



2016-2017
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

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Dear Parents, Students, and Coaches,

On July 28, 2013 Pope Francis greeted millions of young people on Copacabana Beach. In his speech, Pope Francis asked the youth to train their faith, just as soccer players do with their skills. These words should hold true for every athlete at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School. In Pope Francis' words "BE TRUE ATHLETES OF CHRIST!"

Welcome to Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School! Many wonderful opportunities await you! As a school community, we must focus on how sports can bring about good in the lives of our students. Sports, like our school, should work together to develop our students not only academically, but athletically. We should strive to develop the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. The beauty of sports is in the working, not as an individual, but as a team. This teamwork will bring about sportsmanship, self-discipline, and self-confidence. They will provide valuable lessons for winning or losing. And, in the end the winning or losing will bring about a deeper commitment to the team and to our faith all in His name. May each athlete achieve their God-given athletic ability.

Blessings,

**Mrs. Tully
Principal**

**Mr. Moreau
Administrative Assistant Principal
Athletic Director**

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athletics

Mission Statement of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School

It is our mission at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School to educate and to develop students socially, morally, intellectually, culturally, and spiritually. As a Kindergarten through Eighth Grade mission of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, we welcome boys and girls from varied backgrounds. In addition to our commitment to academic excellence, creative teaching, and Christian values, we also seek to inspire in our students a joyful and heartfelt relationship with Jesus Christ within the fullness of the Catholic Faith.

Mission Statement of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athletics

The mission of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athletic Department is to provide each athlete with a program emphasizing Catholic virtues, fitness, team spirit, and each individual's God-given potential. The Athletic Department strives to develop each individual's mind, body, and spirit in order to make them contributing members of the greater OLR Community.

Philosophy

I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Philippians 4:13

Participation on an Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School athletic team is a privilege. With this privilege comes expectations and responsibilities. These expectations and responsibilities exist both on campus and off campus. They exist in both athletic and non-athletic settings. OLR athletes should always seek the support of Jesus in all they think, say, and do. Remember His love will never fail.

Conference Affiliation

Sports Teams at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School compete in the Carolina Middle School Conference.

Registration Information

Nondiscriminatory Policy

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin in the administration of educational, admissions, and school administered policies and programs.

Procedure for Registration

A student can become a full, participating member of an Our Lady of the Rosary athletic team once the following requirements are met:

- 1. Student and parent/guardian have completed and returned the Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athletic Permission Form**
- 2. Student and parent/guardian have read the Our Lady of the Rosary Athletic Handbook and signed the Athletic Contract**

Athletic Permission Form

Our Lady of the Rosary students wishing to participate in a sport must fill out an Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athletic Permission Form. This form is accessible at the end of this handbook (see Appendix A) and in the main office of the school. Permission forms must be completed and returned on or before the deadline set before the first tryout/practice date. Any student who decides to participate on a team after the deadline should see the Athletic Director before attending practice. Deadlines are not intended to prevent a student from participating on a sports team, but they are necessary to make sure that team sizes do not become too large to allow for proper instruction of participants. A permission form need only be completed one time during the school year. Please indicate in the spaces provided at the top of the form, which sports the student may be interested in playing.

Preseason Orientation Meeting

Prior to beginning each sport season, the Athletic Director/Coach will hold a *mandatory* meeting for all potential student-athletes. During this meeting the Athletic Handbook reviewed. The coaches will also facilitate a sport-specific discussion group during this meeting to introduce themselves and share their

expectations specific to the sport. Parents should contact the Athletic Director prior to the meeting should the student not be able to attend.

Fees

All sports offered at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School have different costs required for operation. Student athletes and their families are required to pay the per sport fee to cover part of the operating costs, uniforms cost, equipment costs, and tournament fees. Students and their families may be asked to provide their own personal equipment for certain sports.

Financial constraints should not inhibit any student from participating in student athletics. For financial assistance for Our Lady of the Rosary athletics, please contact the principal.

General Information

Levels of Competition

Development of the skills fundamental to each sport receives primary emphasis on each athletic team offered at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School. Each team experience, however, may be slightly different depending on the level at which the team is competing.

