

Pilot Program: Varsity Team Configuration

Before you read this document please read the following:

1. School Handbook Mission, Philosophy, and Athletic sections. www.smlcs.org [Click on School / then Handbook]
2. The St. Michael Athletic Handbook. [Draft Document, www.smlcs.org (Click on Athletics)]
3. FCA Athlete's Creed at www.fca.org [Click on Team FCA]
4. Athletic Participation Authorization Form.
5. Rick Reilly's Sport's Illustrated Article.

After reading the aforementioned documents you understand the philosophical approach we take to education and athletics.

The 5th-6th grade athletic system of team play being open to all student athletes that desire to play a sport will continue. Membership on the team is automatic and will continue as long as the athlete is actively participating in practices and attending games in which they are scheduled to play. Playing time is guaranteed when scheduled. The scheduled games and playing time will not be equal for all athletes but it will be planned and scheduled based on grade level, participation, and athletic skill development. As many players as possible will be taken to tournaments with priority being given to 6th graders.

Our school participates in the Private/Parochial Sun Coast Athletic Conference of SW FL and the Lutheran Schools System CFLAA [Central Florida Lutheran Athletic Association.] Games are scheduled according to the Conference and Association policies. Additional games, partial games, and scrimmages can be scheduled through the Athletic Director in accordance with FLHSAA policies and are subject to each school's Athletic Director's policies.

The administration in consultation with the Athletic Director with input from athletic department coaches will annually review the configuration for the varsity teams in each sport.

A team configuration option will be chosen based on the administration and Athletic Director reviewing the quantity and quality of the prospective student athletes who are enrolled and are anticipated to participate in tryouts. Athletic coaches from SMLS sports, area youth leagues, summer programs/camps, and club sports may be consulted for input with regard to the quantity and quality of the prospective athletes.

Team Configuration Options will include:

1. One varsity team for 7th-8th grade athletes. Team target size ranges from 12-16 athletes. Team members selected via a tryout process and team members being selected by the coaches who submit a recommended roster to the Athletic Director for finalization and then the roster is posted on the web site the night after tryouts. [Current tradition.]
2. Two varsity teams for 7th-8th grade athletes. One team being the Varsity Blue and the other being the Varsity White Team. Team target size ranges from 8-12 athletes. Team members selected via a tryout process and team members being selected by the coaches who submit a recommended roster to the Athletic Director for finalization and then the roster is posted on the web site the night after tryouts.
3. Two varsity teams for 7th-8th grade athletes. One team being the 8th grade athletes and the other being the 7th grade athletes. Team target size ranges from 8-12 athletes. Team members selected via a tryout process and team members being selected by the coaches who submit a recommended roster to the Athletic Director for finalization and then the roster is posted on the web site the night after tryouts.

4. Three varsity teams for 7th-8th grade athletes. One team being the 8th grade athletes, 7th grade athletes, and a combined 7th/8th grade team. Team target size ranges from 8-12 athletes. Team members selected via a tryout process and team members being selected by the coaches who submit a recommended roster to the Athletic Director for finalization and then the roster is posted on the web site the night after tryouts.

Practical Details:

- A. Tryouts are closed to spectators and the results once posted are not subject to appeal or discussion. Parents are encouraged to have their student athletes who desire follow up to receive counsel through the school guidance and counseling program with regard to dealing with disappointment and future goal setting.
- B. Checks or Credit Cards given for payment of the athletic sport participation fee, annual Athletic Booster Club membership, and the SMLS Saints athletic gear package will not be deposited or charged until the team rosters are published. However, payment must be submitted in order to participate in the try out process.
- C. When a configuration option other than option #1 is chosen the regularly scheduled Sun Coast and CFLAA games will be primarily played by the Blue or 8th grade teams. All other teams will be scheduled for as many games as possible. Even if no other games were played by those teams the tournament participation and regular practice will give the student athlete an opportunity to continue participation in athletics at the Middle School level and continue to improve their sport specific knowledge and skills.
- D. All varsity teams will practice at the same time in the gym and will follow the same playbook and team rules. This will be coordinated with the coaches by the Athletic Director.
- E. All teams will be able to play in SMLS hosted tournaments and will be submitted for play in other tournaments. If other tournaments deny acceptance of more than one team those players will be given the option to practice and attend the tournaments with the Blue or 8th grade teams and may be given playing time. State and National tournaments will be attended by all varsity athletes who are in good standing with their respective teams.
- F. If a significant number of athletes try out and then choose not to continue to participate on the White, 7th, or 7th / 8th team the Athletic Director in consultation with the administration may disband the team and move all or a portion of the remaining athletes to the other team.
- G. If an athlete is not satisfied with their playing time they should set up an appointment with the coach to make their concerns known. After that meeting there will be no further discussion and if satisfaction is not met by the athlete that athlete is encouraged to leave the team. At no time will a negative attitude be tolerated by the coaching staff. Should the coach have a concern they will call for a meeting with the athlete and their parents and a warning will be given. If the coach has further concerns they will ask for another meeting, this time including the Athletic Director and after that meeting a determination of continued participation will be made by the coach and Athletic Director. That decision will be final.
- H. Athletic gear packages will be required of all athletes. Returning athletes after the 06-07 school term will only be required to purchase the gear they need and a gear exchange program will be implemented. While supplies last the old style P.E. uniforms will be issued as practice gear. Also, a SMLS Athletics T-Shirt, Sweat Outfit, and Travel Bag will constitute the gear package. Shoes will not be a part of the package.

For the 06-07 school term Option # 2 will be piloted for the girl's volleyball season and based on the evaluation of the pilot may be piloted for the girl's basketball season.