

# DIOCESAN MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

**Name:** Diocesan Middle School Athletic Association (DMSAA)

### ARTICLE II

#### **Section I:** Purpose

The Diocesan Middle School Athletic Association is established to help provide effective coordination, leadership, supervision, and regulation for athletics for the Catholic Middle Schools located in the Tulsa Catholic Diocese.

#### **Section II:** Statement of Philosophy

The primary aim of the DMSAA is to provide students opportunities to discover their physical potential by being able to participate in various athletic team competitions. It is the aim of DMSAA that, through controlled and regulated athletic programs, a student will have the opportunity to grow spiritually and socially, and through the importance of self-discipline, the student-athletes will develop their fundamental athletic skills and sportsmanship.

#### **Section III:** Goals and Objectives

- A. The student-athletes recognize that athletics are just one part of their total growth, and that God, family and academics come first.
- B. Effective regulation of athletics so that athletics do not dominate the academic program, but do enhance the formal education and compliment the curriculum.
- C. Assist the students to experience growth and self-confidence and self-esteem.
- D. To instill in the student the desire to participate in physical activities as a recreational pursuit and to instill the appreciation and knowledge of sports as a spectator.
- E. To expose the student-athlete to the experience and encouragement of healthy and successful competition and a winning spirit.
- F. To allow the student-athlete the experience of team competition as an education for life experiences.
- G. That the student, parents, spectators and coaches will demonstrate sportsman-like behavior at all times.

### ARTICLE III

#### **Section I:** Membership

- A. Membership is open to Grades 6, 7, and 8 in those Catholic Middle Schools located in the Tulsa Diocese that wish to comply with the requirements of the Rules Governing Athletics and the By-Laws listed for any of the sport programs that the DMSAA offers.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Section I: Advisory Council**

- A. An Advisory Council shall govern the DMSAA. Membership of this council shall consist of one (1) representative from each participating Middle School, Chairperson, and the Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Each member school shall have one (1) vote for issues brought before the council. Sport Coordinators will have a vote on issues pertaining to their sport.
- B. Each school must have a council member that is a paid employee of the school and have a close interactive relationship with the administrator and students on a regular basis. The representative shall be appointed by the building principal.
- C. Ex-officio (non-voting) members may be accepted to serve.
- D. The Tulsa Diocese Superintendent of Catholic Schools will appoint the Chair of the DMSAA Advisory Council.
- E. The term of office for a council member shall be one (1) year and re-appointed by the building principal.

### **Section II: Duties and Powers of the Council**

- A. Meetings of the Advisory Council are held on the last Wednesday of the month unless rescheduled for holidays or special dates. There are no council meetings in December, June or July and May unless deemed necessary by the board. Any issue to be placed on a meeting's agenda must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson no later than one (1) week prior to the meeting.

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson. Only items that have been set forth in the call for a special meeting may be acted upon at that special meeting. A simple majority of the voting members present at the meeting will be required for action to be taken.

- B. A member of the Advisory Council must present all proposed rule changes/additions to the Rules Governing Athletics to the DMSAA Advisory Council in writing. The council will review such changes with a simple majority of the voting members present at the meeting to send recommendations to each school for their review and acceptance. Upon return by the specified date, a simple majority of all council members and administrators responding is needed to accept/reject any changes.
- C. A member of the Advisory Council must present changes/additions to the By-Laws to the DMSAA Advisory Council in writing. The council will review such changes with a simple majority of the voting members present at the meeting to send recommendations to each school for their review and acceptance. Upon return by the specified date, a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all council members and administrators responding is needed to accept/reject any changes.
- D. Rules and conditions for Catholic Middle School Leagues will be the responsibility of the Sport Coordinators and the DMSAA Advisory Council. Approval of the rules and conditions will require a simple majority of the voting council members and sport coordinators present at the monthly meeting when they are discussed and reviewed.

- E. All minutes from DMSAA Advisory Council meetings will be on file at the Catholic Schools Office.
  
- F. **Appeals Process for Schools and Coaches for Decisions rendered by Advisory Council.** If a school or coach would like to appeal a ruling of the Advisory Council, the school administrator must submit a written appeal to the Chairperson within seventy-two (72) hours of the decision to be re-addressed by the DMSAA Advisory Council. If the written appeal arrives within two (2) weeks before a monthly council meeting, the Chairperson will place the issue on the agenda under “New Business.” If the written appeal arrives before two (2) weeks of the monthly council meeting, a “special meeting” of the DMSAA Advisory Council may be called by the Chairperson. The appeal will be discussed and reviewed by the DMSAA Advisory Council and a simple majority of those members in attendance at the meeting will decide upon the action of the appeal. This decision will be final. The chairperson can also submit appeals via e-mail to all the reps. A deadline will be given for votes from each school and schools can submit their vote via e-mail. A special meeting can still be called if the school appealing the decision requests it in advance.
  
- G. All rule or By-Law changes of DMSAA will be sent in writing to all principals and DMSAA representatives.