

# **Saint Robert Bellarmine**

## **Sports Association**

### **Parent/Guardian Handbook**

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## Parent/Guardian Handbook

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# 1. Title

Saint Robert Bellarmine Sports Association

## 1.1. Purpose

This association's objective is to join together those students who are interested in participating in interscholastic sports with caring adult volunteer coaches. Furthermore it is our commitment to provide the resources necessary to provide them with a quality sports experience and to keep them viable with the other teams in the conference.

Our goal is to support our student athletes by improving their general well being and physical fitness level through sport participation, engaging them in friendly competition, nurturing their athletic interests as well as encouraging them to have fun and to demonstrate good sportsmanship in the process.

## 2. Philosophy

It is the intent of this association to impart the Christian life values that athletic participation offer to our student athletes and will follow them throughout their lives through our caring adult volunteer coaching staff. It is also our intent to develop our student athlete's life skills in an effort to make them productive members of our parish community and society as a whole using sports as the vehicle.

It is further our philosophy to develop an understanding of the rules and to teach the fundamental skills of each sport to each interscholastic athlete and to cultivate those skills to the best of each player's ability. We are committed to developing self-confidence, discipline, self-respect, good sportsmanship, and leadership in each player.

### **The Sports Association shall provide the following:**

1. A schedule of sports activities available to all Fourth through Eighth Grade students offered by the City Suburban Catholic Conference and adequate time in the gym for practice prior to/during the league season for teams that are formed.
2. A list of volunteer coaching opportunities for all qualified grade levels and genders that have expressed an interest and have registered the minimum number of student athletes in a particular sport to field a team.
3. All necessary equipment, uniforms, officials and supplies needed in order to participate in an interscholastic sports program within a Conference.
4. Assistance to the parents/guardians in their fundraising efforts for items essential for a good athletic program including tournament/meet participation.
5. Access to washroom facilities, drinking fountain and admission table coverage in the Junior Building Hallway assigned by the Principal to provide security.
6. A Grievance Procedure directed by the Principal to resolve potential issues that may arise from time to time.

**“Our Greatest Natural Resource Is the Minds of Our Children”**

**Walter Elias Disney**

### 3. Introduction

Our students are scholar/athletes. Their primary goals, duties, and responsibilities are academic. Parents/Guardians should emphasize again and again the need to do well in school, in attitude, industry, and achievement. Emphasize our expectation that in the classroom and on the court, we always want the best effort possible. Work to establish a climate that shows your care and concern for your child's progress. Stress that grades, conduct, and school work are important to you. Carefully explain the eligibility requirements of grades and conduct. All St. Robert Bellarmine students are encouraged to participate as members of our St. Robert Bellarmine athletic teams. Subject to academic eligibility and practice attendance requirements, every student in Grades 4th through 8th is offered the opportunity to participate.

### 4. Parents/Guardians Overview

As in past years, our programs would not be as successful without your help. Your assigned coach will be asking you for your help at the start of the season for both home games and fundraisers. This will include set up if your team is the first or only game of the day, breakdown if your team is the last scheduled game of the day, scoreboard operators, timekeepers, concessionaires and admission table coverage.

Again we will have a concession stand this year and it will be set-up in the room in the northwest corner of the gymnasium bleacher section. Parents/Guardians will again have the opportunity to serve as concessionaires at our concession stand at the same \$6 per game rate at all home games. If working this position, parents/guardians need to be trained. If interested in working the concession stand please contact the Concession Committee at our website [srbsportsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:srbsportsassoc@gmail.com).

Spectators, coaches, players and game officials will once again use the washrooms and drinking fountain located in the Junior Building hallway. The admission table will again be located in the Junior Building hallway. Admission is still \$1 for anyone 12 years of age or older and \$.50 for anyone under that age. The Principal and or her designee will assign interested individuals to this position.