Athletic Teams at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School offers the following sports as recognized by the Carolina Middle School Conference to students in grades 5 - 8 (unless otherwise noted):

SEASON	GIRLS	BOYS
Fall	Volleyball Cross-Country	Cross-Country
Winter	Basketball Grades 5-8	Basketball Grades 5-8
Spring	Archery non-conference Grades 4-8	Archery non-conference Grades 4-8

Transportation Policy

In accordance with the policies of the Diocese of Charleston, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School does not provide any transportation to or from athletic events. All transportation is privately arranged by parents/guardians. Our Lady of the Rosary and the Diocese of Charleston assume no liability for accidents that may occur en route to any sporting practice or activity.

Tryouts

Announcements of tryout dates will occur over the loud speaker and by flyer posted prior to tryout dates. Tryout flyers will be sent home in Thursday folder, and appear in the Teacher Weekly Newsletter. Students in grades 6 through 8 (grades 4 and 5 on occasion) may try out for any Our Lady of the Rosary sports team. **Students and parents should be reminded that not all students who try out will be chosen for a particular sport.**

Coaching Expectations and Requirements

Coaches are first and foremost educators, and must work in coordination with the parents who are the primary educators of children. At all times, coaches must be examples of Christ the Teacher who serve as role models for student-athletes to emulate. They must be messengers of the school mission and ensure that athletic programs embody the Catholic characteristics prevalent at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School.

Goal Setting

When working with Our Lady of the Rosary student-athletes, a successful coach will work towards goals in the following three dimensions: team, personal, and school.

Team Goals

Our Lady of the Rosary coaches build a team by:

- 1. Advancing the athletes' understanding of their role as members of a team centered in faith.**
- 2. Creating a positive and memorable experience that will be cherished by the student-athlete for the rest of his/her life.**
- 3. Teaching the specific and unique skills of this sport to the very best of his/her abilities by using all means, methods, and resources available.**
- 4. Teaching the skills of healthy competition that will prepare athletes and the team to succeed.**

Personal Goals

Our Lady of the Rosary coaches grow as individuals by:

- 1. Modeling character, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and a lived faith.**
- 2. Appreciating the moments of grace throughout a season, at times of winning and losing.**
- 3. Becoming a lifelong learner of their sport.**
- 4. Maintaining perspective in and throughout all athletic endeavors, realizing teachable moments exist in all experiences.**
- 5. Fostering positive relationships with all school community stakeholders.**

School Goals

Our Lady of the Rosary coaches contribute to the school community by:

- 1. Incorporating the school mission in all athletic activities.**
- 2. Promoting academic excellence as an essential component in the development of student-athletes. Refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for further academic information.**
- 3. Committing to effective communication with administrators, teachers, parents, and athletes.**
- 4. Supporting the development of student-athletes as leaders and role models in the greater school community, greater Greenville Community, and Diocese of Charleston community.**
- 5. Creating a culture of school unity and spirit as exemplified through sportsmanship, positive fan participation, and respect for all.**

Conduct of Coaches

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.

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 their athletes. This includes, but is not limited to swearing, harassment, exclusionary language, sexual innuendo, personal attacks, and unsportsmanlike gestures.

Treatment of Opponents

Although opponents are not a part of our school community, they are members of the larger faith community 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 Our Lady of the Rosary hospitality and community.

Prayer

Athletic experiences play an important role in the spiritual formation of students at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School. Genuine and lasting spiritual development is only possible through careful and conscientious preparation by those in leadership positions. Coaches, as team leaders, are chosen to be mentors and role models. 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 at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School.

Tryouts

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.

Coaching Duties

In addition to serving as faith and role models, Our Lady of the Rosary coaches are expected to fulfill the following duties:

- **Plan practices and games**
- **Supervise athletes at all time until they are picked up from practices and games**
- **Condition athletes properly**
- **Assess athletes' readiness for practice and games**
- **Instruct properly on what to do and what not to do**
- **Maintain safe playing conditions**
- **Ensure cleanliness of facilities**
- **Provide proper equipment**
- **Communicate practice and schedules to athletes and parents**

Communication with Athletes and Parents

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School coaches should establish clear procedures and guidelines for communication with athletes and parents that align with the philosophy and mission of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School. E-mail should be used only to communicate basic information, such

as time and location of games and practices. Discussions of concerns should always be done in person. If a face-to-face meeting is not possible, a phone call is acceptable. Before meetings, establish clear agendas and communicate that certain topics will not be discussed. Coaches do not have to discuss playing time, coaching strategies and specific plays, or information pertaining to other athletes. Coaches must communicate through email and text messages and copy the Athletic Director/Administrative Assistant Principal.

