

## COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS

*You know that while all the runners in the stadium take part in the race, the award goes to one person. In that case, run so as to win! Athletes deny themselves all sorts of things. They do this to win a crown of leaves that withers, but we, a crown that is imperishable. I do not run like one who loses sight of the finish line. I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. What I do is discipline my own body and master it, for fear that after having preached to others, I myself should be rejected.*

*(1Cor. 9: 24-27)*

The Catholic School is unique because of its total commitment to the three-fold purpose of Christian education: message, community and service. It creates an atmosphere where Catholic faith can be integrated with life and learning. All those involved in a Catholic school - parents, pastors, faculty and staff, administrators and students - must strive to make it a community of faith which indeed is living, conscious, and active.

Recognizing that athletics plays an integral role in the overall development of the whole person, the Catholic schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg support such programs as part of their ministry. In carrying out this ministry, the coach will:

- Be mindful that each student is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be treated with Christian dignity.
- Be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education and formation of the student-athlete, and thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest Christian ideals.
- Treat each player as an individual, remembering the great range of emotional and physical development for students of the same age group.
- Uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all dealings with student-athletes, game personnel, athletic directors, school administrators, state athletic associations, media and public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- Take an active role in the education and prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. Coaches must also abstain from the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with or in proximity to players.
- Promote the entire interscholastic program and direct the program in accord with the total school philosophy. Schedules for practices and competitions should be coordinated with other co-curricular events so that students can participate in more than one activity if they choose.
- Master the contest rules and teach these rules to the members of the team and the working staff. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the rules or of the spirit for which they were intended.
- Exert influence to increase sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and school personnel.
- Respect and support game personnel. The coach shall not indulge in conduct that would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical and will not be tolerated.
- Meet and exchange greetings with the coaches of the competing team in order to set a correct and proper tone for the event.
- Encourage students to give priority to their studies so that they can remain academically eligible.
- Scout opponents using only official means as adopted by the league and/or state association.
- Place the spiritual, emotional and physical welfare of the players above a personal desire to win. Affirm and congratulate effort and good sportsmanship whether the game has been won or lost.

