

Welcome to the St Thomas the Apostle School Athletic Department

Mission Statement. The purpose of the Association shall be to provide a safe athletic environment, which shall serve as an extension of the school's academic and religious education. All participants will learn the fundamentals of each sport, and will be given the opportunity to develop strong, healthy and disciplined minds and bodies.

St. Thomas the Apostle Sports Program. There are at least five models of sport organizations: Recreational, Educational, Olympian, Business, and Personal. From these five models, STA adheres to the Educational (Personal Development) Model. This is because we are an elementary school. This is our opportunity to TEACH.

Under the educational or personal-development model, the major objective of organized sports is to promote the physical, mental, social and moral development of participants. Under the educational model of sports, coaches are first and foremost teachers. Their success is measured not by victories and records, but by the extent to which they help their athletes improve their skills and become better citizens.

Coaches are expected to use their practices to improve the skill level of every team member. Every team member should improve their skill by participating in a game when the score allows for substitution. Winning is important, but it must never be allowed at the expense of treating all student athletes (including the opposing teams) with dignity, fairness, and high expectations.

CORE VALUES; Placing Athletes' Welfare First – Sports programs dedicated to the educational model insist that coaches put the overall welfare of the athlete above other considerations.

24 Hour Rule: Whether it's a win or a loss, youth sporting events can become emotionally charged – and quickly. But if a parent starts a heated argument with the coach, it might destroy the positive aspects of youth sports for everyone, including the child – and earn a not-so stellar reputation on the court, in the gym or on the playing field.

This is why STA has a ground rule for parents called the 24-Hour Rule: Parents are banned from discussing a game, a play, or a strategy with a coach for at least 24 hours after the contest. This approach moves the discussion away from the players and gives parents a chance to quell their emotions and resolve a disagreement rationally. The beneficiary of the 24-Hour Rule is your child(ren).

The 24-Hour Rule is a good way for parents to take a breath and decide whether their concern really is a matter of fairness or an intense emotional reaction forged in the heat of competition.

An STA athlete is expected to support his/her teammates, coaches, athletic programs in any public forum, including postings on social media. Disparaging public comments/remarks may result in suspension or dismissal from a team.

I have read and understand the rules regarding parent/student conduct.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Athlete Signature