Awards and Recognition

The Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athletics Program hosts an annual Sports Banquet at the conclusion of the spring season. Coaches are expected to attend the evening to publicly introduce their players and summarize their season. Recognition of athletes should take place at the banquet and also throughout the season. Particular recognition of athletes should embody the goals and philosophies of the athletic department and program, not only physical talent. Some areas of recognition may include one's academics, sportsmanship, and Catholic nature/spirituality.

Student Expectations and Requirements

Students and parents should recognize that participation in the athletic program is not a right of all students, but rather a privilege to those selected individuals who possess the ability, attitude, disposition, cooperative spirit, and desire to represent the OLR Ccommunity in a favorable way. By joining the school's athletic program, a student becomes a representative of his/her team and of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School.

Eligibility and Probation

We expect student-athletes to maintain academic and behavioral standards in keeping with the OLR Student-Parent Handbook and the teachings of the Catholic Church. These regulations and procedures apply while on school premises, during practices and games/competitions. A student will be considered *ELIGIBLE* to participate in interscholastic athletics at OLR School if their most recent academic report reflects:

- ❖ A "C" average in each subject
- ❖ A satisfactory grade or better in all Related Arts
- ❖ Attribute grades indicating satisfactory conduct

A student-athlete will be considered *ON PROBATION* should his/her most recent academic report reflect any one or a combination of the following academic grades or conduct:

- 1. One failing grade in any subject**
- 2. Below satisfactory in any special subjects**
- 3. One incomplete in any subject**
- 4. Below satisfactory conduct in any subject**

A student-athlete will also be considered *ON PROBATION* should his/her behavior require:

- 1. Removal from a classroom**
- 2. After-school detentions—TBD by Athletic Director**
- 3. Out-of-school suspension**

Probation is one, two (2)-week period* during which a student-athlete works to improve his/her grades and/or conduct. During this two-week period, a student is still considered a full, participating member of the athletic team, but time should be spent wisely in improving one's grades and conduct. Student-athletes are encouraged to seek extra help from those teachers in courses where he/she is struggling either before school or after school. The OLR faculty and staff are always willing to assist students in their academic studies and personal growth as young adults.

***The only exception to the two-week probationary period is the Incomplete. As soon as the student-athlete makes up the work that caused the incomplete AND the work is to the satisfaction of the appropriate teacher, the student-athlete is no longer on probation.**

*** The Athletic Director/Principal may override the probation period at their discretion.**

Evaluating Probationary Improvement

A student-athlete remains a full, participating member of a team if his/her grades at the end of the probationary two-week period reflect a passing average or better in every class, and the student-athlete maintained conduct in keeping with the OLR Student-Parent Handbook and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Ineligibility

A student-athlete will be considered *INELIGIBLE* for interscholastic sports at OLR should there be no improvement after the two-week probationary period. *Ineligibility* means that a student-athlete may NOT participate in interscholastic athletics at OLR for the remainder of the season. This will result in the removal of the student from the team's roster. All student-athletes are allowed one (1) probationary period per school year. Should a student-athlete fail to meet the academic and behavior standards outlined above more than once during a school year, he/she will be considered ineligible and will no longer be permitted to participate in interscholastic sports at OLR for the remainder of the school year.

Student-Athlete Expectations

A student-athlete's behavior is governed by the same rules, regulations, and procedures that apply to all students as set forth in the OLR Parent-Student Handbook. Each student-athlete is expected to demonstrate and encourage in others behaviors that reflect good sportsmanship and Christian values. If behavior infractions occur, student-athletes may face both a school and an athletic consequence.

Attendance

All student-athletes must be marked as present in school on the day of practice or a game in order to participate. Please see the *Parent-Student Handbook* for what constitutes an absence.

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, please make sure the coach and/or athletic director has been notified *in advance*. Consequences for a missed practice or game will be informed by the team rules as outlined by the coach/team at the beginning of the season in addition to the natural consequences that result from missing practice instruction or game experience.

Dress Code/Uniforms

Student-Athletes are highly visible representatives of the school and, as such, are responsible for using good judgment in their overall appearance. All teams, regardless of level, have a responsibility to ensure that their game attire speaks volumes of their class and excellence. All game shirts will be tucked in. No player should make modifications to his or her uniform. Athletes are to wear a school issued uniform and treat their uniform with respect. Teams that treat their uniforms with respect, exude class.

