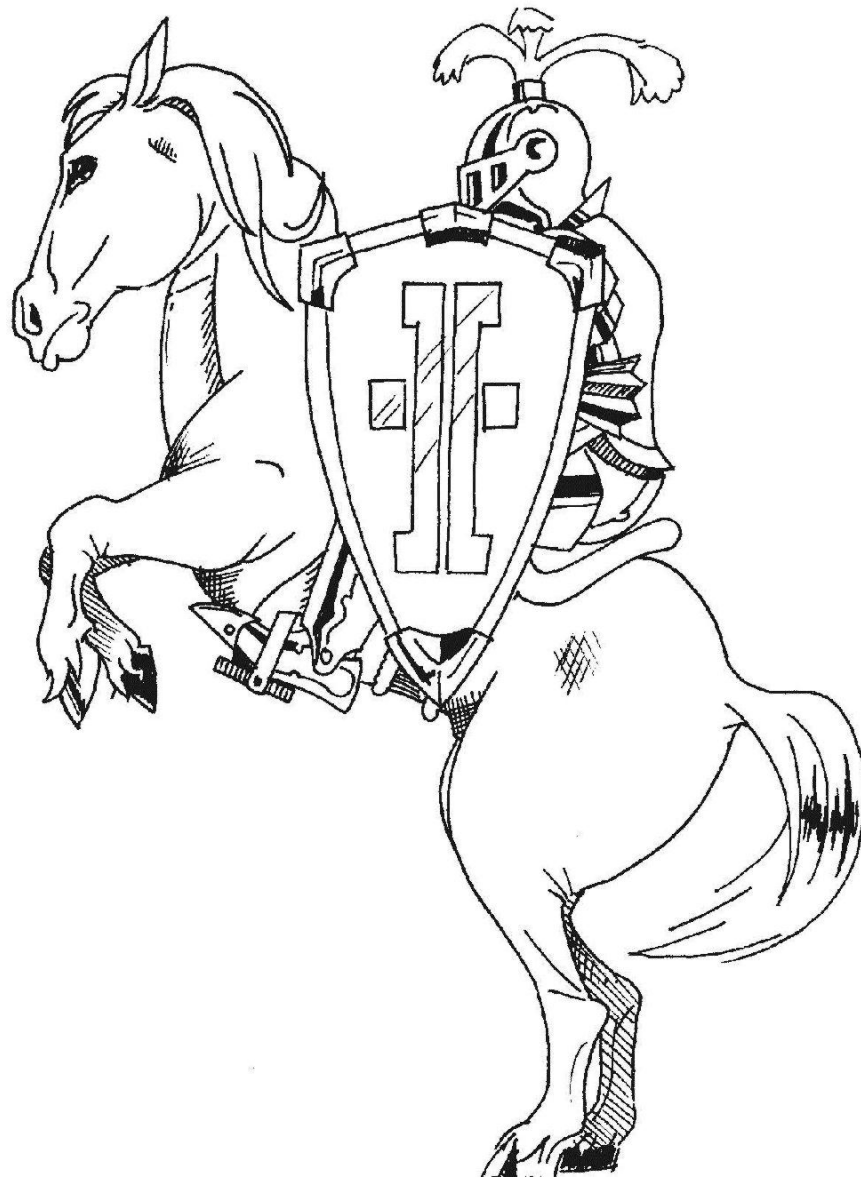


S C H O O L O F T H E
INCARNATION



Athletics Handbook
2019-2020

Mission and Rationale

School of the Incarnation seeks to educate the whole child and recognizes the importance of school athletics in promoting lifelong fitness and health, as well as developing character and leadership skills on and off the playing field. Through these experiences, student-athletes begin to recognize their own God-given talents and to use these talents for the good of the team.

Sports Physicals

Each student-athlete is required to have an annual Athletic Participation Consent Form and a Sports Physical Form on file with the athletic director prior to participation, including trying out for a team. Sports physicals are valid for one calendar year from the date of examination. It is the responsibility of the parent to have both forms on file prior to tryouts. Students who do not have a Sports Physical Form, which specifically clears the student for sports play, on file will not be permitted to tryout or play.

Athletics and Injury

Participation in any sport can be cause for accidental injury. Parents and student-athletes must be aware of the risks associated with participation in sports, and understand that, while School of the Incarnation will provide a supervised practice and game environment, the School cannot ensure that student-athletes will not experience an injury due to participation on sports teams.

Pre-Season Evaluations

Prior to the start of each season, the athletic director(s) will coordinate evaluations of interested students in order to determine team rosters. Information regarding the date, time and location of tryouts will be provided via the School of the Incarnation website and/or email. To create a fair evaluation, all players must be present at the pre-season evaluation for their respective sport. While attempts to accommodate absences from pre-season evaluations may be requested, they cannot be guaranteed.

Objective criteria, including athletic skills, sportsmanship, academic and disciplinary records, will be used to evaluate candidates. Final decisions regarding roster selections will be made by the Athletic Directors in consultation with the School Administration.

Academic and disciplinary eligibility will be reviewed prior to pre-season evaluations for all middle school students who sign up to tryout for a sport. Any student who is deemed ineligible may not try out for the team. Student-athletes may have no more than one D in a core subject and no E's in any core subject, as well as a grade of S (Satisfactory) or above in all specialty area classes in order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics. A student-athlete's disciplinary record will be taken into account for the purposes of pre-season evaluations and roster selections.

All eligible students are encouraged to try out. The school is committed to providing all students a fair chance to participate. Unfortunately, not everyone who tries out will always be offered a roster spot. Students and parents will be notified via the School of the Incarnation's website and/or email regarding final team rosters. Parents are encouraged to prepare their children for the possibility of non-selection.

