

Athletics Handbook

Adopted—August, 2014

Amended—August 2015; June 2016; June 2017

*Always More. Always better. Always with Love*.

–Mother Maria Kaupus

Dear Student-Athletes:

**WELCOME**

We would like to welcome you to athletics at Villa Joseph Marie High School. Our hope for you is that your experiences as a VJM athlete will provide you with lessons that go beyond the court, field, track, course, mats, pool, and beyond each set, game, match, race, meet, competition, and season. With the right attitude and gratitude for sport, you can expect to gain lessons in any or all of the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Perseverance
 | * Recognizing limitations
 | * Setting and attaining goals
 |
| * Performance under pressure
 | * Respect for self and others
 | * Communication
 |
| * Meeting challenges
 | * Self-control
 | * Working within a system
 |
| * Team work
 | * How to win and how to lose
 | * Self-motivation
 |
| * Patience
 | * Tackling adversity
 | * Resilience
 |
| * Commitment
 | * Self-reflection/evaluation
 | * Pushing yourself to the limit
 |
| * Risk-taking
 | * Problem-solving
 | * Self-Discipline
 |
| * Accepting responsibility for

 behavior | * Time management
 | * Working with others you don’t necessarily like
 |

The coaches and Administration of VJM are here to support your growth as a student and as an athlete to best prepare you for life as a Villa graduate.

Sincerely,

The Athletics Department of Villa Joseph Marie High School

**INTRODUCTION**

This handbook will outline policies and procedures as well as serve as a guide for appropriate behavior and conduct for student athletes participating in the athletic program at Villa Joseph Marie High School.

Villa Joseph Marie High School is a member of the Athletic Association of the Catholic Academies (AACA), which is governed by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA). With this in mind, student-athletes need to establish priorities that reflect the PIAA/VJM philosophies. The Athletic Department is funded by Villa Joseph Marie High School, with attention paid to the equitable distribution of financial support for all teams. Athletic scholarships are not offered.

All students are invited to participate on any of the 14 interscholastic teams (Basketball, Cheerleading, Crew, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Indoor and Outdoor Track, and Volleyball). Scheduling for all teams is based on available competition with like institutions, with priority given to other PIAA programs.

Participation in athletics in conjunction with success in academics results from hard work, commitment and sacrifice. As a result, a healthy balance between athletics and academics is not only encouraged, but also expected. While athletic honors earned by individuals and teams are encouraged and important, academic honors are paramount—hence the reason *student* is listed first in *student-athlete*.

**PHILOSOPHY AND MISSION**

The foundation of the Villa Joseph Marie High School Athletics Program is mission-driven and therein celebrates the “dignity, potential, and uniqueness of each student [athlete]”. Participation in Villa Joseph Marie High School athletics is a privilege which is designed to support and foster self-discipline, teamwork, respect for others, physical well-being, superior decision-making skills, healthy competition, and self-respect. Student-athletes are valued representatives of the VJM community and as such are expected to be excellent role models for peers and respected ambassadors of Villa Joseph Marie High School.