Each registered student athlete is required to pay a \$25 Participation Fee for volleyball and basketball **only** to pay for a scoreboard operator and scorekeeper. This will ensure that these positions are covered at each home game to avoid forfeits and that we stay compliant with the Conference rules regarding the coverage of these positions. If interested in working either of these positions you may sign up at the mandatory Parent/Guardian meeting and will be paid at the rate of \$10 per game.

## Parents/Guardians Guidelines, Roles & Responsibilities

### 4.1. All Games

1. Parents/Guardians are responsible for siblings and other guests at games both home and away. Parents/Guardians are expected to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Abusive language, disrespect, criticism or harassment of our players, coaches, and fans or opposing coaches, players and fans or referees could lead to a two game suspension and depending on the infraction could jeopardize your ability to attend your child's games.

**Note: Please keep your children from hanging out in the Junior Building hallway. The only reason to be in the hallway is to get a drink of water or to use the washrooms, otherwise please remain in the spectator area of the gymnasium.**

2. Parents/Guardians will accept decisions of the game officials as being fair.
3. Parents/Guardians will refrain from talking to their child or coach during games and practice.
4. Parents/Guardians will remain off the court and not interfere with game coaching. By City Suburban Catholic Conference rules, if a parent/guardian (or fan), in the opinion of the official, is verbally abusive to that official after the game is completed the official may assess the equivalent of a double technical foul on that person by reporting the incident to the league. This would result in an automatic 2 game suspension that is not subject to review. If a parent/guardian, in the opinion of the official, is verbally abusive to that official beyond the confines of the gym building then that official may assess a double technical foul on that person by reporting the incident to the league. This would result in an automatic 2 game suspension that is not subject to review. In addition, the Officers of the Conference Board of Athletic Directors will determine if that parent/guardian will be allowed to attend any more games.
5. Your son/daughters unexcused absences from practice, games or fundraisers will result in a reduction in playing time and possible suspension.
6. Any parent/guardian found to be gambling in any way shape or form on St. Robert Bellarmine games will not be allowed to attend any more games.
7. Physical abuse will result in practice and game expulsion for the remainder of the season and is subject to the penal code of Illinois.

## 4.2. Home Games

1. Scoreboard Operators, Scorekeepers, Concessionaires and Admissions Table
  - a. The \$25.00 Participation Fee will be required again this year as a part of your son/daughters registration fee for both basketball and volleyball. This will allow those parents/guardians who do not wish to operate the scoreboard or keep the scorebook the chance to watch their children play, if other volunteers can be secured. Parents/Guardians working these two (2) positions are required to attend the scoreboard and scorebook training. It is mandatory to cover these two positions to ensure that we are compliant with the Conference rules regarding home game coverage and to avoid forfeits.

At the **mandatory** parent/guardian meeting, parents in attendance will be given the first opportunity to sign up for a maximum of three (3) slots per child registered in that sport at a rate of \$10.00 per game to cover these two positions and offset their Participation Fee. A sign-up sheet with the dates, times and positions available for all games will be on hand. A parent/guardian has the right to allow their son/s/daughter/s to work these slots for them as long as they have been trained and are versed at the position they are signing up for. They also **must** be at least 16 years of age if they are the only person signed up to work the table at that time, but can be younger as long as they are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and there is already someone 16 years or older already signed up to work the table, but they **must** have gone through training and **must** be well versed at that position.

After the parent/guardian meeting the Scheduler will enter the names of those in attendance into the slots they selected and post them on a site the S.R.B.S.A has set up called “**volunteer spot**”. The Scheduler will then notify parents via email that the website has been updated and include a link to [volunteerspot.com](http://volunteerspot.com) in the email. The website will show spots that are both taken and still open. Parents who were **not** in attendance at the meeting will be given a predetermined amount of time (set by the Scheduler) to sign up for a maximum of three (3) vacant slots. These parents will access volunteer spot and select their time slots from the available games. Once the predetermined time has lapsed, the Scheduler will then send out another email to all parents as well as alumni advising them to log into volunteer spot to see any remaining unfilled slots. Based on the number of slots still available and the number of interested volunteers, the Scheduler will allow them to sign up for a predetermined number of slots and will give them a predetermined amount of time to do so. Any remaining open slots after this point will be offered on a first come first served basis. If enough volunteers are not secured 48 hours prior to the game, the Sports Board Vice President will make a final attempt to fill the open slots by sending a final email to parents and volunteers to operate the scoreboard and score book. If the slots are still not secured the game will result in a forfeit.

