

Primary Objectives of SMKBA Program

Education and Learning:

Board members, coordinators, coaches and parents must be dedicated leaders and teachers of our children. Specifically, we must teach and exhibit:

1. An understanding of the game: rules, positions, equipment, strategies and terminology.
2. The importance of teamwork.
3. The importance of practice and preparation.
4. The significance of following rules for the team, overall program of SMKBA and CYO league.
5. Good sportsmanship.
6. The importance of faith and prayer in all aspects of life including sports.

Individual Development:

Children need to develop and improve as players. Individual development goals are:

1. Improving strength, speed, endurance, and self-image.
2. Positive rather than critical attitude.
3. Determining a definition for success.
4. Improvement = progress = success.
5. Creating a feeling of success and significance.
6. Recognizing faith as part of their experience as a team player.

The Parents' Role:

Children mature physically and emotionally at different rates. As parents, we should strive for these standards while involved with our children in sports:

1. Parents should choose the proper sports environment for their child. This includes their child's age and maturity, type of sport, and physical requirements to play a sport.
2. Parents need to realize and convey to their child that sports are only a small part of life.
3. Parents should be a positive influence for their child, whether as a spectator, coach, coordinator, or caring parent. Parents should also be a positive role model, exhibiting good sportsmanship at games and practices, as well as at home. Parents should give positive reinforcement to their child and their child's coaches.
4. Parents must demand safe facilities and healthy playing conditions.
5. Parents should witness their faith and encourage parish community involvement.

Positive Competitive Experience:

All players want to win. Winning games should be one element of player development, yet losing can be just as important to a player's development. Understanding how to lose is important, as it helps develop maturity and gives all of us the opportunity to learn to lose with grace. Striving to win is more important than winning.

Christianity and Sportsmanship:

Each child shall be encouraged and called upon to recognize the needs of others, respect the rights of others, and respond in a Christian way to others, including teammates, opponents, parents and coaches. Each player will join the team in prayer before practices, games and tournaments.

SMKBA Sports - A Comprehensive and Balanced Program:

The SMKBA sports program shall be based upon maximum participation. Each program shall establish appropriate policies and guidelines that ensure maximum participation, meaningful play and an appropriate, competitive environment for each age and development level of the children. These guidelines include:

1. Children, parents and coaches must abide by the codes of conduct in this manual.
2. Any child desiring to play a SMKBA sport should be afforded the opportunity to participate.

3. It is our intent that each child will participate in every CYO league contest, game or scheduled event at all grade levels. We believe in balanced and reasonable participation (CYO requirements are an absolute minimum) of each child in each sport in all games at all levels.
4. Exceptions to participation:
 - a. Absence from school due to illness denies same day participation in a game or practice.
 - b. Failure to participate in scheduled practices prior to league contests, games or scheduled events may preclude participation unless they were attending a formal religious formation class or event where attendance is mandatory.
 - c. Disciplinary cases where the player is withheld for infractions against the student athlete code of conduct.
5. The SMKBA Board recognizes that there are extenuating circumstances where adherence to the guidelines listed above may require special consideration or modification. The individual boosters sport coordinator will review the special circumstances and determine if a deviation from these guidelines is appropriate. If the guidelines listed are modified, it is the responsibility of the coach to coordinate and advise the team parents of such a change.

General Policies

Uniform and Equipment Policy

All uniforms and equipment are the property of SMKBA and are to be returned to the equipment manager at the end of each respective season. The following guidelines are for all sports:

1. All uniforms should be returned in their original condition minus normal wear. There must be no holes, tears, or uniform discoloration due to bleaching or improper washing or have any damage beyond repair. NOTE: If the uniform is damaged beyond repair, the participant must replace it at the cost of the uniform when it was purchased new.
2. Uniforms are defined as jersey shirt or t-shirt and/or uniform shorts (as in basketball). Any other item necessary to play the sport must be purchased by the participant and is not to be returned. This includes shorts for volleyball and socks for all sports.
3. Any adjustments necessary for fit must be done in a manner that allows for the adjustments to be reversed.
4. Equipment for SMKBA includes:
 - a. All practice balls and game balls.
 - b. Ball bags.
 - c. Score book

Fees

The SMKBA board will set the registration fees for each sport, to be evaluated annually. Registration fees will never be a barrier for participation in a SMKBA activity. Fees for membership to the SMKBA will also be set by the board and received annually.

Tournaments

The SMKBA will pay for two tournaments (maximum to be set annually by the board) and the referee fees for all regular season and CYO post season tournaments.

Team Meetings

It is strongly recommended that all coordinators and coaches hold a sport/team meeting at the beginning of each season to explain the program, introduce the coaches and answer parent/athlete questions. Prayer is to be part of each meeting. Resources are available from the St. Max Director of Faith Formation or the Archdiocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis (421-3131).

Grade Level Play

All athletes will play at their respective grade level and age level unless there are not enough players to field a team for that grade level.

