



St. Michael School

Athletic Program Policy Manual 2026-2027



Requirements for Participating in Athletics at St. Michael School

The following requirements must be met before an athlete can begin practicing or be listed on the team roster.

- Must be a student at St. Michael School (unless otherwise approved by St. Michael Administration) in good standing.
- Student must meet all criteria (set by the league which St. Michael is affiliated) for participation.
- The *St. Michael Athletic Program Policy Manual* must be completed with no omissions and must be accompanied with the appropriate sports fee.
- The student must meet the grade requirements as outlined in the **Parent-Student Handbook 2026-2027**.
- A current physical (attached last page) will be required prior to participating in any sport at St. Michael School.

Dear Parents and Students:

Contained in this Athletic Program Policy Manual you will find the information required for your child to participate in athletic activities during the 2026-2027 school year at St. Michael School.

Please remember each student must have this **completed athletic booklet**, a **physical** completed by a qualified physician, their tuition paid up to date and the **sport fee/fees** paid in full by the deadline dates listed in this booklet prior to beginning any practice or being allowed on any team. (Note: **Any omissions** will be considered an incomplete booklet)

Communication for athletic events and information will be made via email, text messages and group me. Please make sure your email address is current and checked regularly. If you have any questions, please feel free to let us know.

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ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL
ATHLETIC PERMISSION/AUTHORIZATION FORM

NAME OF STUDENT: _____ SCHOOL YEAR: 2026-2027
(Use a separate booklet for each child)

CURRENT GRADE OF STUDENT: _____

St. Michael School Athletics are designed to provide each student with an opportunity to develop values in leadership, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, perseverance, sacrifice, and dedication.

I request permission for my child to participate in all practice sessions and practice games as decided by the coaches. I further request my child be permitted to participate in all games, including but not limited to home, away, make-up and tournament games as decided by the coaches.

I understand the rules and regulations of athletics at St. Michael School, and I request permission for my child to participate in the sports programs. I understand that athletics involves some degree of risk, and that injury is possible. I release St. Michael Church, the Diocese of Lafayette and St. Michael School administrators, coaches, and staff from responsibility for accidental injury that may occur as a normal part of the athletic program.

I agree that my behavior and that of my guests attending athletic events is a reflection on St Michael School. I understand that if my behavior or that of my guests results in an ejection from any athletic event (either at home or away events), St Michael School requires that family must attend a mandatory meeting with the athletic director and/or principal prior to the student being allowed to continue participation in athletics. I also understand and acknowledge that after the deadline, no sports fees will be refunded nor applied to another sport, if the student or parent/guardian decides not to participate in the sport for which they signed up and paid.

I understand and agree that in 5th grade sports, my student can expect fairly equal playing time and in 6th grade sports, my student can expect fair but not equal playing time, both depending on the size of the team. I further understand and agree that as my student begins 7th and 8th grade sports, there is no expectation of minimum playing time and that my student's skills, abilities, and attitude will determine if they earn playing time, as determined by the coach(es).

In giving permission for my child to participate in athletics at St. Michael School or as part of a team off sight, I agree that emergency personnel may be called in the case of an emergency (ambulance or paramedic) and I agree to be responsible for the cost of that service.

I understand that I must fulfill the requirements listed in this booklet before my child can participate in Athletics at St. Michael School for 2026-2027.

I have read the St. Michael School Athletic Program Policy Manual for school year 2026-2027 and I agree to support all these rules.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

SPORTS PARTICIPATION INFORMATION SHEET

Students may not practice or play in any sport until all forms and fees including tuition have been collected. (Month and due dates for sport fee is listed below.) Forms and fees are to be returned to the Athletic Director

A \$25 late fee will be assessed if fees and/or athletic booklets are turned in after the deadline.

