

STMAA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q. What sports are offered to Elementary & Middle school students and when are they offered?

Sports offered include:

- Co-ed cross country in early Fall (grades 3-8)
- Boys & girls basketball in mid-Fall through mid Winter (grades 3-8)
- Co-ed soccer in Spring & Fall (grades 3-8)
- Girls volleyball in late Summer through mid Fall (grades 4-8)
- Boys volleyball in Spring (grades 4-8)
- Cheer in Fall/Winter (depends on signup numbers) (grades 4-8)
- Little Peps in Fall/Winter (grades K-2)
- Little Dribblers in Fall (grades K-2)
- Little Runners in Spring (grades K-2)
- Little Kickers in Spring (grades K-2)
- Little Spikers in Spring (grades K-4)

Q. What is the registration fee used for?

A. The fee collected is used to cover the expenses of all sports offered at STM.

Examples are: uniforms, sports equipment, field & gym maintenance/improvements, referee fees, tournament fees, 8th grade recognition, and the annual 7th/8th grade sports banquet.

Q. Why does the STMAA request early registration for sports?

A. We request early registration for two key reasons:

1. Ensure we have the proper amount of teams, coaches, equipment and uniforms
2. Ensure all children participating are submitted on the Diocese roster. Any child *not included on the roster is not permitted to play.*

Q. If I register & pay online is my child automatically registered?

A. No. In addition to registration & payment, all parents **MUST** submit the Physician & Parent Medical Release and Parent's Pledge form mandated by the Diocese. These forms are available on the STMAA website.

Q. By registering for a sport am I required to help my child's team?

A. Yes. Since we have no paid positions, all parents are volunteers. Each team should have a "team leader" who is responsible for assigning volunteer activities such as concessions, admissions, book keeping, scoreboard, track meet support and cleanup.

Q. How is playing time for all players managed?

A. The STMAA encourages all coaches to follow the diocesan guidelines for player participation, which states the following:

3rd and 4th Grade - Introductory Levels

At this level, any sports program offered is strictly introductory and developmental. Basic skills and fundamentals should be taught. Playing time should be equal.

5th and 6th - Junior Varsity Levels

Teams may be formed on the basis of player proficiency, but every student should have a place to play and playing time should be as equal as possible.

7th and 8th - Varsity Level

Varsity teams may be formed on the basis of player proficiency, allowing players to compete at a level appropriate to their development. There is no guarantee of equal playing time, but every school is asked to provide a second team so that no student is excluded from playing. Every effort should be made so that every player has some playing time in every game.

At all levels, coaches may also base playing time on attendance and meaningful participation in practices and each coach should communicate their individual policy at the preseason team meeting.

Q. What is the process for forming “competitive” teams for the JV & Varsity leagues?

A. STM has a no-cut policy, so everyone who signs up is placed on a team. The JV & Varsity levels are considered competitive teams along with the other Diocese schools. Unlike many smaller schools in the Diocese who may only have one team, we typically have multiple teams due to our size. Our top team will be entered in the most competitive section of the Diocese and our secondary team(s) will be entered into other Diocesan leagues. Teams may be formed based on grade level and/or afterschool try-outs, which are conducted by outside evaluators (typically coaches from other catholic schools) and coach input regarding team needs may also be considered.

Q. Can my registration fee be refunded if my child decides not to play after evaluations?

A. We will provide a refund if it is requested early enough and prior to your child participating in an official game/meet.

Q. Can my child play on multiple teams?

A. The Athletic Department asks that you put STM games ahead of club/league practices/games. We ask you discuss any potential conflicts with your child's coach as early in the season as possible.

Note: The Diocesan policy prohibits participation on other teams of the same sport during the Diocesan season.

Q. What happens if my child loses their uniform?

A. Families will be responsible to reimburse the school a fee of **\$75.00** to replace a lost uniform.

Q. Are coaches and/or Athletic Association board members paid?

A. All STMAA board members and coaches are volunteers and receive no pay.

Q. Do coaches receive any type of training?

A. Our coaches are volunteers. They have knowledge of the sport, the skills to assist in developing our athletes and creating a positive environment for the children. All coaches, like all other volunteers are required to possess all clearances and any mandated training required by the Diocese and the Commonwealth of PA.

Q. Does this year's coach automatically become next year's coach?

A. Not always -- if overall feedback is positive and the coach is willing to return, we will typically have them return. If other qualified individuals step up and wish to volunteer for the position, we will consider their qualifications for the coaching position.

Q. Can a Head Coach or Assistant Coach be involved with STM sports *without* clearances?

A. No. All clearances must be completed prior to coaching or volunteering at any diocesan school. There are no exceptions.

Q. How can a parent share their feedback about a child's coach?

A. Parents are welcome to discuss their child and share feedback directly with coaches. We ask parents review and abide by the following steps for any coaching concerns:

1. Wait at least 24 hours and then reach out to the coach directly to set up a time to discuss concerns (do NOT approach the coach right after a game or during/after practice)
2. If issue is not resolved, arrange a meeting with the Athletic Director
3. If issue is not resolved, arrange a meeting with the School Principal & Athletic Director
4. If issue is not resolved, arrange meeting with Pastor, School Principal & Athletic Director
5. If issue is not resolved, the Pastor may refer the issue to the Diocese

Q. Are teams/athletes recognized?

A. Yes.

- **7th & 8th Grade Sports Banquet**, which includes a casual, evening dinner, gifts for the athletes, as well as team recognition by coaches and is coordinated by the STMAA. The banquet is subsidized for varsity athletes by the STMAA and there is a small fee for parents and other family members attending.
- **8th Grade Recognition Night**, which is generally coordinated by individual teams and partially subsidized by the STMAA.
- **End of Season Party** for athletes below the varsity level. Coaches are encouraged to coordinate the event, which is partially subsidized by the STMAA.