**ELIGIBILITY**

* Student-athletes must comply with all PIAA and Athletic Department regulations regarding eligibility.
* Student-athletes must maintain a good academic standing to be eligible to participate in the athletic program (See below).
	+ The Athletic Director will meet with student-athletes when academic difficulties arise, and temporary or permanent suspension from athletic events may result until the student achieves academic success.
* Transfer students must comply with PIAA mandates and fill out all appropriate paperwork requested by VJM and PIAA
* Prospective student-athletes must:
	+ *Pass* the mandatory PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) prior to trying out and *turn in* all required completed CIPPE forms via FamilyID
		- The CIPPE form cannot be authorized/certified earlier than June 1 and shall be effective, regardless of when performed during a school year, until the next May 31st.
		- For subsequent seasons, student-athletes must turn in CIPPE Section 7 (Re-certification by Parent/Guardian) and, if necessary, CIPPE section 8 (Re-certification by a Licensed Physician of Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine).
	+ Complete the ImPACT concussion test each year prior to tryouts
	+ Pay the sports fee of $200 per sport/per season; the fee for swimming is $250 per season. The fee for crew is determined on a year-to-year basis based on the needs of the team.
	+ Attend the VJM Athletics orientation presentation as well as the CCET (concussion education) presentation prior to tryouts
	+ Turn in all additional paperwork required by the VJM Athletics Department by the first official contest (scrimmage, game, match, meet, etc.) via FamilyID
	+ Have a parent/guardian or approved representative attend the VJM Athletics orientation presentation as well as the CCET (concussion education) presentation prior to the first official contest (scrimmage, game, match, meet, etc.)
		- This presentation is required for any parent/guardian new\* to the VJM Athletics program
			* \*this applies to parents/guardians of an incoming freshman, a transfer student, or any current Villa student who is trying out for a VJM team for the first time
* Failure to comply with any or all of the above requirements deems a prospective student-athlete ineligible for tryouts/practices and/or contests.

**ACADEMICS**

A student athlete faces a demanding task. Balancing athletics with the rigorous demands of academia requires time management and the responsible establishment of priorities to satisfy both of these roles. Time conflicts are inevitable between class attendance and practice as well as travel time to athletic events. Athletes who have excessive absences and/or are receiving temporary academic accommodations (e.g., medical-related) may not participate in athletic practices and events until approval is given by VJM Administration. Students may miss class for competition. Conflicts with exams, quizzes, etc., must be resolved between the student and the appropriate teacher. In the event that conflicts cannot be resolved, the student’s primary responsibility is to academic obligations. Coaches may not make demands that compromise a student’s academic standings.

**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

In order to participate in any extra-curricular activity (such as a practice or contest), a student must meet the following conditions:

* A satisfactory academic record
	+ The Principal will monitor grades throughout each quarter. If at any time a student-athlete is receiving a failing grade (69 or below) in **two** (2) **or more** classes, she will become ineligible for **one** week (7 days, including weekends and holidays). If after one week her grades do not show improvement, she will remain ineligible until the Principal is notified of improvement. The Athletic Director will notify student-athletes if and when they become ineligible
		- Participation in extracurricular activities encourages well-rounded students. It does happen that students can become academically ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. The purpose of academic ineligibility is not to punish the student; but it is rather an attempt to give the student the time needed to resolve time management issues that may be causing her to have a failing grade. If a student becomes ineligible, she will not be permitted to participate in any activity, including but not limited to games and practices
* A satisfactory attendance record including attendance in at least **five** (5) class periods the day of an event
	+ If the event falls on a weekend, the student must attend at least five (5) class periods the Friday prior (unless approval has been obtained from Administration *beforehand*)
* A satisfactory conduct record

**CONDUCT**

Student-athletes at Villa Joseph Marie High School are expected to exhibit appropriate conduct at all times. Members of all athletic teams are bound by the rules and regulations as stated in the Villa Joseph Marie High School handbook. Particular attention should be paid to the following and the specific sanctions that will result when violations occur:

* Student-athletes may not intentionally come in physical contact with any official, team member, opposing coach and/or spectators
* Student-athletes may not verbally abuse any official, team member, opposing team member or coach, and/or spectator
* Student-athletes must refrain from misconduct while traveling or in their representation of Villa Joseph Marie High School, especially in the areas of alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, theft or vandalism of property and/or equipment
* Student-athletes will refrain from any form of hazing
	+ "Hazing."  Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of [a student] **a person** or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization [operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education]. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.
* General misconduct

Severity of sanctions will be determined by the Athletic Director after consultation with the coach, involved parties, and the Dean of Student Affairs where deemed appropriate. The above-mentioned situations are not inclusive, and the Athletic Director will administer penalties where deemed appropriate. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to the following:

* Written reprimand to the involved party(ies)
* Suspension from practice(s)
* Suspension from competition(s)
* Suspension from all team activities for a specific time
* Restitution ordered for damages and/or theft
* Expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season and/or academic year
* Reporting the infraction to law enforcement, if deemed necessary

Note: In any contest in which a VJM athlete or coach is ejected, PIAA mandates a next contest suspension. *In addition* to the PIAA mandate, Villa Joseph Marie High School may impose its own sanction of a one contest/game suspension. Therefore, any VJM player or coach ejected from a game/contest may be suspended for **TWO** consecutive contests/games and may be subject to further disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season.

