"Whenever possible, the (Louisiana) school shall offer such extracurricular activities as may be found in any public secondary school in the state. The Natchitoches Parish public school system shall to the extent practicable allow the students of the (Louisiana) school to participate in any extracurricular activities the system may offer which the school cannot, particularly music and varsity athletics." -- L.R.S. 17:1996

It is the intention of LSMSA to provide realistic and reasonable opportunities for participation in interscholastic sports, but LSMSA does not grant academic credit for participation in varsity athletics. Adopting the policies of Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*, participation in interscholastic sports will be considered extra-curricular and will carry no credit value.

Participation

In order to participate in a sport at Natchitoches Central or St. Mary's, or in one of the team sports at LSMSA, a student must register and receive approval~~,~~ from the coordinator of athletics and recreation. This must occur at least 14 calendar days before the season begins. A student must register for each sport in which he/she wants to participate. Registration includes a record of the student insurance, a signed parental-guardian permission / liability release form, practice times, and a competition schedule.

Eligibility

Academics must be first priority for students at LSMSA. If a student's nine-week LSMSA GPA drops below 2.5 or if a student is placed on Academic Probation:

- The director of academic affairs, director of student affairs, coordinator of athletics and recreation, and academic support coordinator will meet to determine if it is in the student's best interest to begin or continue participation in interscholastic sports for the following grading period. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration each student's specific situation.
- If it is decided that the student will be allowed to continue or begin participation in athletics, it will be on a probationary status.
- If a student who has been on probationary status is placed on Academic Probation or earns a GPA of less than 2.5 for the following grading period, he/she will be considered ineligible for participation in interscholastic sports at that time.

Students who are placed on Academic Probation will have restrictions assigned by the academic support coordinator that may preclude their participation in interscholastic sports. Additionally, eligibility to participate may be revoked by LSMSA school administration as a result of unexcused absences or other failure to maintain academic and behavioral expectations (i.e., commission of major infractions, etc.)

Absences

The academic day runs from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students are expected to be engaged in classes, studying, and other academic endeavors during this time. Students whose athletics practices or competition require them to miss a portion of that time period may be required to make up study time at another time. While an occasional absence from class for competition may be excused, all absences are subject to the provisions of the Attendance Policy and require the prior approval of the director of academic affairs.

Insurance

Personal injury and liability insurance shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The parent/guardian shall hold LSMSA harmless in the case of any injury to their student or for injury or damage caused by their student. LSMSA interscholastic athletic parental-guardian permission/ liability release form (available from the student affairs office) must be signed and received when the student registers for participation.

Meals and Lodging

The school does not have the resources necessary to house and/or feed students outside the regular school year. Student athletes who must be present for athletic activities when LSMSA is closed must make other arrangements for their housing and meals. Additionally, the school is not required to provide transportation for student athletes to practices and/or competitions outside of LSMSA.

Additional Expenses

Generally, gear and equipment for team sports at LSMSA are provided. Costs associated with out-of-town events are the responsibility of the student.