Students are to turn in their complete uniform at the end of every sport. All uniforms should not be put in the dryer. Hang dry only. Parents will be billed for any uniforms not turned in or ruined by drying. A fee will be charged through FACTS for any uniform not returned within a week of the season ending for that sport. Uniforms will not be given to the student for another sport until the previous uniform is turned in or the fee has been charged and paid.

DO NOT PUT UNIFORMS IN THE DRYER. HANG DRY THEM ONLY

Below is a list of sports and deadlines for turning in athletic booklets for your child to be able to participate in for the 2026-2027 school year.

SPORTS SEASONS

CHEERLEADER: 8th grade GIRLS ONLY (August- October)

FOOTBALL: 5th thru 8th grade BOYS ONLY (August-October)

VOLLEYBALL: 5th thru 8th grade GIRLS ONLY (August-October)

BASKETBALL: 5th thru 8th grade GIRLS & BOYS (November- January)

SOCCER: 5th thru 8th grade Girls & Boys (December-January)

BASEBALL: 5th thru 8th grade BOYS ONLY (February-March)

SOFTBALL: 5th thru 8th grade GIRLS ONLY (February-March)

TENNIS: 5th thru 8th grade GIRLS & BOYS (March-May)

GOLF: 5th thru 8th grade GIRLS & BOYS (March-May)

TRACK: 5th thru 8th grade GIRLS & BOYS (March-May)

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICY

Parents will be sent an email about a sport being offered, prior to the start of each sport.

- A parent shall be responsible for dropping off and picking up his/her child at their designated time at every athletic practice or an athletic event. Parents are not to drop a child off without checking to see if a coach is present.
- Coaches shall make parents aware of the time that practices or the athletic events will end.
- On the first occasion that a parent is late in picking up his/her child, the Coach shall give a written warning to the parent. The second time that a parent is late in picking up a child; the parent will be personally contacted by the Athletic Director. On the third occasion that the parent is late, the child will either be suspended or removed completely from the team at the coaches' discretion. For purposes of first, second, or third episode, each sport will be considered separately. Therefore, tardiness in picking up a child during football season will not be carried over to a different sport such as basketball.

Participation in St. Michael Athletics is 1st priority over other extracurricular activities such as Select/Club Ball Teams, recreational teams, dance/gymnastics, individual lessons, etc. Students missing practices or games due to these activities can be removed from the team or "benched" at the coaches' discretion.

- Any dissatisfaction by a parent with the enforcement of the above rules will be handled by the grievance committee of the Advisory Council of St. Michael School.

Athletic Fees will not be refunded or applied to another sport after the deadline.

The fee is a commitment to a sport and is used to pay league fees for teams. a student deciding not to play can affect whether a team is created and can result in fines for St Michael or being dismissed from a league.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for athletics students must meet the criteria set forth in the St Michael Parent-Student Handbook 2026-2027.

A student disciplined for violation of St. Michael School rules will be subject to the discipline set forth in the St. Michael Student/Parent Handbook regarding sports.

All tuition and fees must be current and up to date before a student can participate in a sport.

ALL SPORTS PLAYING RULES

Being a student in St. Michael School is not a ticket to participation in Athletics. Every student has a right to "try out" and to have his/her abilities fairly evaluated by competent personnel, but not an absolute right to participation. If a team minimum is not reached, that grade may not be able to participate.

The number of teams is decided by the number of athletic booklets turned in by the deadline date. Additional teams will not be created due to an influx of "late deciding" players.

A "Decision to play" sheet will be required from every student for a sport by the deadline.

FOOTBALL

The coaches will try to play a 5th quarter (7th grade game) for the players that did not get a chance to play during the game.

This will only be possible if the other team's coach agrees to play the fifth quarter.

VOLLEYBALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

5th grade teams are focusing on fundamentals and learning the game and the coach shall make every effort to play all athletes equally but depending on team sizes, this may not always be possible.

6th grade teams are focusing on improving fundamentals learned the previous year and the coach shall make every effort to play athletes fair but not equal, depending on team sizes this may not always be possible.