**ALCOHOL AND/OR DRUG USE**

Refer to the VJM Student Handbook\*

Any student who violates Villa Joseph Marie High School’s Controlled Substances/Drugs/Alcohol/Tobacco policies, will be subject to the most severe sanctions, including expulsion from all Athletic Department programs and referral to appropriate administration for institution-wide review. Disciplinary consequences include suspension and expulsion from VJM. Violations may also result in penalties and/or fines as are imposed by any and all law enforcement agencies.

**TEAM TRAVEL**

While on the road, student-athletes of Villa Joseph Marie High School are representatives of the school. Student-athletes are to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect a positive image on themselves and the school. Appropriate conduct must be exhibited at all times. Teams must remove all belongings and any trash from the buses /vehicles that take them off campus.

Villa Joseph Marie High School Athletics Department generally provides buses/vehicles for athletes to travel to and from athletic contests.

* If an athlete chooses not to return to campus on the team bus, a travel release form must be on file with the Athletics Department via FamilyID. **Note**: Each team may have rules regarding team travel. Please check with your coach and his/her team policies.
* When a situation arises in which an athlete cannot travel on a bus provided by the school, a permission form must be completed and submitted for approval to the Athletic Director in advance.

Student-athletes should make sure that they know the time and place of their departure and be prompt and ready to leave at the scheduled time. Student-athletes should always take study material with them because there will be time on the road for studying. A neat and clean appearance is required.

**EARLY DISMISSAL FOR AWAY GAMES**

Student-athletes should change into their sports uniforms *and acceptable travel gear*during their lunch periods on away game days.  Student-athletes should remain in class until the set dismissal time.  Once dismissed, student-athletes should conduct themselves in a manner that is cognizant of the fact that classes are still in session. No student-athlete may leave the school premises without signing out in the Main Office.

**SCHOOL ACCESS**

Athletes returning from away games needing to use the restroom should access the outdoor restrooms at the garages (next to the soccer fields) or enter the school *only under the supervision of the head or assistant coach(es)*. If entering school after school hours, only the bathrooms located in the gym should be utilized. Athletes are never to go beyond the Nurse's Office after hours unless accompanied by a coach or faculty member. The main hallway bathroom and student lockers, therefore, are off limits to students after hours. Students violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from their respective team for repeated offenses. In addition, athletes needing to enter the main building after school hours (5:00pm), should enter the building *only under the supervision of the one of the coaches.*

**UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

When student-athletes are issued equipment and uniforms, it is done so on a loan basis. Student-athletes are responsible for the proper care of all equipment and/or uniforms—this may include specific care instructions from the manufacturer.

* Student-athletes are responsible for returning all equipment and uniforms to the Athletic Trainer or Athletic Director **personally** within oneweek of the last competition date.
* Any lost or damaged uniforms and/or equipment must be reimbursed for the replacement costs***.*** Failure to doso may result in termination of future eligibility, forfeiture of athletic awards, and/or refusal for academicregistration, and release of grades or college transcripts.
* Student-athletes may wear only VJM issued and/or approved uniforms

**MAKING CUTS**

Every coach has the responsibility and authority for selecting his/her team. The criteria for selecting the team are developed by the coach. It is also important to remember that there are no guarantees. Players from the previous year’s JV team, for example, do not automatically make either the JV or Varsity team the following year. Having been a member of a team during the previous year or even being a senior does not ensure that an athlete will make the team. Parents should expect that every candidate is treated fairly and given every consideration. Coaches are sensitive to feelings of disappointment, will handle the task as positively as possible, and be available to answer athletes’ questions.