Forms

All registration, participation and health forms for SMKBA and CYO are to be completed by each athlete and their parent/guardian and submitted by the appropriate deadline. Registration forms must be received and confirmed by the treasurer prior to the athlete's placement on a team roster. Placement of an ineligible athlete on a CYO team roster may result in forfeiture of any and all games the athlete participated prior to the athlete's registration being satisfied.

Documents:

All documents and forms necessary for each sport will be filed and held by the SMKBA coordinator of that sport and/or the team head coach.

Team Placement Considerations:

The SMKBA specific sport coordinator is responsible for organizing the "open gym" to determine the placement of each student athlete on an appropriate team. The coordinator should be present at all open gym

periods and be involved in the placement process. It is paramount that the boosters in general, and the coordinator and coaches specifically, are held responsible for this placement process. It is critically important that the parents of our athletes know that we have a system to properly place their children on an appropriate team and that it is not in the best interest of our sports programs to circumvent this process.

Coach Selection Policy:

Head Coach:

Head coaches must be at least 18 years of age, a high school graduate and will be recommended by the coordinator according to the following:

- Knowledge of the fundamentals and rules of the specific sport
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate with children and their parents
- Time availability and dependability
- Fairness to the athletes and the program
- Completion of the required Archdiocese Child Protection Program and Fingerprinting
- Parental feedback from previous coaching experience
- Ability to follow rules
- Positive attitude
- Willingness to lead prayer with players before practices and games

In the event more than one individual is interested in a coaching position, the SMKBA board will choose and approve the coach based on solicited information and will retain the right to interview the candidates. SMKBA appreciates the time commitment a coach invests. There is, however, no guarantee that a coach will be selected to coach the following year based on a previous years' coaching.

Assistant Coaches:

Assistant coaches may be selected by the head coach upon the approval of the coordinator and SMKBA board. The same criteria for head coaches are the recommended guidelines when choosing an assistant. The age limit for assistant coaches is 16, however, an adult 18 years of age and a high school graduate who has completed the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Child Protection Class and been fingerprinted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati must accompany an assistant who is between 16 and 18.

Conflict Resolution Policy

SMKBA is committed to a safe and healthy environment for our children, parents, coaches and spectators in relation to all SMKBA sponsored events. Effective communication between the SMKBA and the parents and children involved in a boosters' activity is an essential element of the SMKBA.

SMKBA recognizes that there may be an occasion when a parent or athlete has a complaint with a coach or other dictate of the SMKBA board. Parents/Guardians of children participating in a SMKBA activity with a concern or issue related to but not limited to:

- Sport policy and procedure
- Coaching
- Sport coordinators
- Booster board member
- Conduct of players
- Practice
- Playing time
- Schedules
- Fees

should take the following steps:

1. Discuss the concern or issue with the head coach first. Seek an explanation of the action with him or her, as they are the closest to the issue or event.
2. If the explanation is not satisfactory, contact the appropriate coordinator for further investigation or clarification.
3. If the issue or event requires a review of the Boosters Rules and/or Policies, contact the SMKBA president. The president will ask for a review by the SMKBA board and, if deemed necessary, will allow the parent/athlete to attend a special, closed door session for resolution.

By following these steps, the most expeditious resolution of the complaint will occur. The SMKBA and its members are not infallible. The rules and regulations by which the SMKBA operates are designed to provide the most efficient, equitable and fair athletic experience for everyone involved.

Athlete's Code of Conduct

I agree to abide by the rules of conduct listed below. I acknowledge that this list encompasses my conduct in activities related to or during any event sponsored or sanctioned by SMKBA that I attend or am a participant. A SMKBA activity includes all events sponsored or sanctioned by the SMKBA or CYO: games, practices, travel to and from activities, camps and clinics. I understand that if I violate any of the rules of conduct I may be subject to whatever disciplinary action is deemed appropriate by the SMKBA board, including individual game(s) or season suspensions.

The following actions are prohibited:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct which may include but is not limited to:
 - a. The use of foul or inappropriate language
 - b. Distraction of an opponent during a game or event, such as trash talk, screaming during a serve, any game violation, etc.
 - c. Physical or verbal intimidation of another individual
 - d. Ejection or dismissal from a game, facility or field of play
2. Violation of a specific sport policy, regulation and/or procedures of the SMKBA and its policies and constitution
3. Damage to a facility (SMKBA home gym or visiting property)
4. Theft
5. Possession of an item, material or substance which is hazardous or harmful
6. Possession or use of illegal drugs or being "under the influence"
7. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or being "under the influence"
8. Inappropriate conduct of a Catholic student athlete including:
 - a. Unexpected or sudden resignation from a team
 - b. Failure to respect and support their teammates and coach.

SMKBA Disciplinary Policy Guidelines:

First Offense - Athlete is disqualified for the rest of the game or practice and is not to play in the next game. *If the first offense is serious, the SMKBA board has the authority to remove the athlete from play for the rest of the season.