- b. The admissions table will again be set up in the Junior Building hallway and will be operated by volunteers assigned by the Principal or their designee at a rate of \$8.00 per hour.
- c. Once again a concession stand will be set up for all home games in the room in the northwest corner of the gymnasium. This is another way to offset your fees by volunteering to work this position for a \$6.00 per game fee. If you wish to work the concession stand for a given game contact the Concession Committee at the S.R.B.S.A. website to see what slots are available. If enough parents/guardians are **not** secured, the Sports Board will try to find interested St Robert's current students, alumni and or parishioners that would like to assist and earn some extra money. If volunteers are not secured, the concession stand will be closed for that game/day.

**Note: Alumni and parishioners must be a minimum of 16 years of age to work the concession area alone as well as the admissions table.**

**Note: Anyone 15 years of age and younger wishing to earn service hours by working the concession stand must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Note: One of the two people working the scorers table must be a minimum of 16 years of age by CSCC rules.**

- d. The Scheduler is responsible for scheduling volunteers for the scoreboard and scorebook, the Concessions Committee is responsible for scheduling volunteers to work the concession stand and the Principal or scheduler designated by the Principal, is responsible for scheduling the admission table.
2. Parents/Guardians are required to support the athletic program at home games, special games and special events/fundraisers.
  3. For each home game, the admission table will be set up in the Junior Building hallway and the Principal will assign people to staff the table. A fee of \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children should be collected. SRB students are free.
  4. Copies of the assignment sheet and volunteer cards are distributed at the required parent/guardian meeting.
  5. Assist coach and players with opening, closing and game time policies and procedures.
    - a. First team scheduled
      - 1) Set up necessary equipment (Volleyball net, standards, referee platform, etc)
      - 2) Set-up Bleachers, benches, scorers/timekeeping table and chairs if necessary

- 3) Open and check washrooms
  - 4) Sweep court
  - 5) Open windows if necessary
- b. Last team scheduled
- 1) Break down necessary equipment (Volleyball net, standards, referee platform, etc)
  - 2) Break down bleachers, player benches, scorers/timekeeping table and chairs if necessary
  - 3) Check washrooms for garbage and running water
  - 4) Sweep floors
  - 5) Pick-up and throughout all trash
  - 6) Close windows if necessary
6. Game Day Gym Rules for Parent/Guardian Monitors
- a. Food and drink are not allowed in the gym playing area/court except for player's water/sports drinks. Sometimes, monitors need to remind visiting coaches of our gym rules.
  - b. Bicycles are not allowed in the building.
  - c. No smoking anywhere.
  - d. The gym floor is only for participants. During breaks, keep everyone off the gym floor.
  - e. Bathrooms must be monitored during and after the games. Windows must be closed and locked. Check that all faucets are turned off so there isn't any running water.
  - f. Absolutely no admittance into the school area.
  - g. Assist the visiting team in any way you can.
  - h. At halftime, a quick sweep of the floor would be appreciated.

### **4.3. Away Games**

Responsible for transportation of your child to all games and practices

- Be on time for both drop off and pick up
- If unavailable work out arrangements with other parents/guardians, not the coach

### **4.4. Practices**

No dropping off other siblings at practices and if staying to watch your child's practice please do not be a distraction otherwise the coaches will ask you to remain in the hallway.