While we understand that being cut is disappointing for many athletes and even for their parents, we unfortunately cannot keep everyone. Anyone cut from a team is welcome to try out again next season or to try another sport.

**THE PURPOSE OF A JUNIOR VARSITY (JV) TEAM**

Junior varsity (JV) teams exist to provide those athletes unable to participate on the varsity level an opportunity to develop skills and gain experience. While the athlete’s age, size, or skill level may be the limiting factor in not making the varsity team, participation on a JV team may enhance the athlete’s potential to make the varsity team in the future.

Being a member of a JV team does not guarantee that an athlete will automatically move up the following year to the varsity team. The athlete’s best suited for varsity competition will make the squad each year. Striving to win is important in athletics; however, compiling a great record or winning a championship should not be the primary objective of a JV team. The development of athletes should be the ultimate purpose of a JV squad while at the same time acknowledging the value of winning, learning, and enjoying being a member of a team.

**PRACTICE SESSIONS AND GAMES**

Practice sessions are normally closed to spectators. Interruptions and interference to an athlete’s concentration and focus in practice cannot be allowed any more than a disruption would not be tolerated in an academic setting. Practice sessions may last up to three hours. An athlete needs to consistently attend practice sessions. They may start and end at different times due to the schedule of the coach or of our facilities. Check with the coach for specific times. No practice may be held when school is dismissed early due to inclement weather or held when school is not in session due to inclement weather. There may be practices held on Saturdays, Sundays, and over holiday periods.

**COACH EVALUATION**

All senior student-athletes who completed a season of scholastic participation are requested to evaluate the coach and/or coaches of their sport and evaluate the season. Any non-senior who wishes to evaluate her coach(es) is permitted to do so. These evaluations will be reviewed by the Athletic Department and may be viewed by other members of the VJM Administration.

**ATHLETIC TRAINING NEEDS**

The VJM certified athletic trainer is available to all student-athletes for evaluation, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic-related injuries as well as referral of student-athletes for medical or emergency care. The following procedures are in effect:

* Student-athletes should contact the athletic trainer immediately in case of sports related illness or injury, no

 matter how minor

* Student-athletes should report for treatment prior to practice or competition
* Student-athletes should follow all recommendations and guidelines regarding treatment and rehabilitation as set by the trainer
* The trainer has the right to prohibit student-athletes from practice and/or competition when deemed appropriate or necessary
* After injury, return to play (RTP) protocol must be followed
	+ Following a complete physical assessment, the VJM athletic trainer may, at his or her discretion, and in accordance with approved protocols, return an athlete to practice or competition unless the athlete is under the current proximate care of a licensed physician
		- When the athlete is under the care of a licensed physician, the licensed athletic trainer must have written or verbal documentation from the treating physician in order to return the athlete to practice or competition
		- If an athlete is not being seen by a licensed physician following an injury, the VJM athletic trainer will determine when the athlete may return to practice or competition
			* Final return to play decisions will be made in cooperation and agreement with the treating physician, the VJM team supervising physician, and the athletic trainer in accordance with approved protocols\*, policies, and procedures
				+ \*Specific **concussion protocol** based on CCET compliance—**The Zurich Protocol**

Step 1 begins at the time of the injury. Step 2 begins on the first completely symptom-free day. To progress to the next step, the athlete must remain symptom free.

Step 1) No activity, complete rest

\*\*A note from an MD or DO is required to begin step 2

Step 2) Light aerobic exercise, such as walking or stationary cycling. No resistance training

Step 3) Sport-specific exercise (e.g., stick handling for hockey players, ball handling for basketball and soccer players, etc.); add one set of low resistance training if able

Step 4) Resume non-contact training drills; add additional sets and higher intensity resistance training if able

Step 5) Full contact practice after receiving medical clearance from an MD or DO. A medical clearance note is required.

