

Pursuing Victory with Honor - Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

Athletic competition of interscholastic age children should be fun and should also be a significant educational program. Everyone involved in sports programs has a duty to ensure that their programs impart important life skills and promote the development of good character. Essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: **trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship****. The highest potential of sports is achieved when all involved consciously **T**each, **E**nforce, **A**dvocate & **M**odel these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. **Parents/guardians** of student-athletes can and should play an important role and their good faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this code can dramatically improve the quality of a child's sports experience.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- ★ Trustworthiness: Be worthy of trust in all you do
- ★ Integrity - Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and encourage players to pursue victory with honor. Do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly
- ★ Honesty - Live honorably. Don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest conduct
- ★ Reliability - Fulfill commitments. Do what you say you will do.
- ★ Loyalty - Be loyal to the school and team; put the interests of the team above your child's personal glory.

RESPECT

- ★ Respect - treat all people with respect at all times and require the same of your student-athlete.
- ★ Class - Teach your child to live and play with class and have good sportsmanship. He/she should be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity, compliment extraordinary performance and show sincere respect in pre and post-game rituals.
- ★ Personal Conduct - Refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct and the use of alcohol or tobacco in front of student-athletes or in other situations where your conduct could undermine your positive impact as a role model.
- ★ Respect Officials - Treat game officials with respect. Don't complain about or argue call or decisions during or after a contest.
- ★ Respect Coaches - Treat coaches with respect at all times; recognize that they have team goals beyond those of your child. Do not shout instructions to players from the stands, let coaches coach. Understand that the coach is responsible for determining playing time.

RESPONSIBILITY

- ★ Importance of Education - Support the concept of "being a student first". Commit your child to earning a diploma and getting the best possible education. Be honest about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing at the professional level. Reinforce that many universities will not recruit student-athletes are not serious about their education.. Be the lead contact in the recruiting process.
- ★ Role Modeling - Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right. Parents/guardians are also to represent the school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.
- ★ Self-Control - Exercise self-control. Don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration.
- ★ Healthy Lifestyle - Safeguard your health; do not abuse any illegal or prohibited substances.
- ★ Integrity of the Game - Protect the integrity of the game. Don't gamble or associate with gamblers.
- ★ Privilege to Compete - Assure that you and your child understand that participation in Interscholastic sports is a privilege, not a right, and that they are expected to represent their team, school and family with honor, on and off the field.

FAIRNESS

- ★ Be Fair - Treat all competitors fairly. Be open-minded, always willing to listen and learn

CARING

- ★ Encouragement - Encourage your children regardless of their play; offer positive reinforcement. Show sincere interest in your child's play.
- ★ Concern for Others - Demonstrate concern for others; never encourage the injury of any player, official or fellow spectator
- ★ Empathy - Consider the needs/desires of teammates in addition to your child; promote the team concept by encouraging all team members.

CITIZENSHIP

- ★ Knowing the Rules - Maintain a thorough knowledge of all applicable game and competition rules

→ I have read and understand the requirements of the Code of Conduct and acknowledge I may be disciplined if I violate an of its provisions

→ _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Sport(s)

Date

**"Pursuing Victory with Honor" and "Six Pillars of Character" are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. For more info on promoting character education & good sportsmanship visit; www.charactercounts.com