### **4.5. Special Events/Fundraisers**

Parents are expected to assist the coach and team coordinator by supporting and working at any fundraisers ran by the Parent Fundraising Committee. The sports

program is directly associated with the participation of the parents/guardians. Remember it is the children who will benefit from these functions and it helps to defray costs and to purchase equipment to keep us equitable with other teams in the conference.

#### **4.6. Participation Forms and Required Information**

An athlete will not be able to begin practicing with the team until all forms and fees are turned in and filled out completely by the parent. These forms and information include:

1. Uniform/Registration Form
2. Participation Form (Once per year)
3. Participation, Registration and Uniform Fee per child and sport is also required
  - a. Registration Fee helps defray the cost of maintaining the team and includes officials, league fees (per sport, grade and gender), league website fee, coach's training, sport banquet, awards and play-offs.
  - b. \$25.00 Participation Fee per child for basketball and volleyball **only** for a scoreboard operator and scorekeeper for all home games.
  - c. Uniform Fee (per child, per sport)

### **5. Athlete's Responsibilities**

Refer to the Student Athlete Handbook on our website.

#### **5.1. Uniforms**

1. Uniforms are properly the player's responsibility, but parents/guardians must be alert to problems of carelessness, poor care, etc.
2. If uniforms are lost, stolen or unnecessarily damaged, coaches should be informed. They in turn should contact the Equipment/Uniform Coordinator, who will order a new uniform. Uniforms may not be altered in any way.
3. The athlete's parent/guardian is required to pay the cost (current market value) for a new uniform.
4. A player will not be allowed to play without the appropriate uniform.

### **6. Supervision**

Coaches are responsible for the supervision of your child at both games and practice. The following guidelines and rules are to be adhered to by all coaches:

1. Never leave athletes unattended, this includes on the practice floor.
2. Be at the gym before your team arrives, stay until all are gone.

3. Emphasize to your team that they go home directly after practices and games. Insofar as possible, make certain that players get home from away games, especially after dark.
4. Be prompt in beginning practices as well as ending practices so that your players can arrange for transportation home, especially at night and so that you do not inconvenience the next team waiting to practice. Coaches should be certain that their players do not infringe upon or disrupt other practices.
5. Especially when away from home, accompany your team to lockers before and after games.
6. Make certain that all players are accounted for and all have rides before you leave.
7. Remain in a group, but when not possible players should use the buddy system.
8. Caution players about money and valuables both at home and away games. If using lockers, lock them and locker room doors.
9. Inspect lockers, locker rooms, gym areas, and playing floor before and after you use them.
10. Enforce athletic department, gym, and school rules firmly and fairly.
11. At your first practice, go over all rules with your team, stressing their importance. Explain the reason for the rules and outline your expectations of cooperation.
12. If an incident/accident takes place call the players parent/guardian, fill out an incident/accident form and submit to the Vice President. Please keep the Athletic Advisor, Principal and President informed of any accidents.
13. Coaches should keep participants permission slips with them for home and away games as well as practices for use in an emergency. This form has parents'/guardians' names, phone, next person to contact, doctor's phone, and so on. Be prepared for emergencies. Please read the enclosed material on coaches' liability.
14. Before an athlete is sent home due to illness, injury or discipline, the parent/guardian **must** be notified. In order for the athlete to go home on their own from home games and practice, there must be a parent/guardian consent form on file, otherwise they stay at the gym until picked up.

## 7. No Cut Policy

Currently the City Suburban Catholic Conference has a no cut policy. The philosophy of athletics at St. Robert Bellarmine School is win or lose, so be it, but all must play the minimum playing time per grade and sport. It is up to the individual coaches to stress fun, fundamentals and good sportsmanship.

## **8. Technical Fouls/Behavior and Conduct**

Parents/Guardians should take special care to set a high example to their child of good sportsmanship and courtesy at all times to officials, opponents, team members, fans and coaches. Parents/Guardians, players and coaches should not under any circumstances draw technical fouls for unsportsmanlike or unchristian conduct.

1. If a player or coach receives two technical fouls during the season for behavior or conduct, they will be suspended for the next two (2) games. If this occurs at the end of the season, the two (2) game suspensions will be carried out the following year.
2. If any coach or player is asked to leave the premises of the gym they are playing in, they will be suspended for the next two games.
3. If any coach or player threatens any member of the opposite team, follows them out to their car, frightens them in anyway and it is witnessed and reported by another adult, they will be suspended for the next two games.
4. If a player or coach receives three (3) technical fouls for conduct during the season, they will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
5. If a player receives a technical for conduct during the course of the game, the coach will remove them from the game for the remainder of the contest and discuss with the player the effects this has on the entire team, the reason for the discipline and what may be done to remedy the situation.
6. If a coach receives a technical foul they will be placed on probation and monitored by the Board.
7. If a player or coach is physically abusive, they will be expelled from coaching/playing for the remainder of the season and possibly be subject to the penal code of Illinois.

## **9. Distance**

- In the best interest of our student athletes, special games and tournament games may not be played if the location is over 45 minutes away.
- Special games and tournaments will not be allowed on school nights.

## **10. Game/Practice Times**

- Practice and game schedules are prepared by the Scheduler based on a coach's availability.
- Younger grades will receive the earliest possible times.

## **11. Grievances**

- Differences and issues will arise from time to time be it among parents/guardians, coaches, students or other individuals involved in our program. As issues arise the Board fully expects these individuals to make every effort to resolve the problem on their own.
- In cases where a resolution cannot be reached a grievance should be filed with the Principal following the grievance procedure below.

### **11.1. Grievance Procedure**

1. Grievances must be submitted in a timely manner after an incident.
2. To file a grievance, fill out a Grievance Form (found on our website) including a brief, but thorough written statement regarding the issue, dates, witnesses, etc, as they apply.
3. Submit written grievances to the Principal.
4. Student athletes wishing to file a grievance must make a request for a grievance through their parents/guardians.
5. An investigation will begin by the Principal including, but not limited to reviewing the grievance form, researching rules, regulations and by-laws, speaking with witnesses, checking the official scorebook, etc.
6. Once the investigation is complete a decision will be rendered and a Grievance Resolution Form will be filled out and presented to all concerned parties.
7. The decision of the Principal is final.

## **12. Eligibility for Student Athletes**

### **12.1. Age Requirements**

- a. 8th Graders - Anyone who has not reached their 15th birthday before September 1st of the current year.
- b. 7th Graders - Anyone who has not reached their 14th birthday before September 1st of the current year.
- c. 6th Graders - Anyone who has not reached their 13th birthday before September 1st of the current year.
- d. 5th Graders - Anyone who has not reached their 12th birthday before September 1st of the current year.
- e. 4th Graders - Anyone who has not reached their 11th birthday before September 1st of the current year.

### **12.2. Academic Eligibility**

Academic eligibility is solely the responsibility of the school's Principal. Progress in school will be reviewed regularly. Report cards and progress reports will form the

basis of the review. If a student athlete does not meet the requirements set forth by the Principal, a one-week athletic suspension will be given. An athletic suspension means that the student athlete is not allowed to participate in any practices or games until the school principal has lifted the suspension. At the end of this time, the student's grades will be reviewed. If the student has raised his/her grade(s), then the suspension will be lifted. If the student has not raised their grade/s they will serve another week of athletic suspension, with a review of his/her grades each week, until the grades have improved above what is considered the failing level, at which time they may rejoin the team.

The Principal will inform the Sports Board President if a student athlete will be suspended as well when a student athlete on suspension may return to their team. The President in turn will relay this information to the appropriate coach so they can make the necessary arrangements to cover the athletes' absence and/or their return to the team.

### **13. Fees**

There are required fees that each participating school must pay to the League. There is also a fee charged by the SRBSA to cover the cost of maintaining each team. These fees include:

#### **13.1. League (CSCC Conference)**

1. Participation (per sport, per team, per grade, per gender)
2. League/Conference Website
3. Officials (Regular season and first round of the play-offs)

#### **13.2. Saint Robert Bellarmine Sports Association**

1. Uniforms
2. Supplies
3. Awards
4. Sports Banquet
5. Play-offs
6. Participation Fee (Scorekeeper and Scoreboard Operator)
  - a. A \$25.00 fee has been included in the cost of participation again this year for volleyball and basketball to assure that the scoreboard and scorebook are covered per Conference rules.
  - b. The \$25 Participation Fee is waived for up to two (2) parents/guardians per team, who have volunteered, interviewed, completed all forms, have been trained and were selected by the Principal to coach their child's team.

## 14. Frequently Asked Participation Questions

### 1. What is the basic concept of the participation policy?

The concept is to establish a transition in emphasis within our program philosophy. The philosophy will always stress learning, sportsmanship, effort and fun. In the younger grades (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades), the development of the individual is intended as a priority over that of the team. Every student should be given an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of the sports and experience friendly game participation. While the basic philosophies will not change as the students advance to and through the junior high level (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades) the emphasis will shift. Team goals and the merits of participation as a St. Robert Bellarmine team member will begin to take priority. A greater degree of St. Robert Bellarmine school spirit and a gradual preparatory transition to the atmosphere of high school athletic programs are the desired results, without losing sight of the individual.

### 2. In the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade programs, what does “equal” playing time mean?

The coaches are required by City Suburban Catholic Conference rules to provide each member of the team that is actively participating as a team member (attending practice, indicating interest, effort, etc.) with **equal** playing time per game for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade players.

#### **Basketball**

1. All teams **must** play each team member **equally** in each game.
  2. Games will consist of eight three minute periods.
  3. No player may play two periods more than another player in a game unless due to injury or illness
  4. No Substitutions will be allowed during a period, with the exception of injuries. All substitutions must be made between periods.
1. When a team fields less than ten players, the following guidelines shall be used.
    - No player may play two quarters unless all players have played one quarter.
    - No player may play three quarters unless all players have played two quarters.
    - No player may play four quarters unless all players have played three quarters.
    - At the end of each period, everyone on the bench must come in if playing with 10 or less players.

6. When a team fields 10 or more players everyone in the game must come out.
7. There are no standings kept by the Conference or play-offs at this level.
8. There is no overtime at this level and games that are tied end as ties.

## **Volleyball**

1. All teams **must** play each team member **equally** in each match. This means equally over the first two games. If a third game is necessary each team member must play in that game equally as well. If the game is unnecessary team members will be allowed to sub in freely and the game will end, regardless of score, 5 minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game.
2. There are no standings kept by the Conference or play-offs at this level.
3. **Are there circumstances where a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> Grade team member will not be allowed equal playing time?**

Poor practice attendance or behavior may have a negative impact on the frequency and extent of a team member's opportunities to participate in games. Coaches should establish and communicate expectations which are consistent with the spirit of the policy by grade level with both the players and parents/guardians. Positive participation in all that is involved in team membership is to be encouraged within our programs. Equality of game playing time opportunities is not intended as an entitlement of the program, but rather as a component of complete participation.

4. **How does the policy apply to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teams which are participating in playoff or tournament games?**

The City Suburban Catholic Conference does not conduct play-offs at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade level. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teams **only** will be allowed to participate in one tournament. Equal playing time is **required** in every game of the tournament.

5. **In the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade programs, the philosophy provides for a shifting emphasis to team goals yet states that dedicated team members will receive minimum playing time per regular season games. What does that mean?**

Every team member who is participating in the program in a meaningful way should participate in games in a meaningful way. While the priority will shift to team goals and performance, the individual must not be forgotten. The City Suburban Catholic Conference has specified minimum requirements for playing

time for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and coaches are challenged to provide every player with opportunities beyond the minimum requirements. Coaches will place an increased emphasis on attendance and behavior as important considerations in playtime allocations for all players (i.e. stars and non-stars) consistent with the growing level of responsibility expected of junior high students and to begin preparing them for high school athletics. **At the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade level, playing time during play-offs and tournaments for basketball and volleyball is awarded at the discretion of the coach. Two tournaments are allowed.**

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade level the CSCC rules state for basketball that each player must receive a minimum of six (6) minutes or one (1) quarter of playing time per game. The SRB Sports Association requires coaches to split the six (6) minutes equally between the first and second halves of the game.

For volleyball at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade level each player must play a minimum off twelve (12) points scored by one (1) team or the other, within the first two (2) games. The SRB Sports Association requires coaches to give each player a minimum of twelve (12) points scored by one (1) team or the other, within the first two (2) games when a team is made up of 13 to 18 players and 16 points when teams are made up of 8 to 12 players. Games are played to twenty-five (25) points.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade levels for basketball according to the CSCC rules, each eligible player must play in each regular season game for a minimum of two (2) minutes. The SRB Sports Association requires each coach to play each 7<sup>th</sup> Grade player five (5) minutes split equally between the first and second halves of the game. At the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade level the SRB Sports Association requires each coach to play each player a minimum of four (4) minutes split equally between the first and second halves of the game.

For volleyball at the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade level the rule states each player must play a minimum of eight (8) points scored by one team or the other, within the first two (2) games. The SRB Sports Association requires coaches to give each player a minimum off twelve (12) points scored by one (1) team or the other, within the first two (2) games when a team is made up of 13 to 18 players and 16 points when teams are made up of 8 to 12 players. Games are played to twenty-five (25) points.

At the varsity and junior varsity levels for soccer according to the CSCC rules, each player is required to play a minimum of two (2) minutes per game. Playing time during play-offs is awarded at the discretion of the coach.

At the varsity and junior varsity levels for baseball and softball according to the CSCC rules, each player is required to play one (1) inning in the field within the first three (3) innings due to the slaughter rule. Playing time during play-offs is awarded at the discretion of the coach.

6. **Will coaches be given strict guidelines as to how to implement the policies?**

**No.** There will be City Suburban Catholic Conference guidelines as well as SRB Sports Program guidelines, but coaches are entrusted with a great deal of discretion as to how to manage their teams as long as they stay within the required guidelines. Our coaches are volunteers who dedicate tremendous amounts of time and effort to our programs. Each of them has individual styles and approaches, which are to be respected. It will be the job of the Sports Association Full Board to communicate our policies and monitor that the programs are implemented consistent with their spirit. A coach who is not able to operate consistent with the spirit of our programs will be asked not to coach again.

7. **Does the policy for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade teams translate to “playing to win?”**

**No.** While that common description is hard to avoid, there is no intent to place an undue emphasis on win/loss records. The intent is to place an increasing emphasis on individuals participating as members of a team, which represents its school and strives to do its best as a team. The goal is individual fulfillment through the collective effort to succeed; winning may or may not follow. We understand that when the focus is totally on winning, we lose sight of the athlete as a person.

8. **How does the participation policy relate to any policy regarding player “cuts?”**

Currently, the City Suburban Catholic Conference in which we participate has a “**no-cut**” policy. The SRBSA totally supports this policy and is the primary reason for us participating in this Conference. The Sports Association encourages every student to participate in all sports available to them.

9. **What about players “playing up” on a team at a higher grade level?**

When forming teams, it is the preference of the SRBSA to have its student athletes play within their current grade level whenever possible. Whenever this is not feasible the SRBSA will do everything possible to ensure that every student in grades 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> that wishes to participate in those sports offered within our current conference (CSCC) will be afforded that opportunity within the guidelines of the CSCC. These include student athletes playing up, combining

grades and playing at the higher grade level, double rostering (5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades only, under no circumstances by CSCC rules will 3<sup>rd</sup> graders be allowed to participate in interscholastic sports) and splitting teams. Players should not play-up absent a numerical need for additional players. If this was to occur, a player must play up for the remainder of the season.