Step 6) Full participation

If at any point concussion symptoms recur, the athlete should cease activity and rest. Following a symptom- free period, the athlete should return to the previous step in the progression and resume as above. No medications may be taken at any step of the progression, so as to potentially mask any symptoms. The athlete must check in with his or her athletic trainer daily prior to practice.

* + Final return to play in any circumstance, however, is ultimately determined by the VJM Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC)
		- Once return to play has been established by the VJM ATC, the Head Coach then will determine, based on the team needs, when the player is contest-ready
* After non-emergency injury, permission to return to play must be obtained from VJM’s ATC and communicated to the head coach
* Any equipment (braces, crutches, ace bandages, etc.) is to be returned when no longer needed

Failure to follow recommended treatment, rehabilitation, or medical follow-up may result in suspension and/or loss of eligibility to participate in practice and/or competition for a specified time which will be determined by the Athletic Director in consultation with the trainer and the appropriate coach.

**INSURANCE**

Student-athletes must understand the inherent risk involved in interscholastic athletics. This risk can involve serious physical or even fatal injuries. As a result, Villa Joseph Marie High School requires all student-athletes to have their own basic health and accident insurance policy, which does not exclude participation in athletics.

The following procedures are to be followed and it is important that the student-athlete and her parents/guardians are fully aware of these procedures and their implications:

* PIAA physical examinations are required for all student-athletes prior to participation in any athletic tryout, practice, or competition.
	+ Students are responsible for procuring a physical exam on their own and will assume any financial obligation for such an exam.
* A certified athletic trainer is available for athletic injury and for referral of athletes for emergency and further medical care at all home athletic contests.

**STUDENT-ATHLETE CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

When a problem arises for a student-athlete, the following steps are to be followed to address the situation:

**Step 1**

Athlete goes to Head or Assistant Coach and presents concerns

*If not resolved*:

**Step 2**

Athlete and Head Coach meet with Athletic Director

*If not resolved:*

**Step 3**

Athlete, Head Coach, and Athletic Director meet with the Principal

*If not resolved:*

**Step 4**

Athlete, Head Coach, Athletic Director, and Principal meet with the President

**Step 5**

*If not resolved*

Athlete, Head Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and Parents meet with the President

\**This process may be modified if the Administration of VJM deems it necessary*

One of the most valuable life lessons gained through sports can be the power of problem solving. Villa Joseph Marie High School’s mission is one that promotes the empowerment of its students. The Athletics Department, therefore, welcomes the opportunity for its student-athletes to problem solve in the realm of playing time, positioning, strategy, and the like. **At no time** will any member of the Athletics Department, including its coaches, entertain a conversation about the aforementioned issues with anyone other than members of respective VJMHS teams.

**ROLE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN**

Parents are welcomed and encouraged to be positive, proactive, and respected partners with the School and the Athletics Department. However, team positions, playing time, starting line-up, and general team strategy are decisions made solely and impartially by the VJMHS coaching staff.

**PARENT EXPECTATIONS/CONTRACT**

I, while a parent/guardian of a student-athlete of Villa Joseph Marie High School, *promise* to:

* Always set an example of good sportsmanship
* Applaud my child’s accomplishments and effort as well as the accomplishments and effort of the other members of the team
* Accept the coaches’ decisions regarding all team management decisions—playing time, positioning, strategy, etc.
* Follow the procedures set forth by the VJM Athletics Department regarding paperwork, injuries, conflict resolution, and expectations

**PARENT EXPECTATIONS/CONTRACT (continued)**

I, while a parent/guardian of a student-athlete of Villa Joseph Marie High School, *understand* that:

