

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ACADEMY

Athletes' Handbook

2026-2027

St. Vincent's Academy Athletes' Handbook

Mission and Philosophy

As stated in the Parent Student Handbook, our mission, in part "is to develop the minds, bodies, and souls of students in accordance with the perennial educational and moral principles of the Roman Catholic Church." Athletics are a critical portion of our program, providing a venue in which our young men can very directly develop a firm physical foundation upon which to build the higher moral virtues.

We do not have an interscholastic sports program in order to accrue championship banners or develop young athletes for the next level of competition; rather we, recognizing our composite human nature, include athletics in the boys' school for those reasons clearly stated by Pope Pius XII in the middle of last century:

> *Sport, properly directed, develops character, makes a man courageous, a generous loser, and a gracious victor; it refines the senses, gives intellectual penetration, and steels the will to endurance. It is not merely a physical development then. Sport, rightly understood, is an occupation of the whole man, and while perfecting the body as an instrument of the mind, it also makes the mind itself a more refined instrument for the search and communication of truth and helps man to achieve that end to which all others must be subservient, the service and praise of his Creator."* (Sport at the Service of the Spirit. July 29, 1945)

Involvement in any extracurricular activity is a privilege that carries with it a great deal of responsibility as well as a year-round commitment. The lessons learned through athletics go beyond the field of play; these values shape our virtues long after graduation.

Communication

Parent/coach communication is important for all athletic programs. Coaches and Athletic Directors will communicate with parents primarily through email. Every coach will conduct a parent meeting at the beginning of each sport season to discuss program expectations and address any parental or athlete questions. We strongly encourage each parent to attend these meetings to aid in the communication process.

If questions or issues a parent has concerning their child arise during the season, please set up a meeting with the coach outside of practice or game times. During and after practices and games, coaches have responsibilities to the team and should not be meeting with parents at those times.

The MSHSAA requires member schools to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all in attendance at athletic contests. Restrictions and controls on spectator behavior fall under this jurisdiction and will be enforced.

MSHSAA Annual Preparticipation Requirements

The following rules and regulations are excerpts from the MSHSAA Official Handbook. St. Vincent's Academy is a registered affiliate member of this association and will do its utmost to abide by these rules and regulations.

Prior to each year of interscholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement, signed by the student's parents or guardians, which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics.

The school shall require of each student participating in athletics a physician's certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in athletic contests of his school.

MSHSAA Bylaw 3.8.1 and 4.5.4 now allows a physical exam certified by a medical professional (MD/DO/ARNP/PA/Chiropractor) to be valid for a duration of two years (730 days) from date of issue (unless a physician specifically notes on the PPE that the physical is only valid for one year).

A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he has healthcare insurance coverage or a healthcare expense payment plan.

A student shall complete annually a course on Concussion in Sports.

Eligibility

Students who participate in extracurricular activities should not jeopardize their grades by sacrificing too much study time to non-academic functions. Good grades and good conduct are always expected as prerequisites for participation in any extracurricular activity.

Requirements:

An overall grade average of 70% or above, AND
No more than one failing grade, AND
No failing conduct grade in any subject.

Eligibility for a given activity will be established, subject to final determination by the Principal, for that entire activity (e.g. sport season) based upon grades from the most recently completed academic quarter. For example, eligibility for football (a fall sport) will be determined based upon the fourth quarter grades of the previous academic year.

Only bona fide students of St. Vincent de Paul Academy are eligible to represent the Academy in interscholastic activities. A student shall be considered bona fide at only one school at any point in time and may not represent any other school in an interscholastic sport or activity. (MSHSAA 2.1) A student that represents any other school (including a homeschool association) in an interscholastic sport or activity is ineligible to participate on St. Vincent's teams for 365 days. To help students and parents to understand this eligibility rule and its effects, any student wishing to join a non-Academy team must request permission from the Principal in writing. Permission is needed for each season.

Club teams: (MSHSAA 3.13.2): A student may practice or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in organized non-school competition in a different sport than the school sport in season under the following conditions:

- No school time is missed to compete, practice for, or travel to the site of such non-school competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.
- Not Representing the School: The student shall not represent the school and shall not use school uniforms or equipment.

Citizenship: (MSHSAA 2.2.2) A student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities … shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty … has been satisfied. Moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, or injuries to others.

A student's eligibility status (eligible or ineligible) will remain unchanged for the season unless the Principal changes a student's status based upon poor or commendatory performance in any area.

Additional Considerations

• Students are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities on any day they are absent from school. This includes students who are absent for morning classes and arrive at school after lunch.
• Students on suspension or disciplinary probation are ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities.
• Students who receive a major detention are suspended from extracurricular activities for a minimum of one week.
• Students who are on the ineligible list are encouraged to utilize their time studying in order to regain eligibility. Ineligible students are, therefore, not permitted to remain at school to watch any extracurricular activity or practice.
• Students who violate any Academy rule, regulation, or policy may be declared ineligible at the discretion of the Principal.
• The Principal reserves the right to waive these restrictions on a case-by-case basis.

