

Washtenaw Saints Responsibilities & Guidelines for Team Members

Team members (the players) *AND* their families, the administrative staff, the coaching staff and volunteers have made a commitment to support the vision of the Washtenaw Saints. These guidelines have been developed to define and insure a clear understanding of expected standards for all Team Members. Team Members are to always maintain an honorable testimony, remembering they are Ambassadors for Christ, representing their families and the Saints.

- PLAYERS are responsible to communicate DIRECTLY with the coach regarding team matters. If a player will be late or absent from a game or practice, he/she should contact at least two coaches as soon as possible.
- Players should arrive early for practice and be fully suited up at the time the whistle blows to start practice. Chronic tardiness may result in disciplinary action. Parents, please do not leave your player unless two coaches are present.
- Players understand that they are making a commitment to the team for the entire season and understand that to fulfill that commitment they must make every effort to attend all scheduled practices and games. If extenuating circumstances arise that prohibit the player from attending practice and/or a game, he will notify two coaches in a timely manner. The player understands that if he has *three unexcused absences*, he may face disciplinary action that could include suspension from the team.
- Practicing as a team is critically important for player safety and success on the field. **In a typical week with four practices between games, one practice missed will result in one quarter of play missed in the next game** (*coaches retain the discretion to make exceptions to this rule based on the rationale for the player missing practice*).
- Issues that arise during practices or games should be discussed with the coaches privately and respectfully.
- **Post Game Concerns:** the game environment can be an emotional experience for the players, coaches and their families. Anyone having worthwhile criticism of player/coaching events for a game experience will take 72 hours to remove the emotional aspect of their concern before bringing it to the coaches and/or board. They will also only voice their concern when two or more coaches or board members are present.
- All concussions/head injuries, or any other injury that requires a player to miss two consecutive practices, will require a Doctor's release to resume practice/play, delivered to a coach or a member of team leadership. Following return, players must participate in no less than two full practices to play in the next game.
- All team members are to demonstrate respect for game officials, regardless of their opinions or feelings about how the game is being officiated. Players should thank game officials and shake their hands after all games, regardless of the outcome.
- Please demonstrate respect and courtesy to other coaches and teams, facility managers and field officials when present.

- Players, parents and fans should refrain from bringing concerns directly to the referees and/or the staff of the opposing teams. If there is truly a pressing/immediate concern, please wait for an appropriate time (e.g. timeout/halftime, etc.) to bring this to a coach's attention. This allows consistent communication and will prevent confusion about what has been addressed and how.
- Players should arrive one hour before games unless directed otherwise. Parents, please do not leave your player unless two coaches are present.
- Only coaching staff and players are permitted on the playing field during practices and games. During games and scrimmages, only coaches and players are allowed on the bench, unless others are invited (e.g. alumni or other children) to join the bench by a coach or member of team leadership. Parents are responsible to carefully supervise other children who are with them during practices/games. Please keep children off the playing fields and away from the sidelines, unless they have been invited to be closer by a coach or member of team leadership. Parents are not permitted on sidelines and must stay in seating areas, unless invited onto the field by a coach or member of team leadership.
- Parents should pick their players up promptly after practices and games. Please do not loiter in the building or on game fields.
- Players who carpool with other families should be considerate of the rules established by their chaperones. Players should be respectful and report to them as soon as possible after practices/games.
- All team members are responsible to properly care for the facilities, playing fields, and equipment we use. Facilities and playing fields should be clean when we are done using them. Do not use unauthorized areas.
- Players will be responsible for the proper care of uniforms and equipment. He will return all equipment and jerseys to the Team Manager at the end of the season in good condition.
- Players will abide by the established dress code arriving at games in proper uniform and ready to play.
- The player will maintain a teachable spirit, demonstrating respect for all those in authority over him, including by parents, coaches, officials, and sporting events organizers.
- The player will conduct himself in a manner that is honoring to our Lord Jesus Christ, his parents, his family, his team, and the Body of Christ.
- The player will esteem his teammates, encouraging them in their relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ, the development of their athletic abilities, and preferring their interests above his own.
- There is NO SMOKING in church/school buildings or on their grounds. There is no FOOD, GUM, OR BEVERAGES allowed in the buildings. As we respect our Lord Jesus Christ, we must also respect those around us, including those who generously allow us to utilize their facilities. To avoid tracking mud and dirt in buildings and pathways, please wear

clean shoes while walking through/to practice and put cleats on, only once you have arrived at the field (applies to both games and practices).

- **Regarding boy-girl relationships:** Public displays of affection at practices and games are not appropriate. You are first and foremost brothers and sisters in the Lord and should conduct yourselves accordingly.
- Players, Parents and Family members, remember that when you are at games as a player or a spectator, you and your guests are representing the Christian Athletic League of America. Our public attitudes and actions are a testimony to others of what we believe, and our actions should always demonstrate respect for others:
 - **DO** cheer enthusiastically for our teams and encourage them in their team effort! Applauding the skill of the opposing team is also in keeping with our Christian witness.
 - **DO NOT** "boo," yell, or be disrespectful to the officials, coaches, players, or members of the opposing team. This type of behavior is not a good witness of Our Lord Jesus, is not good sportsmanship, and not the type of conduct that will render a good report for our team as we schedule events for the future.