* Demeaning language toward officials, the opposing team and/or spectators will not be tolerated
* Demeaning language toward VJMHS players, spectators, and/or coaching staff will not be tolerated
* I will not be granted an audience with the coach, Athletic Director, or any other member of the VJMHS Administration regarding the playing time or position of my daughter, nor the general strategy chosen by the coaching staff
* My participation as a supporter of VJMHS Athletics is a privilege, not a right
* If I fail to follow the aforementioned expectations, VJMHS reserves the right to issue the following sanctions:
	+ Written reprimand to the involved party(ies)
	+ Suspension from practice(s)
	+ Suspension from competition(s)
	+ Suspension from all team activities for a specific time
	+ Ban the violating party(ies) from campus
	+ Expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season and/or academic year
	+ Reporting the infraction to law enforcement, if deemed necessary

**STUDENT-ATHLETE CONTRACT**

I, while a participant of VJMHS Athletics, *promise* to:

* Attend all practices and meetings faithfully
* Contact a coach personally before the practice or meeting if I must miss it
* Faithfully attend all competitions in uniform
* Contact a coach or Athletic Director personally if I am unable to attend a competition
* Maintain my eligibility and academic standing
* If involved with an outside sport or activity, I understand my commitment to the Villa Joseph Marie team comes first
* Written permission from the Athletic Director is required before terminating participation with and/or returning to a team
* Be well-groomed, especially at competitions
* Refrain from using drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, and inhalants
* Replace any equipment or uniform issued to me, either by payment or the equivalent of the lost article
* Turn in before the first practice all necessary forms issued to me by the coach or Athletic Director
* Report any personal injury or teammate’s injury to coach and/or VJM trainer immediately
* All athletes promise to maintain an open dialogue with their teachers regarding their participation in athletics
	+ It is the student-athlete’s responsibility to alert her teacher in a timely manner when she will be missing class due to a contest. All make-up work must be completed at a date set by the teacher.
* Follow all reasonable requests made by the Athletic Director, Athletic Trainer, and coaches, especially those involving practice, health, rest, competitions, and academics

**STUDENT-ATHLETE CONTRACT (continued)**

I, while a participant of VJMHS Athletics, *understand* that:

* I am a “valued representative of the VJMHS community and as such am expected to be an excellent role model for my peers and a respected ambassador for Villa Joseph Marie High School”
* I am expected to always set an example of good sportsmanship
* My athletic participation at VJMHS is a privilege
* I am not guaranteed playing time
* I am not guaranteed any certain/specific position on the team, field, court, standings, line-up, etc.
* Only the coaching staff makes final decisions regarding playing time, positioning, strategy, training—any decision regarding the management of the VJMHS team
* After injury, written permission must be obtained from the physician authorizing participation after
* emergency care or rehabilitation
* After non-emergency injury, permission must be obtained from VJMHS’s Certified Athletic Trainer and communicated to the head coach
* If I fail to follow the aforementioned expectations, VJMHS reserves the right to:
	+ Written reprimand to the involved party(ies)
	+ Suspension from practice(s)
	+ Suspension from competition(s)
	+ Suspension from all team activities for a specific time
	+ Restitution ordered for damages and/or theft
	+ Expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season and/or academic year
	+ Reporting the infraction to law enforcement, if deemed necessary

**SPORTS CAPTAINS’ RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Characteristics of Effective Captains**

* Set a good example academically.
* Set a good example athletically by attending all practices and games and working hard, training hard, doing extra, exhibiting good sportsmanship, and being a positive influence on and off the field.
* Act as a liaison for the team to the coach and Athletic Director
* Organize post-practice and post-game clean up by the entire team.
* Thank all officials after termination of the games—win, lose, or draw!
* Help with game advertisement or publicity.
* Hold team meetings for spirit and morale periodically throughout the season when needed.
* Lead the warm-up before practice and matches.
* Eliminate any hazing of any athletes.
* Perform any tasks deemed appropriate by the coach and/or the Athletics Department.

**SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY OF THE VJM ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

Student-athletes should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, and/or Villa Joseph Marie High School. This includes any activities conducted online.