MSHSAA 2.2.5 Student Responsibility: Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his eligibility under the above standards. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery.

Disciplinary Action

School personnel will confiscate these and other inappropriate items.

• Cell or smart phones or devices, including smart watches.

  • Students may take parent approved phones on school trips for communication purposes only, but must hand them over, at the beginning of the trip, to a school trip supervisor (the coach for a team trip), who will give them to students only for necessary calls home.

  • Due to the capability of modern cellular phones to take photos, and the possibility of inadvertent use of this capability to capture inappropriate images, cell phones and cameras are strictly forbidden in locker rooms. If a student has a cell phone or camera in his possession it must remain in their bag.

• Electronic devices including but not limited to touchscreen watches (smart or otherwise), radios, CD players, MP3 players, CDs, DVDs, and electronic games of any kind;

• Books, magazines, pictures, comics, letters, notes, etc. of immoral or inappropriate content;

• Any drugs or alcoholic beverages;

• Any tobacco or smoking paraphernalia, including matches, lighters, and "e-cigarettes" or other non-medical vapor emitting devices, etc.;

• Weapons of any kind, including pocket knives.

Privacy, Safety and Use of School Facilities

All campus restrooms, locker rooms, or any other private areas are designated for either men or women, and use of these facilities is restricted to individuals of the designated sex based upon the information given on their original birth certificates. Any entrance by members of the opposite sex for custodial/maintenance or emergency purposes is allowed only with proper notice and safeguards. All students, administrative/school staff, parents, invitees and licensees must comply with this policy in order to preserve the safety and privacy rights of our students and to maintain an environment conducive to a proper Catholic formation.

Other General Athletic Department Policies of Note

Competition

St. Vincent's Academy is an Affiliated Member of the Missouri State High School Activities Association and is governed by their rules and regulations to maintain its membership. Student athletes and parents should be familiar with the MSHSAA regulations which are found on their websites.

St. Vincent's Academy is a member of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC).

Registration and fees

Registration forms and all pertinent paperwork will be passed out by the head coach or Athletic Director prior to the beginning of each sport season. All forms must be returned to the Athletic Director by the date indicated on the registration form, accompanied by a check made out to St. Vincent's Academy. Fees, collected to offset (but in no way fully cover) equipment, material, meet fees, gym rental, officiating, and transportation costs for 2026-2027 are:

- $50.00 per athlete for Cross Country.
- $200.00 per athlete for Basketball.

Please note:

- A student must be registered separately for each sport in which he participates.
- No student may participate in practice or games without having completed the registration process for the sport.
- No registration fees will be refunded after the student has been placed on the official roster given to the Athletic Director by the head coach.
- No student will be denied the opportunity to play in sports because of the inability to pay the fees. Special arrangements for partial and scheduled payments or the waiving of fees can be made on an individual basis with the Athletic Director.

Player tryouts

Tryouts will be conducted as determined by coaches in coordination with the Athletic Director. We wish to maximize participation subject to our capacity and roster limits imposed by our leagues.

Practices

Practice times are set by the coaches with approval of the Athletic Director. Normally practice times for all sports should not exceed two hours total time, including clean up.

If a practice needs to be cancelled the coach will contact the players or have it announced at school. Cancellation of school for any reason will automatically cancel practice also.

Any out of season team activities are subject to restriction of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. Coaches must receive approval in writing from the Athletic Director for any off season events.

Athletic Uniforms

Uniforms are issued by the coaches and must be returned immediately after the end of the season. Uniforms are to be washed and placed in a bag clearly marked with the student's name. A uniform replacement fee will be billed to the student's tuition account if the uniform is not properly maintained or is not returned after the second notice in writing from the head coach.

Students may travel in their athletic uniforms or authorized St. Vincent's Academy spirit wear.

Lettering Policies

Criteria for qualifying for a letter in a sport is set by each individual sports coaching staff. The coaches will communicate these standards to parents and athletes at the start of the season. The coaches have the final authority in granting a letter to an athlete. Letter jackets may be purchased from Miser's Sports.

Transportation

Student-athletes and their parents are responsible for their transportation to practices and meets/games. All parents participating in a carpool arrangement are responsible for the students in the carpool.

Quitting a Team

Any student-athlete who quits a team once he has been placed on the official roster may not join any other team until the conclusion of that first sports season. This rule may be waived by the Athletic Director.

Recruiting / Transfer for Athletic Reasons

Any student-athlete who is influenced/recruited to attend a different high school for the purpose of athletic or activity reasons will be ineligible for their high school years.

Multiple Sports

No student-athlete may compete in more than one sport per season.

Grievances

It is the policy of St. Vincent's Academy that all conflict be settled, if at all possible, by the involved parties. As adult Catholics, it is our responsibility to show our children that conflict can be settled peacefully and with respect for the dignity of all involved. If it proves impossible to settle a difference at this initial level, the disagreement will be submitted to the Athletic Director who will work other school officials to resolve the matter.