Second Offense - Athlete is disqualified for the rest of game or practice and is disqualified for the next two games.

Third Offense - Athlete is declared ineligible for the rest of the season and must apply for reinstatement to the conflict resolution committee for consideration of participation in future SMKBA sponsored sports.

I have read and understand the SMKBA Athlete Code of Conduct and I will comply with this code of conduct.

Student Athlete Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I have read and understand the expectations of my child as an athlete for SMKBA. I will comply with the SMKBA Athlete Code of Conduct for my child.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Coach's Code of Conduct

As a coach or assistant coach in a SMKBA activity, I agree to abide by the rules of conduct listed below. I acknowledge that this list encompasses my conduct in activities related to or during any event sponsored or sanctioned by SMKBA that I attend or am a participant. A SMKBA activity includes all events sponsored or sanctioned by the SMKBA or CYO: games, practices, travel to and from activities, camps and clinics. I understand that if I violate any of the rules of conduct I may be subject to whatever disciplinary action is deemed appropriate by the SMKBA board, including individual game(s) or season suspensions.

The following actions are prohibited:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct which may include but is not limited to:
 - a. The use of foul or inappropriate language
 - b. Distraction of an opponent during a game or event, such as trash talk, screaming during a serve, any game violation, etc.
 - c. Physical or verbal intimidation of another individual
 - d. Ejection or dismissal from a game, facility or field of play
 - e. Conduct which is clearly inappropriate compared to normal behavior
2. Violation of a specific sport policy, regulation and/or procedures of the SMKBA and its policies and constitution
3. Damage to a facility (SMKBA home gym or visiting property)
4. Theft
5. Possession of an item, material or substance which is hazardous or harmful
6. Possession or use of illegal drugs or being "under the influence"
7. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or being "under the influence"
8. Inappropriate conduct of a Catholic student athlete including:
 - a. Unexpected or sudden resignation from a team
 - b. Failure to respect and support their teammates and coach.
9. Violation of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection:
 - a. All head coaches and assistant coaches must attend an Archdiocese of Cincinnati Child Protection Class. Adults 19 and older must be fingerprinted by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati prior to coaching duties.
 - b. A child may participate in an organized program sponsored by the parish only with the written consent of the child's parent or guardian.
 - c. At least two adults must be present for any activity for children sponsored by the SMKBA. For purposes of this policy, "adult" excludes 18 and 19 year olds not yet graduated from high school.
 - d. No child may be disciplined corporally nor may they be corrected, harshly criticized, ridiculed or harassed with abusive language.

SMKBA Coach Disciplinary Policy

First Offense - Coach is disqualified for the next game and may not attend the game. *If the first offense is serious, it can be brought to the SMKBA board for consideration of immediate removal from coaching.

Second Offense - Coach is disqualified for the next two games and may not attend the games.

Third Offense - Coach is declared ineligible for the rest of the season and must apply for reinstatement to the conflict resolution committee for consideration of participation in future SMKBA sponsored sports.

I have read, understand and will comply with the SMKBA Coach's Code of Conduct. I agree to lead my players in prayer before practices, games and tournaments.

Coach's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent's Code of Conduct

As a parent of a SMKBA athlete, I agree to abide by the rules of conduct listed below. I acknowledge that this list encompasses my conduct in activities related to or during any event sponsored or sanctioned by the SMKBA that I attend or my child participates in. A SMKBA activity includes all events sponsored or sanctioned by the SMKBA or CYO: games, practices, travel to and from activities, camps, and clinics. I understand that if I violate any of the listed rules of conduct I may be subject to whatever disciplinary action is deemed appropriate by the respective SMKBA sports coordinator, including game or season suspensions.

The following actions are prohibited:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct which may include but is not limited to:
 - a. The use of foul or inappropriate language
 - b. Distraction of an opponent during a game or event, such as trash talk, screaming during a serve, any game violation, etc.
 - c. Physical or verbal intimidation of another individual
 - d. Ejection or dismissal from a game, facility or field of play
 - e. Conduct which is clearly inappropriate compared to normal behavior
2. Violation of a specific sport policy, regulation and/or procedures of the SMKBA and its policies and constitution
3. As a volunteer, violation of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Decree on Child Protection
4. Damage to a facility (SMKBA home gym or visiting property)
5. Theft
6. Possession of an item, material or substance which is hazardous or harmful
7. Possession or use of illegal drugs or being “under the influence ”
8. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or being “under the influence”

SMKBA Parents Disciplinary Policy

First Offense - Parent is ejected for the rest of the game or practice and is not to attend the next game.

Second Offense - Parent is ejected for the rest of the game or practice and is not to attend the next two games.

Third Offense - Parent is not to attend games or practices for the rest of the season and must apply for reinstatement to the conflict resolution committee for consideration of participation in future SMKBA sponsored sports.

I have read, understand and will comply with the SMKBA Parents Code of Conduct.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____