As a student-athlete participating in interscholastic sports at VJMHS, you are a representative of the school. Your connection to your school and your team is, in many respects, under a microscope. Colleges and scholarship committees search online sites to screen potential candidates and applicants. In addition, the online universe has been at the heart of negative newspaper headlines, lawsuits, and general negative consequences for those that don’t follow these general principles:

* Before participating in any online community understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world.
	+ Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online –
		- even if you limit access to your site.
	+ Companies, colleges, and universities *pay* to be able to view their applicant, potential scholarship recipient, potential employer, etc. whose settings have been set to “private”—what you post, even “privately”, can have serious repercussions on your future
* You should not post information, photos, or other items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Athletics Department, or Villa Joseph Marie High School.
* You should not post your home address, local address, phone number(s), birth date, or other personal information as well as your whereabouts or your plans. You could be opening up yourself to predators.

The *malicious use* of on-line social networks about any member of the PIAA community or non-PIAA opponent, including, but not limited to the behaviors listed below, will be subject to disciplinary action by the Director of Athletics:

* Demeaning or taunting statements about opposing teams, opposing players, coaches, and/or teammates
* Impersonation of persons other than self
* Threats to opposing teams, opposing players, coaches, and/or teammates
* Incriminating photos or statements depicting hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, stalking, underage drinking, illegal drug use, or other inappropriate behavior

Sanctions may include:

* Written notification requiring that the unacceptable content be removed
* Written reprimand to the involved party(ies)
* Suspension from practice(s)
* Suspension from competition(s)
* Suspension from all team activities for a specific time
* Expulsion from the team for the remainder of the season and/or academic year
* Reporting the infraction to law enforcement, if deemed necessary

Failure to agree and adhere to this Code of Conduct can result in actions ranging from reprimand or suspension to dismissal from the program. It is the Athletic Department’s intention to achieve a level of behavior that reflects positively on all of us. This Code of Conduct is in addition to any specific team policies established by your coach, as well as all guidelines established by Villa Joseph Marie High School that apply to all students

**ATHLETIC TRAINING CONSENT**

By signing this authorization, I authorize Amy Barr**,** CertifiedAthletic Trainer employed by Villa Joseph Marie High Schoolto act in the capacity of an approved medical provider.

I, the Parent /Guardian of the above name student, understand that my student-athlete may be injured while participating in school sponsored athletics. I hereby grant permission to VJM’s Certified Athletic Trainer to administer any preventative, first aid or emergency treatments to evaluate and examine, which they deem reasonably necessary to the health and well-being of my student-athlete.

I/we expressly permit the contracted athletic training staff to evaluate and treat any injury/illness that occurs as a result of the athletes participation in athletics. This includes any and all reasonable and necessary care including therapeutic modalities, rehabilitation, preventative instruction, and use of EMS services as needed. In the event your athlete gets injured on school grounds, I authorize VJM’s Certified Athletic Trainer to facilitate evaluation, treatment/care and/or EMS transportation or other forms of transportation for the appropriate care of the injured athlete. I understand that the VJM Certified Athletic Trainer will contact the athlete's parent or guardian as soon as possible in the event of an emergency situation.

**Athletic Training Consent Form**

\*This form is signed electronically via FamilyID

I have had the opportunity to review and understand the contents of this form. By signing this form, I am confirming that it accurately reflects my wishes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Printed Name of Athlete | Signature of Athlete |
| Parent/Guardian Signature | Parent/Guardian Signature |
| Date |  |

**Athletic Handbook Agreement Form**

\*This form is signed electronically via FamilyID

I *understand* and *agree* that I am required to know, understand, and follow the aforementioned expectations, policies, and standards outlined in the 2017-2018 Villa Joseph Marie High School Athletics Handbook.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Printed Name of Athlete | Signature of Athlete |
| Parent/Guardian Signature | Parent/Guardian Signature |
| Date |  |