Athletic Director of the host school anytime there is a change in the league schedule.
6. Anytime a game is postponed or cancelled less than two hours prior to game time, the host school is expected to pay the officials just as if the game had been played. If an entire set of games is postponed or cancelled, the officials will be paid one game fee.
7. Officials who arrive at the game site are to be paid for games that are forfeited.
8. Officials should meet with the Site Supervisor prior to the first contest to review any special CSAA rules and sign the Game / Match Report.
9. Any complaints regarding officials should be sent in writing by the Principal to the League Manager. Public criticism of officials by the administration, coaches, players, or fans is not in accordance with the philosophy of the CSAA and is strongly discouraged.

#### **G) Practice**

During the summer months, when school is not in session, voluntary team practices are allowed only with the approval of the school Principal. (No Football gear—helmets or pads—is to be worn during these activities.) Students cannot be required to attend summer workouts in order to participate on the school team.

1. Teams are not allowed to hold organized practices during the school year prior to the date set by the CSAA to begin practice.
2. Post-season or spring, practice is not allowed.
3. Once the league schedule begins, teams can only hold practice on three of the four days, Monday through Thursday, during a school week and are discouraged from practicing on weekends.
4. Daily practice shall be limited to no more than two hours.
5. Teams are not allowed to practice during a school's examination period.
6. Player safety and well-being is of primary importance during team practices. Whenever practices must be held during periods of extreme heat, the CSAA Policy on Heat Illness Prevention (see Appendix II) should be followed.

### **VIII. FINANCES**

- A) Each school team participating in the CSAA league is required to pay a Team Entry Fee of \$60.00 prior to the deadline set by the League Manager.
- B) Prior to participation in a CSAA sport, each student must pay an Individual Entry Fee of \$25.00.
- C) All monies sent to the CSAA, including fines and fees, should be paid with a school check and mailed to the CSAA at the Catholic Schools Office, Post Office Box 2028, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028.
- D) All fees collected are used at the discretion of the Superintendent to carry out the objectives and purposes of the CSAA.
- E) Gate collection at athletic contests shall be the responsibility of the host school. Admission is \$5.00 for adults and high school students. Schools may charge \$6 admission for the convenience of using a credit card but *only if the school also has a \$5 cash option at the gate*. Free admission will be given to any student in the eighth grade or below. Gate fees are to be used by the host school at the discretion of the school Principal.
- F) As a private venue, the host school reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone.
- G) The League Manager will provide the Principal of each participating school with two CSAA passes per sport for each school that enters a varsity team into the league (three for Football), as well as an additional administrative pass. These passes are to be distributed among coaches and administrators at the discretion of the Principal. Persons presenting a CSAA pass shall be given free admission to all CSAA league contests. (CSAA passes are NOT valid for tournaments.)