Uniforms must be returned to the athletic director within seven (7) days of the last game. Progress reports and/or report cards may be withheld until the uniform is returned. If a uniform is not returned, parents are responsible for the cost of replacing the uniform.

Sportsmanship

Players

All student-athletes are expected to represent Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both on and off the court or field. Student-athletes are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches for each sport along with input from the athletic director. 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. The athletic director and principal will make the final decision following a meeting with the athlete, coach, and parent.

Transfer Students/Injured Students

Transfer students or students injured at the beginning of a season will be awarded a tryout for a team if there is one more than half of the games left in that sport's season. Transfer and injured students are guaranteed the same tryout duration as the other athletes, though they are not guaranteed placement.

Expectations of Parents and Stakeholders

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School coaches and administrators respect the primacy of the parents as the first teachers of their student-athletes, and will partner with parents in the formation of student-athletes. Parents and other members of the community play a vital role in the 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 Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School permeates the athletics program.

Top 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. When talking about the game, season, performances and decision-making, please share the gift of a positive outlook on life! Make sure that your child knows that win or lose, he/she is loved and supported.**
- 3. Encourage independence – Encourage student-athletes to be responsible for the care of their athletic gear and to be prepared for practices and games. In addition, student-athletes should speak directly with their coach about any questions and/or concerns.**
- 4. Observe the “24 Hour Cushion” – As do all good educators, OLR coaches will naturally and deliberately reflect on game situations and decisions. Please allow coaches the time they need to process their decisions before approaching them with any questions. As stated above, coaches need not discuss playing time, coaching strategies and specific plays, or information pertaining to other athletes.**
- 5. Model OLR’s behavior expectations for visiting spectators – Take pride in our athletic program and model for visitors how we...**
 - i. Cheer for our team rather than against our opponents.**
 - ii. Respect the integrity and authority of game officials.**
 - iii. Allow coaches to coach without criticism from the spectators.**
 - iv. Help clean up at the end of athletic events.**

All parents of student athletes are expected to represent Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School in an exemplary manner. This behavior is expected both at practices and games. Parents of student athletes are expected to display the best of Christian courtesy and manners to all officials, coaches, opposing coaches, players, and spectators. At all times good sportsmanship is the rule, not the exception. The penalty for unsportsmanlike behavior during a practice or game will be left to the discretion of the coaches for each sport along with input from the athletic director and the principal. This can range from a parent being asked to not attend games to a parent being banned from attending any games. In extreme cases, the student athlete may also be dismissed from the team. The athletic director and principal will make the final decision following a meeting with the athlete, coach, and parent.

Transportation

Transportation to/from practices and games is the sole responsibility of the parents. Please ensure that your student-athlete is picked up promptly at the end of each practice/game. If student athlete is to be picked up by another adult, please notify the School Office, Athletic Director, and coach. Parent should write a note with all pick-up information.

Removal from Team – Parent Decision

The Principal, Athletic Director/Administrative Assistant Principal and Coaches will respect and support the decision of a parent to remove his or her child from a team for any reason. However, once the child is removed, he or she may not return to that team for the remainder of the sport season.

Revisions/Modifications to Policy

The Principal/Athletic Director/Administrative Assistant Principal may make changes to any policies outlined in this handbook as needed, and has the final decision with regards to any policy. Changes will be made public in the weekly letter.

The Principal has the authority to remove a student or cancel a season if student-athletes or parents are not adhering to Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School standards.

7-1-16

ATHLETIC CONTRACT

Please initial each statement below to acknowledge your agreement to this contract. Then, sign the form at the bottom and return to the School Office to be eligible for participation.

As an Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Athlete...

___ **I will strive to give my best to the team in every practice and every game.**

___ **I will be on time for all practices and games.**

___ **I will not miss a practice or game because of another outside sport or extra-curricular activity unless approved by the coach or athletic director.**

___ **I will take my coaches' directions and comments as constructive suggestions, which make me a better athlete and my team a successful unit.**

___ **Practice is where I learn the concepts of the game. How I apply those concepts in mind and body in practice will carry over into the game situation.**

___ **I will always play hard, but always will be a fair sport whether we are winning or losing the game, realizing that everyone on my team and my opponent's team is playing for fun and the competitive experience.**

___ **I will carry these principles to my schoolwork and my family life with the realization that these are of greatest importance and take precedence to any sport.**

___ **I will be an example of Christ in all my actions on and off the field/court of competition.**

___ **I have read the athletic handbook and agree to follow the policies and procedures as stated.**

Player Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE