Mater Dei Catholic Elementary
Athletic Handbook

MDCE Athletic Handbook and Code of Conduct Acknowledgement

After a thorough review of the Handbook, parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student (if developmentally appropriate) must sign this form and return it to the Athletic Director.

Print Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Date:_____

We have read, understand, and will comply with the contents of the MDCE Athletic Handbook and Central City and South Bay Athletic League Code of Conduct:

Signature of Parent/guardian: _____

Signature of Student (if developmentally appropriate): _____

In addition, parent(s)/guardian(s) initial each statement below:

_____ **Medical Emergency Release:** I hereby authorize Mater Dei Catholic Directors to act for me according to their best judgment in any emergency requiring medical attention and I hereby waive and release Mater Dei Catholic from any liability for any injuries or illnesses incurred by my child while at Mater Dei Catholic.

_____ **Marketing Release:** I grant Mater Dei Catholic Directors and employees the right to take photographs of participants in connection with marketing materials. I hereby relinquish any right that I may have to examine or approve the completed product(s) or the advertising copy or printed matter that may be used in conjunction therewith or the use to which it may be applied.

_____ **Concussion Information:** I acknowledge that I have been provided information regarding concussions.

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Mater Dei Catholic Mission Statement

We exist to inspire and educate the hearts, minds, and souls of our students.

MDCE Athletic Program Mission Statement

MDCEs Athletics Program provides our students the opportunity to participate in a variety of after-school sports programs to develop their motor skills, sport-specific fundamentals, and a better understanding of sportsmanship and cooperation through a team environment. Participants will be provided a safe environment to learn the fundamentals of each sport and be given a platform to develop strong, healthy, and disciplined minds and bodies.

It is MDCE Athletics Program goal to ensure a high quality experience for every participant by:

- Developing confident and motivated student athletes who can express themselves in a positive manner through athletics
- Creating a culture of fun, teamwork, and leadership through athletic competition
- Providing the opportunity to have fun playing and learning the game(s) of choice
- Helping participants learn the sport's rules, regulations, and skills necessary to actively participate and to improve over time
- Expecting an environment where coaches and parents are supportive and serve as positive role models
- Encouraging participants to develop and foster a positive self-image through team and individual accomplishments of the above objectives

Participation

Participation in athletics is a privilege and athletes are students first. Fulfilling academic responsibilities and adhering to the school's student learner expectations is the means to earning athletic participation.

Sports

MDCE offers a range of sports to students. The sports and their corresponding

seasons are listed below. Additionally, clinics and camps may be added in accordance with interest, facility availability, and coaching availability. Participation in sports, clinics, and camps will require a registration fee. All registration forms and fees must be received prior to deadlines.

JV Sports are for students in 5th and 6th grade. Varsity Sports are for students in 7th and 8th grade. Students may only participate in one MDCE sport per season (students may participate in one sport season and camp during the same season if times do not conflict).

New sports may be added with the approval of the Athletic Director and Principal.

Fall

Flag Football (JV & Varsity)

Cheer (3-8)

Winter

Boys' Basketball (JV & Varsity)

Girls' Volleyball (JV & Varsity)

PeeWee Soccer (Grades K-4)

Cheer (3-8)

Spring

Girls' Basketball (JV & Varsity)

Boys' Volleyball (JV & Varsity)

Co-Ed Soccer (JV & Varsity)

Camps

Tennis (3-8), Baseball (5-8), Track & Field (K-8)

**Camps are dependent on coach and facility availability*

Student Eligibility

Mater Dei Catholic student-athletes are held to a high standard. Student-athletes are expected to conduct themselves as Catholics. Athletes are students first. Being part of a team is a commitment that requires student-athletes to recognize their responsibility to something larger than themselves.

1. Athletes must have an up-to-date physical on file to participate in after school sports.

2. Athletes are expected to give maximum effort to achieve their very best academic

performance. Any student on an Academic or Behavior Contract will be ineligible for participation for the duration of their contract period.

3. Athletes whose conduct in school, games, or practices that do not reflect the Catholic values of an MDCE student may be suspended from extra-curricular participation by the Athletic Director and/or Principal.

4. Athletes who are not in attendance at school on a practice or game day may not attend that day's scheduled practice or game without authorization from the Principal or Athletic Director. Students going home ill will be ineligible for extra-curricular activity that day.

5. Athletes who are unable to participate in that day's scheduled physical education class may not participate in that day's scheduled practice or game.

6. Student-athletes who sustain injury which prevent them from playing, such as a sprain or break, are encouraged to attend practices and games to support their team.

7. The policies regarding student eligibility are subject to change at any time.

Parents and Fans

As with the student-athletes, participation in the MDCE Athletic Program for the parents is a privilege, not a right. All parents should serve as a positive example for the student athletes and represent MDCE as positive role models. Parents reinforce the positive values of Catholic conduct that reflect good sportsmanship.

1. Parents and fan support is valued and encouraged. Parents/guardians and spectators must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and act as positive role models for all participants.

2. Parents and fans cheer for our team and not against our opponents.

3. Parents never attempt to discuss the game with any official. Issues related to officiating are to be directed toward the Coach after the game, or the Athletic Director who has direct contact with league and tournament officials.

4. Parents do not address coaches with issues immediately before, or during the game. If a parent desires a discussion with a coach about issues relating to their child, a meeting should be scheduled at a mutually convenient time, not on game day.

5. Parents educate themselves as to the rules and strategies of the game so that they can better enjoy the experience.

6. Parents DO NOT coach from the stands as it sends a confusing message to the

players and undermines the coach.

7. Parents support the team concept and guard against letting their emotions get the best of them. They should remember that the game belongs to the student-athletes, and most problems can be worked out by the student-athletes, coaches, and officials.

8. Parents may be asked to leave or not attend their child's athletic events if they cannot act as good role models for their children.

9. Any parent/fan/coach/player engaging in behavior which includes but is not limited to verbal/physical confrontations, intimidation, or any behavior that is not consistent with Catholic values with any parent/fan/coach/player/official/school representative of MDCE or any other organization will not be tolerated. Failure to adhere to this guideline may result in suspension of the student-athlete from athletic participation. Failure of any adult to adhere to this guideline will result in immediate disciplinary action including but not limited to the offending adult's student-athlete being permanently removed from the team.

10. Discipline and suspensions from the MDCE Athletic Program will be consistent with the discipline policy of MDCE. The discipline policy reflects the philosophy of MDCE and is in place to serve the greater good, maintain order, and promote a safe learning environment. Remember, participation in after school athletics is a privilege, not a right, so student engagement in behavior that is not consistent with the rules and expectations of MDCE during the school day may result in temporary suspension or removal from the team. Confidentiality will be respected with regard to any discipline issues.

Teams

Every member of an MDCE team plays an important role. Not every teammate is blessed with the same athleticism or skill level, but every teammate contributes to the team by participating at practice, paying attention during each game, and supporting team goals. No team member will be treated differently because of his/her ability.

• K-6th grade: Coaches will make every effort to distribute playing time equally throughout the season. Practice attendance, attitude, and behavior will be the only factors that affect playing time. Coaches should not be concerned with the final score of games. The central goal is fun and to ensure students continue participating in athletics. The importance of team combined with fundamentals is emphasized. Good habits are introduced and reinforced.

• 7th and 8th Grade Varsity Teams: Student athletes competing at this level display a

strong commitment, and are willing to give of themselves for the good of the team. Strategies are reinforced and strengthened. Playing time is awarded at the coaches' discretion and is a reflection of practice performance, positive attitudes, attendance, and the in-game ability to have success. Every effort will be made for every student-athlete to be awarded meaningful playing time.

Each sport is based on the number of participants. If there are not enough members, there will not be a team. In the event that there are not enough players on a JV team (5th and 6th grade), 4th graders will be allowed to participate in JV Sports. In the event that there are not enough players on a Varsity team (7th and 8th grade), 6th graders will be allowed to participate in Varsity Sports. The additional number of players added from lower grade levels will only match the number of players needed to provide each player meaningful participation. Additional spots are first come, first serve.

Division of Teams

Dual grade level teams: Dual teams may be created when the number of participants hinders the effectiveness of instruction and playing time. The creation of dual teams is at the discretion of the Athletic Director.

In sports where more than one team is fielded, the Athletic Director along with the coaches for that particular sport will work together to decide the best practice to divide the students, whether it be by skill level, or grade level. One determining factor in team division is a commitment to attend all practices and games.

Participation in Other Activities/Teams Affecting In-Season MDCE Athletic Teams Attendance

MDCE and its supporting coaches invest a considerable amount of time, energy and resources to provide a high quality athletic experience for its students. It is the mutual understanding of MDCE, the player, and his/her family participating on any MDCE athletic team that attendance during that team's season is prioritized. The Athletic Director in collaboration with the Coaches reserves the right to limit to any extent a player's participation whether it be practice or games if it is deemed the player is missing practices or games for other athletic or extra-curricular activities that are not directly related to the in season sport the player is participating.

Roles and Responsibilities of Coaches

Teams for the parochial league are dependent on the availability of parent volunteers as coaches. What this means is if there are no coaches, there will not be a team. In order to coach, parents must complete the school's volunteer

requirements prior to the respective season. Coaches are responsible for:

1. Teaching athletes the fundamental skills, theory, and strategy of the sport
2. Teaching the athletes the value of good conduct, sportsmanship, and good citizenship
3. Providing supervision of athletes at all times and applying discipline in a firm productive manner
4. Teaching and emphasizing safe procedures to all athletes
5. Consistently being present and leading athletes through practices and games
6. Providing supervision and guidance to volunteers and students involved in assigned sport
7. Keeping track of the issued equipment for practices

There may be teams where coaches are assigned, and parent volunteers are not needed. Coaching assignments will be determined by the Athletic Director in consultation with the Principal and are subject to the same standards and behavior required of the MDCE teaching faculty.

Practice

Practices during the respective sports seasons will be held one to two times per-week after school depending on the coaches' and facility availability. Please follow attire and equipment guidelines set by the coach for practices. Attendance at practice sessions is a requirement for team participation unless excused due to illness or any other unforeseen circumstances. Frequent absences from practices may result in reduced playing time. Students will change and go directly to practice after dismissal. Parents should pick up their children no later than 10 minutes after the end of practice. Consistent late pick-ups may result in the student's dismissal from the team.

Fees

Prior to the beginning of each sports season, there will be a registration fee ($75 per student). These fees will be used to cover league fees, referee fees, uniforms, and other athletic coverages for the students. Uniforms will be for students to keep. All sports fees are non-refundable.

Sign Ups for Sports

Prior to the start of each respective season, there will be a system of signing up with

distinct deadlines. The system will be as follows:

1. Interest Lists for all sports will be open at the beginning of the school year. Parents should express their interest in a sport by completing this form which can be found on the MDCE website under Athletics. This form does not indicate registration for the sport, it only indicates that you are interested and would like to receive further information about the sport.
2. Prior to the respective season, the Athletic Director will send out the interest forms to families including practice dates and times, along with a deadline for when the form will close. Once the form closes, parents who have not expressed their interest on the form will no longer receive additional information about the sport, and will not be able to participate in that sport for that season. If there is even slight interest, please complete the interest form in case you wish to continue to receive information. If numbers suffice, the Athletic Director will not be adding more students after the deadline concludes.
3. The Athletic Director will send the store information only to those who signed the interest form to register their child. There will be a deadline to pay for the fees associated with the sport. Only families who pay the registration fee prior to the deadline will be members of the team. If a family is unable to pay the registration fee on time, every attempt will be made to work with the family in order to allow students to participate as long as communication is clear beforehand.
4. Exceptions for student participation after the above deadlines will only be made in the case of a lack of players or coaches for a team. Student additions will be conducted as follows:
    a. If coaching support is needed in order for there to be a team, a student of a parent who commits to coach will be accepted after the deadline.
    b. If there are not enough players after registration, students will be chosen in the order that they expressed interest in joining after the deadline. The Athletic Director will only allow enough students that ensures fair playing time and participation for all team members.

CENTRAL CITY & SOUTH BAY ATHLETIC LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

If athletics are an extension of the educational process and the Catholic philosophy we support, it is necessary for coaches, players, officials and spectators to make a concerted effort to maintain a decorum that reflects those values. It is incumbent on all to act in a way that models this belief. The athletic field should be an extension of the classroom. It should teach. Primary to this purpose is the fact that

learning is present in everything we do. Sportsmanlike behavior is a fundamental skill that must be learned and modeled by all.

A sportsmanlike person is defined as being "one who abides by the rules of the contest and accepts victory or defeat graciously". Athletes will perform as they are taught and expected to perform. Sportsmanlike behavior becomes a habit for all. Consistent instruction, attention and correction of behavior will result in a positive athletic experience. While sportsmanlike behavior is a complicated issue in itself, there are several qualities that educators, coaches, officials, players, and spectators should strive to accomplish:

1. All participants, coaches, and spectators must be accountable for their actions; behavior that is not reflective of league philosophy must always be addressed.

2. The coach is always responsible for the behavior of his/her team and spectators.

3. Learning is a matter of experience and to this end the League is dedicated to participation. Every member of a team has the right to experience the challenge of athletic competition each and every game.

4. Actions by individuals that call attention to themselves are a distraction from the game and therefore, are unacceptable.

5. Respect the privilege of using facilities that have been provided for our use by treating them as we would if they were ours. Be sure to clean the field and spectator areas prior to leaving.

6. Playing areas are out of limits for spectators who rightfully belong in the stands or in viewing areas apart from the boundaries in and around the field or court.

7. The young people who enjoy the game deserve our wholehearted commitment to their safety.

8. Abide by the rules of the game and the league in letter and spirit, regardless of what the outcome of the game may be.

9. Always exemplify the highest moral character, behavior, and leadership.

10. Respect the integrity and personality of the athlete--both your team and the opponents.

11. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat. **Intentionally running up the score is unacceptable.**

12 Always respect the integrity and judgment of the officials; **never bait or taunt an official in any way**.

I have read the League Code of Conduct and agree to its purpose. My signature affixed is the indication of my acceptance and support. I understand that failure to comply with the 'Code of Conduct' may require game forfeiture and my/our suspension or withdrawal from current or future participation in the League.