

# **Freedom Middle School Athletic Code of Conduct**

(adapted from Poplar Grove Middle School Code of Conduct)

Freedom Middle School would like to emphasize to all of those involved in athletic events (players, coaches, school administrators, parents and other spectators) the importance of your leadership role in sportsmanship, appropriate behavior, and integrity. The professional manner in which you conduct yourself prior to, during, and following an event, as well as any time during school hours, impacts the behavior of everyone involved.

Freedom Middle School has established guidelines for sportsmanship, citizenship, and an Athletic Code of Conduct for all to follow. Please read these carefully so we can enjoy the athletic events to the fullest and set a good example for others.

## **Sportsmanship**

The National Federation of State High School Association views good sportsmanship as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities, which are characterized, by generosity and genuine concern for others:

- Fair Play: accept a loss without complaining and win with humility
- Treat others as you wish to be treated
- Respect others
- Recognize and appreciate good play from both teams
- Displaying good character traits
- Be an excellent role model

## **Players' Code of Conduct**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from teammates, coaches, officials, and others through my actions.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat everyone with respect and expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will do my best in all of my classes and set a good example for other students to follow.
- I will work to maintain a C average or higher in all my classes throughout the school year.
- I will lead a healthy lifestyle by adopting good nutritional habits, getting adequate rest, and exercising.
- I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will respect and abide by their decisions.

- Any form of hazing or bullying will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the team.

### **Coaches' Code of Conduct**

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing environment for the players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support, and opportunities.
- I will not make demeaning statements to the athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly.
- I will remember that they play to have fun and should be encouraged, which will help them gain self-confidence.
- I will remember that the athletes need a coach they can respect and give praise when appropriate.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

### **Parents' Code of Conduct**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game and practice.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child to promote a positive and enjoyable experience.
- I will do my best to make participating in athletics fun for my child.
- I will encourage my child to show respect and display excellent sportsmanship traits to all.
- I will remember that the game is for athletes and not the adults.
- I will do my best to assist the coaches and school when help or volunteers are needed.

### **Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics:**

#### **Communicating with your Children**

- Make sure your children know that you appreciate their efforts regardless of the score. Be the one in the stands they can look to for positive reinforcement.
- Be honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, and sportsmanship.
- Do not relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. Athletic children need their parents. If the child is comfortable with you regardless of the outcome of the game, then they will enjoy participating in athletics.

- Do not compare skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other players on the team.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition and working to improve their skills and attitudes.

### **Communication Parents Should Expect from the Coach:**

- Expectations the coach has for all of the players
- Schedules for practices and games (please note: schedules for practices and games are subject to change, even at the last minute)
- Team requirements
- Discipline procedures, which affect your child's participation
- What role parents play to help the coach or team...i.e. volunteer, transportation, fundraising, or help with tournaments

### **Communication Coaches Should Expect from Parents:**

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Phone number(s) and/or email(s) to use in an emergency, or if there is a last-minute change in scheduling
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Illness and/or injuries of your child

### **Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:**

- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
- Areas and ways to help your child personally improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

### **Issues NOT Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches:**

- Playing time
- Team strategy
- Other players on the team

### **Procedure to Follow if You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach:**

- Call or email the coach to set up an appointment
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Directors, Adam Demonbreun or Jackie Johnson, to set up a meeting place and time
- **It is important not to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These are emotional times for parents and coaches and are not wise times to make an attempt toward a resolution of a problem.**

**Displaying good sportsmanship will help everyone enjoy athletic events and appreciate all of the hard work these young men and women put forth. All parties should follow the Codes of Conduct. By adhering to these guidelines, the athletic teams at Freedom Middle School will represent our school with class and dignity and will earn the respect of their opponents and their fans.**

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**Print Student Name**

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**Student Signature**

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**Date**

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**Parent Signature**

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**Date**

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**Coach Signature**

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**Date**