7th and 8th grade teams are focused on mastering skills learned in previous years and are competitive teams. Team members are not subject to any minimum play time.

Team sizes are set with consideration of league rules and availability of coaches.

Larger teams may be subject to tryouts and/or multiple teams.

TRACK

Every track athlete has a chance to compete during meets; however, the number of events the student is willing to do will affect if he/she gets to compete in the meet. The student's ability and results in practices will determine the event(s) he/she will compete in.

GOLF & TENNIS

Golf may be cut to 10 players and tennis may be cut to 20 (due to coaching considerations). **Match participation will be determined by practice scores.**

CHEERLEADERS

8th GRADE GIRLS – All 8th grade girls are able to become a cheerleader

Team Minimums/Max:

(Football – 18/NA) (Volleyball – 8/12)
(Soccer – 13/15) (Basketball – 7/12) (Baseball/Softball – 11/15)
(Golf-NA/10) (Tennis – NA/20)

Try-outs may be needed if the number of registered athletes exceed the maximum number of players on a team.

Athletes will be allowed to play and practice for only one school sport at a time.

Once the sport is completed the athlete may participate in the next sport.

The above rule does not apply to cheerleading.

St. Michael has people designated to deal with athletic league issues, only those persons are authorized to contact/communicate with the league on behalf of St. Michael School. Any unauthorized person contacting the league will result in that person being prohibited from attending all future athletic events involving St. Michael School.

Diocesan Policy Concerning the Transporting of Students

As a parent, if you intend to transport students other than your own, you must fully comply with the below listed requirements, which is mandated by our insurance carrier, Catholic Mutual, before you transport students.

Drivers must comply with the Safe Environment policy in place in the Diocese of Lafayette. Every car driving students must have two adults present who have met all requirements of the diocesan policy at all times.

1. Car Insurance Form
2. Current car insurance with minimum coverage of \$100,000/\$300,000
3. A "Safe Environment" trained adult must be in every vehicle when transporting team members.
4. No vans in the 11-15 passenger range are to be used to transport our students at any time (Diocesan Policy)

St. Michael School Athletic Transportation Policy

Effective September 1, 2016... St. Michael School **will not** provide transportation or make arrangements for transportation for students to athletic team events. Students will be given a game roster and are expected to plan for their own transportation to athletic events. This policy may change from year-to-year dependent on the accessibility of transportation vehicles but should not be "counted on" or "expected".

By signing the ATHLETIC PERMISSION/AUTHORIZATION FORM on Page 3 of this booklet, you agree to the following statements: **(Please initial by each statement.)**

_____ I have read the St. Michael School policy regarding Athletic Transportation, and I understand that it is my responsibility to transport my child to and from Athletic events, including practice, games, and tournaments. I understand the coach will provide a roster with dates and times of these events. If I cannot provide transportation, it will be my responsibility to make arrangements for my child's transportation.

_____ I also waive, release, and forever discharge all claims against the Diocese of Lafayette, St. Michael School, their commissioners, board, administration, teachers, employees, volunteers and other agents for damages and/or injuries to or of my child listed below which may arise from participation in this activity.

_____ I have read and understand the Diocesan policy for transporting students, and I will comply with this policy.

_____ Drivers, in addition to having insurance, must be 21 years old.

I acknowledge that by providing transportation to and from sporting events I and/or my insurance carrier will be primarily liable for injury or damages to students who are being transported by me.