## **IX. SANCTIONS**

- A)** The League Manager, in consultation with the CSAA Advisory Council and with approval from the Superintendent, may take whatever actions he or she deems necessary in establishing sanctions for violation of the CSAA guidelines, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures. Depending on the severity of the infraction and considering any past violations, the following actions may be taken against players, coaches, spectators, and/or school staff:
1. Mandatory meeting with League Manager and/or the Principal to discuss infractions.
  2. Probation.
  3. Suspension from one or more athletic contests.
  4. Be declared ineligible to participate in CSAA activities.
  5. Other penalties may be levied by the League Manager in the case of more severe infractions.
- B)** The Principal is ultimately responsible for all players, coaches, spectators, and school staff associated with the school teams. Any sanctions provided by the League Manager toward members of the school community should have the blessing and support of the school Principal. Principals are encouraged to take further action within the school setting when appropriate.
- C)** All unsportsmanlike actions, including penalties, technical fouls, and ejections, are to be reported to the League Manager within twenty-four hours and a summary of the incident should be included in the Game / Match Report turned in by the Site Supervisor.
- D) Players:**
1. Any player ejected from a league contest will receive an automatic one-game suspension. This suspension will be for the next league contest played by the team.
  2. The ejected player is required to meet with the League Manager before he or she is allowed to return to play after the suspension.
  3. In the case of severe or multiple infractions, the League Manager has the authority to provide further sanctions.
- E) Coaches:**
1. The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of all persons in the team's bench area.
  2. Any coach ejected from a league contest will receive an automatic one-game suspension. This suspension will be for the next league contest played by the team.
  3. The ejected coach is required to meet with the League Manager before he or she is allowed to return after the suspension.
  4. In the case of severe or multiple infractions, the League Manager has the authority to provide further sanctions.
- F) Spectators:**
1. The Site Supervisor and host management are responsible for spectator behavior, insofar as it can reasonably control the spectators. The visiting Head Coach or Athletic Director, if present, is responsible for the conduct of everyone associated with his team, including players, assistant coaches, students, parents, and fans.
  2. When a spectator becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the game, the referee shall suspend play until the Site Supervisor can resolve the situation and the game can proceed in an orderly manner. At the request of the Site Supervisor, the visiting Head Coach or Athletic Director should address the conduct of the students and fans from his or her school.
  3. In the event someone must be removed from the premises due to his or her ejection, the referee shall suspend play until the offender leaves. The Site Supervisor may request the Head Coach or Athletic Director of the visiting team to assist in this process.
  4. In the event the offender refuses to leave the premises within three minutes of being ejected, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.
  5. Any threats or violent gestures made by the offender will result in a call to law enforcement.
  6. Spectators who have been ejected from a stadium or gym will be reported to the school Principal.
  7. The school Principal is expected to meet with the offending party and provide any sanctions he or she deems appropriate, including at least a one-game suspension. The League Manager will provide necessary support and counsel if needed.
  8. Multiple ejections of a spectator will result in the loss of privilege to attend CSAA events.

## **X. PROTESTS / COMPLAINTS / APPEALS**

- A)** Based on the Mission and Philosophy of our organization, protests are not allowed in the CSAA leagues.
- B)** If a parent or fan has a complaint concerning a team, he or she should first address the issue with the Head Coach.
- C)** If the Head Coach cannot resolve the issue, or if the complaint involves the Head Coach, the issue should be brought to the Athletic Director. If the complaint involves another school, the Athletic Director will contact the Athletic Director of the other school to resolve this issue.
- D)** If the Athletic Director cannot resolve the issue, or if the complaint involves the Athletic Director, the issue should be brought to the school Principal. If the complaint involves another school, the school Principal will contact the Principal of the other school to resolve this issue.
- E)** If the matter is still not resolved, both Principals may address the issue with the League Manager.
- F)** The decision of the League Manager, with advice from the Advisory Council and approval by the Superintendent or her designee, is final.
- G)** The League Manager will be available to consult and counsel Coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals during this entire process.

## **XI. REVISIONS/MODIFICATIONS TO POLICY**

The Superintendent of Catholic Schools or her/his designee may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools or her/his designee has the final decision with regards to any policy.

## **XII. CODE OF CONDUCT**

Through the vehicle of CSAA activities, we train our youth to become young men and women of good character and sportsmanship, to develop positive relationships with other participants, and to become better Christians as part of a moral community. The actions and behavior of everyone involved—players, coaches, and spectators—should reflect our desire to always follow the mission and philosophy of the CSAA. Prior to participating in CSAA activities, the Code of Conduct Agreement (see Appendix I) must be reviewed and signed by every player, parent, and coach. This signed Agreement will be kept on file at the school where the student attends.

**APPENDIX I--2024-25 CSAA CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sport:** \_\_\_\_\_

*The Catholic School Athletic Association (CSAA) is dedicated to Evangelizing Hearts, Educating Minds, Encouraging Talent and Embracing Future for all students in the Diocese of Baton Rouge.*

**PLAYERS will always**

- follow the regulations set up by the CSAA, the school, and the church parish.
- respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contests. Technical fouls, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, and ejections are never acceptable.
- treat opposing players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
- conduct themselves in a positive manner, reflecting Catholic Christian values.
- adhere to the decisions of the league manager, school principal, and pastor of the parish.