If additional player/s is necessary, the SRBSA will opt for double rostering players from the lower grade. In order to do this we **must** have a minimum of 4 and no more than 7 rostered players for a basketball team or a minimum of 5 and no more than 8 for volleyball team and have only one team representing that grade level, in order to double roster players from the lower grade. By having a team that has a minimum of 4 players registered for basketball and 5 players for volleyball on the upper grade will ensure that the team will be made up of more players from the upper grade rather than the double rostering lower grade. When this is done all players from the lower grade must fill out a form signed by their parents/guardians either allowing them or not allowing them to play at the upper level. All players from the lower grade whose parents/guardians agreed to let them play at the higher level will play on a rotating basis based on the number of players needed per game to make a team of 7 for basketball and 8 for volleyball. Any double rostered players participating in a game are required to play the minimum playing time for the grade for which they are playing and are there to avoid forfeits and to give players a rest only. A double rostered player must not participate a second time until all other double rostered players have played once.

If the upper and lower grades both can **not** field a team, meaning they have less than 4 registered players for basketball and less than 5 registered players for volleyball, which means double rostering is **not** an option, then combining teams is the only option as long as a parent/guardian has volunteered to coach. If a grade has enough players to double roster, but there are **not** enough players from the lower grade who wish to do so, then combining both teams to play at the higher level is an option rather than not playing at all regardless of how many players are registered from each grade as long as they have a minimum total of 7 players for basketball and 8 players for volleyball. Parents and Guardians from the lower grade must decide if they will allow their child to play at the upper level.

If any team does **not** have a parent/guardian volunteer to coach or can **not** find someone (this person must meet all the same qualifications as all our other coaches) to do so even if they have enough players to stand on their own, they will **not** be allowed to play. The only exception to this rule is stated in the paragraph above. This means that if the upper grade can stand on its own

(meaning having a minimum total of 7 players for basketball and 8 players for volleyball) and the lower grade has less than 4 registered players for basketball and less than 5 registered players for volleyball and does **not** have a parent/guardian volunteer to coach, they will **not** be allowed to combine with the upper grade. The only exception is when the lower grade is the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. This does not apply because 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is not allowed to play and therefore cannot provide players for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team. This 4<sup>th</sup> grade team may then be combined with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

If we have more than 18 players for a team in basketball or volleyball, they must split the team into two equal teams to play in the Conference. Splitting a team for basketball may occur once a team has 14 to 18 players and 16 to 18 players for volleyball whether the team is made up of a single grade or a combined team of two grades.

**10. Does this policy relate to academic eligibility to participate?**

**No.** Academic eligibility is separate and established by school policy set by the Principal.

**11. Does the Sports Association Board think that this policy is perfect and will completely resolve the issues involved?**

**No.** The policy is a guideline. It is intended to convey a spirit. The policy in practice will hopefully evolve with reference to the guideline. Please attend our meetings, which are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the church basement, discuss issues with the Sports Association Full Board, get involved, and let your feelings be known. The open portion of the Full Board is reserved for the first fifteen minutes or time as needed of the meeting.

**12. What should a player or parent do if they believe that the participation policy is not being fairly applied?**

If a parent/guardian or student is experiencing a problem with a particular coach, they are encouraged to discuss the matter with the coach first. You might very well be able to reach an understanding as to the problem. If in a given circumstance, there is a reluctance to approach the coach, or if discussions with the coach have not resolved the matter, a Grievance Form needs to be downloaded from our website, filled out following grievance procedures and handed in to the Principal. The Principal will review the situation and render a decision. A Grievance Resolution Form will be filled out and presented to the involved parties. The Principal's decision is final.