ATHLETIC FEES

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL</u> Fee/equipment Required (not provided by St. Michaels)	<u>DEADLINE</u>
FOOTBALL	\$165	Cleats, girdle, pads for pants	JULY 31
Volleyball	\$80	Shorts & shoes	JULY 31
Basketball	\$80	Shoes	OCTOBER 31
Soccer	\$80	Soccer cleats and shorts	OCTOBER 31
Baseball	\$80	Bat, glove, cleats, pants	JANUARY 31
Softball	\$80	Bat, glove, cleats, pants	JANUARY 31
Golf	\$80	\$50 paid to Bayou Bend for use of course and range balls Golf clubs & golf shoes	JANUARY 31
Track	\$80	Track shoes, shorts	JANUARY 31
Tennis	\$80	Shorts/skirt, shoes, racket	JANUARY 31
Cheer	\$80	Cheer Uniform, Shoes, Practice/camp wear, Backpack, Camps	MAY 1

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL ATHLETIC SPORTS POLICY FOR ALL SPORTS AND GRADE LEVELS

Players who miss practice or a game without valid excuse (all school events are considered a valid excuse) will not play in the next game. Two unexcused missed practices may result in removal from the team. (Coaches will decide if the excuse is valid or not.)

Parents are responsible for picking up and dropping off their child on time at the end of practice and game.

Drop off only athletes (no one else) for a scheduled practice no earlier than 5 minutes before the scheduled practice time. All practices are closed practices. No spectators are allowed. Please check the gym, field or track and make sure the coach is present before dropping off your child for a practice or game.

Parents will be required to work the gate/concession stand on a rotational basis. St. Michael School depends on admission fees and concessions to pay officials fees and incidentals. Any parent not reporting to work at their scheduled times may result in a "work fee" to cover the cost of official fees. A parent may switch work times with another parent at any time to assure the time slots are covered.

Students must be present at school for 3.5 hours on a practice/game day to be eligible to participate in sports, unless the student has a scheduled appointment for which they must present an excuse verifying the appointment date. Students who leave school due to an illness with fever, vomiting, etc. will not be allowed to practice/play in any sporting events on that day or until they return to school.

School rules apply not only to the school day, but also to field trips, sporting events, and extracurricular activities. St. Michael School students should remember that they represent the school at all times, and they must never bring discredit to their school. St. Michael students should strive to live by the school philosophy at all times. (See Parent/Student Handbook)

Receiving a banner will be an 8th grade privilege and will be awarded to any 8th grade team who wins first place in their division and wins first place in the League Tournament.

Parents will be sent an email prior to the start of any sport, from the Athletic Director or his designee and/or the coaches. A student coming to practice is acknowledgement of the parent or guardian that you agree to abide by the terms and conditions set forth in the email.

Parents, coaches, moderators, and administrators have a responsibility to model good sportsmanship and good Christian values. It is their responsibility to help students win gracefully, accept defeat gracefully, and how to demonstrate good sportsmanship.

Your child is playing sports for fun. Everyone wants you to enjoy the game also. This information is being provided to assist you and your child in gaining the maximum benefit possible from each sport St. Michael School offers. Following are some simple rules you should observe. Please consider them carefully.

Do not shout instructions to your child. This only causes confusion since the coach has already instructed your child on how to play. If you do shout instructions, your child will probably try to please you and the coach at the same time. In trying to do two things at one time, the child may be unable to do both. **Cheer for your child when he/she plays well.** However, remember that your child is a member of a team. Let the other players know you support them, too.

Suffer in silence (or moan softly) whenever something occurs that goes against your child's team or when coaches make what you consider a bad decision. A display of anger may inflame a delicate situation resulting in embarrassment for you or your child. Coaches give their time to St. Michael School, so be patient during any sporting event. **We ask that you NEVER approach a coach before, during or after a game to resolve an issue. If upset/angry about an incident, please wait 24 hours to allow a "calming period" before contacting a coach.**

If you feel the need to discuss a particular situation about your child, you must follow this chain of authority to express your concern:

- 1. Coach (if not resolved then contact #2 Athletic Director)**
- 2. Athletic Director (if not resolved then contact #3 Principal)**
- 3. Principal**

Circumvention of this chain of authority will result in your child not being able to participate in St. Michael Athletics! THEY WILL HANDLE THE SITUATION & TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION.