**COACHES will always**

- follow the regulations set up by the CSAA, the school, and the church parish.
- respect the judgment of officials and abide by the rules of the contests. Arguing with officials, technical fouls, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, and ejections are never acceptable.
- set a good example for players and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- treat opposing players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect.
- instruct players in proper sportsmanship and demand they behave accordingly.
- coach in a positive manner, encouraging players through positive reinforcement.
- be drug-, alcohol-, and tobacco-free at all CSAA practices and games.
- ensure that my behavior and actions are always representative of the moral community that I am charged with building.
- adhere to the decisions of the league manager, school principal, and pastor of the parish.

**SPECTATORS will always**

- respect decisions made by contest officials and never publicly criticize their work.
- be a role model for our youth by positively supporting teams and not shouting instructions or criticism to the players or coaches.
- remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not mine.
- not make derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, spectators of the opposing team, officials, or game administrators.
- be drug-, alcohol-, and tobacco-free at all CSAA games.
- ensure that my behavior and actions are always representative of my commitment to the mission and philosophy of the CSAA.
- adhere to the decisions of the league manager, school principal, and pastor of the parish.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Each coach, player and parent must sign the Code of Conduct Agreement prior to participation in any CSAA activity. Violations of this code may result in coaches, players, and/or spectators being suspended from participation in CSAA activities or additional penalties as explained under the sanctions section of the CSAA Handbook. My signature below indicates that I have read the CSAA Code of Conduct and agree to follow these guidelines in my presence and participation at CSAA events.

<div>Signature _____ Date _____</div> <div>____ Player      ____ Parent      ____ Coach</div>	<div>Signature _____ Date _____</div> <div>____ Player      ____ Parent      ____ Coach</div>
---	---

## APPENDIX II

# CSAA Policy on Heat Illness Prevention

1. Physical exertion and training activities should begin slowly and continue progressively.
  - A. Begin with shorter, less intense practices and training activities, with longer recovery intervals between bouts of activity.
  - B. The first five (5) days that a team practices should be in shorts, without pads. Helmets are permitted. The next five (5) days that a team practices should be in shorts. Helmets and shoulder pads are permitted.
  - C. Emphasize instruction over conditioning during the first several practices.
2. Keep each athlete's individual level of conditioning and medical status in mind and adjust activity accordingly. These factors directly affect exertional heat illness risk.
3. Adjust intensity (lower) and rest breaks (increase frequency/duration), and consider reducing uniform and protective equipment, while being sure to monitor all players more closely as conditions are increasingly warm/humid, especially if there is a change in weather from the previous few days.
4. Athletes must begin practices and training activities adequately hydrated and should be provided with ample opportunities for regular fluid replacement during practice.
5. All coaches should be educated on the dangers of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, including prevention, signs and symptoms, and treatment of players suffering from these conditions (see PowerPoint presentation given by Dr Geoffrey Hogan and Dr Sean Bradley from Oschner Sports Medicine Institute on July 18, 2023, at the LHSAA Coaches Convention).
6. We will follow the following guidelines for practicing football set forth by the Korey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut based on the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature at the time of practice (temperatures are in degrees Fahrenheit).
  - A. Under 82.0—normal activities with regular breaks during practice.
  - B. 82.0-86.9—use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise. Watch at-risk players carefully. Provide at least 3 rest breaks per hour.
  - C. 87.0-89.9—players restricted to helmets, shoulder pads, and shorts. All protective equipment must be removed during conditioning. Provide at least 4 rest breaks per hour.
  - D. 90.0-92.0—maximum practice time 1 hour with no protective equipment. No conditioning activities and 20 minutes of the 1 hour should be rest.
  - E. Over 92.0—no outdoor workouts until cooler WBGT level is reached.

NOTE TO COACHES: The ZELUS WBGT app can be added to your phone and will give you an accurate WBGT at your location.