Athletic Fees

Each student-athlete's parent is required to pay an athletic fee for each sport in which he/she participates. This fee offsets the cost of uniforms, referees, equipment and field and gym maintenance. The fee for each sport will be \$70.00. This fee will be applied to the parents' FACTS account on the following month's statement after each season begins.

Eligibility

Interscholastic teams are open to students in grades 6-8. Full engagement in academics and respect for school rules are top priorities. Parents and students need to evaluate the time commitment demanded for students who are juggling academics, sports and other extracurricular activities to ensure that they do not become overextended. Competitive athletics are a privilege, not a right.

Students who sign up to tryout for a sport will have their academic and disciplinary eligibility checked prior to trying out. Any student who is deemed ineligible for tryouts may not try out for the team. Student-athletes may have no more than one D in a core subject and no E's in any core subjects, as well as a grade of S (Satisfactory) or above in all specialty area classes in order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics. A student-athlete's disciplinary record will be taken into account for the purposes of roster selections.

Grades and discipline records will be monitored by the administration throughout the season. If a student-athlete is academically deemed ineligible, the student-athlete and coach will be notified by the Principal, Assistant Principal or Athletic Director(s). A follow-up review of the student-athlete's grades will be made within 10 school days of the notification of ineligibility. If grades have improved, the student-athlete may be reinstated. Until that time, the student-athlete may not participate in any practices nor attend games as a member of the team.

Once a member of a team, interscholastic athletic privileges will be revoked, either entirely or for a specified period of time, as a result of significant or repeated disciplinary infractions. If a student-athlete is suspended for behavioral reasons, suspension from participation in extracurricular activities will result as part of the disciplinary sanction.

Responsibilities of the Student-Athlete:

- To represent the school, the team, and oneself in a positive way that reflects the school's values of integrity, inclusion and initiative, both on and off the field of play.
- To honor the coach's decisions regarding rosters, positions and playing time.
- To demonstrate a cooperative spirit both on and off the field or court.
- To attend all scheduled practices and games except in the case of an illness or emergency.
- To care for all uniforms and equipment.
- To strive for personal bests both in school and in sports.
- To maintain a positive and respectful demeanor towards coaches, teammates, opponents and officials.

*If a student-athlete is ejected from a game by an official, he/she may be suspended from the next game.

Responsibilities of the Coach:

- To attend required coaches' training.
- To complete the volunteer certification process as prescribed by the Archdiocese of Baltimore.
- To conduct pre-season tryouts based on open and fair guidelines.
- To select student-athletes' positions and determine playing time.
- To provide appropriate adult supervision for all team activities.
- To notify athletic director(s) of any injury sustained during practice or games.
- To provide student-athletes and their parents with timely and effective communication.
- To act as a leader and role model for both student-athletes and spectators.
- To teach and instruct all student-athletes to develop his/her skills and love for the game.
- To maintain a positive and respectful demeanor with players, parents, officials and opponents.

Responsibilities of Parents:

- To encourage and support all members of both teams.
- To honor the coach's decisions regarding rosters, positions and playing time.
- To provide transportation to and from practices and games.
- To volunteer time and energy to assist coaches with team activities.
- To maintain a positive and respectful demeanor with game officials, other parents and opponents.
- To consider securing volunteer certified and driver certified through the processes set forth by the Archdiocese of Baltimore in order to support our teams and assist with travel to off-campus games. (see below)

Team Parent

Each team is encouraged to select a volunteer team parent to oversee uniform distribution and collection, field/gym preparation for games and other tasks to support the success of the team. Although one parent may be designated as the Team Parent, all parents are expected to share in the responsibility of supporting the work of the coaches and the Athletic Director(s).

Virtus Training and Carpools

All parents who volunteer as coaches or team parents must have active Virtus certification through the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In addition, any parent who drives children other than their own to away games must have both active Virtus certification through the Archdiocese of Baltimore and consent to a driving record check, resulting in approval through the Archdiocese of Baltimore. For information regarding this process, please contact the school's volunteer coordinator or consult the school's website.

School Uniforms and Equipment

At the start of each season, student-athletes will be issued team uniforms and equipment as determined by the sport. Uniforms and equipment remain the property of the School of the Incarnation. The care of both uniforms and school equipment is the responsibility of the student-athlete. The cost of lost or damaged equipment will be paid by the student-athlete and invoiced through FACTS to parents. No school records will be forwarded or accessible until all financial obligations have been met.

Early Dismissal for Away Games

Student-athletes and siblings will be dismissed early for away games as determined by the administration. This determination will be communicated to the Athletic Director(s), who will forward the information to coaches, student-athletes and their parents.

Student-athletes will usually have the opportunity to change into their uniforms before leaving the school for away games. In the event that time does not permit for clothes to be changed before departing, student-athletes will wear the school uniform as prescribed in the Student Handbook until given the opportunity to change at the host school.

Absenteeism

Student-athletes who are absent from school are not permitted to participate in after school games or practices. Student-athletes who leave school early and do not return to school prior to dismissal may not be permitted to participate in after school practices or games.

Recognition of Student-Athletes

All middle school athletes will be recognized at an end-of-year event. End-of-season parties for individual teams will be planned as off-campus activities.

Amendments and Modifications

School of the Incarnation reserves the right to amend the Athletics Handbook. The administration reserves the right to waive or deviate from any and all regulations for just cause at their discretion. This Handbook is an informative booklet for parents and students setting forth the policies and procedures of the athletics program and is not intended as an expressed or implied contract.