No Sunday Events – (this includes practice, games, tournaments and meets.)
Diocesan Policy: DP 4001

Do Not Run Up & Down the Court/Field. Find a comfortable place to sit down or stand, relax and enjoy the game.

Do not shout insults or verbally abuse the officials. It's hard for a child to learn respect for the officials when their parents set a poor example. The official has the power to stop the game and eject persons causing the disruption if the crowd becomes discourteous.

Set the tone for good sportsmanship by adopting a positive attitude if your team loses. Compliment your child for his/her good plays and ignore the mistakes. The coach will point those out to him/her soon enough. Your child will be happy you noticed their qualities.

Unsportsmanlike conduct by any player will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the game. Severity could lead to removal from team.

If a child is ejected from a game, he/she will have a mandatory one game suspension. The infraction will be reviewed by the Principal and the Athletic Director and depending on the severity of the infraction, the child may be given more than a one game suspension or removed from the team.

If you are asked to leave any St. Michael School athletic event you comply with request of the official(s), your failure to do so will result in being banned from all remaining athletic events.

Athletic eligibility under scholastic rule: Read St. Michael Athletic Board By-Laws and Parent/Student Handbook.

Medication/Illness

Over the counter or prescription medication is not allowed to be given to students by coaches or moderators. If your child requires medication, please take care of this yourself before or after a game or practice, or students remain at home.

If a child has an allergy or requires an Epi Pen or breathing apparatus, the parent must in- service the Athletic Director and the Coach as to how to provide medication and submit all medical forms signed by the physician to the Athletic Director as well as provide an Epi Pen for the coach to have at practices and games.

If a student is injured the Athletic Director has the right to receive a doctor's statement attesting to the fitness and ability to play before allowing the student to participate in athletics.

Behavior Expectations

- Harassment: See St. Michael School Parent/Student Handbook. Expected Behavior: Consequence Policy (i.e. Harassment) St. Michael School Parent/Student Handbook rules and regulations will be followed.
- League Rules/Policies will take precedence over school policy if the league policy is stricter.
- If any harassment or inappropriate behavior occurs, it should be reported immediately to the Athletic Director and/or Principal.
- If any child bullies or harasses another child, whether it is an opponent or teammate, they will be given a one (1) game suspension and will face the possibility of removal from the team.
- Cell phone policy – Parent/Student Handbook.

CREATING TEAMS:

St. Michael wants to provide every grade with a team for both girls and boys, however this is not always possible due to smaller numbers of students signing up to play. If a particular grade does not have enough players signed up by the posted deadline, the following will take place:

The grade that does not have enough players will be merged with the next higher grade level team, provided that the team being merged with does not already have a large number of players, at this point then the grade without enough players signed up will not have a team for that sport.

The following shall only apply if an 8th grade team has at least (1/2) half of the minimum number of players. In the event any 8th grade team does not have enough players to make a team, a select number of 7th graders will be pulled up to make an 8th grade team. (If 7th grade has enough players for their own team, the parents can decide at that time if they wish to play as both 7th grade and an 8th grade team (2 teams) but the 8th grade team will be created using 7th grade students.)

The head coach for the higher-grade team will retain head coach status and the lower grade coaches are welcomed to assist.

St. Michael deadlines will always be before league deadlines in order to ensure the proper number of players, coaches, equipment is available. Any forms or sign ups occurring after the St Michael's deadline will not increase the number of teams. The number of teams will be decided the morning after the St. Michael deadline to turn in forms.

No additional time will be given past the set deadline for anyone including parents and coaches to reach out to enlist more players to create their team.

In the event a sport does not have a coach by the St. Michael deadline, then that team will not have that particular grade sport. These players may, however elect to play up to the next higher grade, provided the next higher grade does not already have a large number of players signed up.

Parents are encouraged to contact the athletic director prior to any deadline to inquire about the number of players already signed up for a particular grade. These numbers will not be given out once the deadline.

All sports signup links will be sent via email from the Athletic Director prior to the start of each season.