

Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Student-Athletes

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. The highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor according to six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the “Six Pillars of Character”). This code applies to all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports in the Obion County School System. Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the discretion of the athletic department, the school administration or as prescribed by the Obion County School System Handbook for Interscholastic Sports Policies and Procedures Manual.

I understand that, in order to participate in high school athletics, I must act in accord with the following:

I. TRUSTWORTHINESS

Be worthy of trust in all I do.

- a) *Integrity* – live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what is right even when it is unpopular or personally costly.
- b) *Honesty* – live and compete honorably; do not lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- c) *Reliability* – fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.
- d) *Loyalty* – be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

II. RESPECT

Treat all people with respect all the time and require the same from other student-athletes.

- a) *Respectful Conduct* – engage in respectful conduct at all times refraining from obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- b) *Class* – live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help. Compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- c) *Respect Officials* – treat contest officials with respect; do not complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- a) *Importance of Education* – be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.
- b) *Role Modeling* – Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor and integrity, on and off the field at all times. I will consistently exhibit good character and conduct myself as a positive role model.
- c) *Self-Control* – exercise self-control; do not fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- d) *Healthy Lifestyle* – safeguard my health; I will not use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.

IV. FAIRNESS

Be Fair – live up to high standards of fair play; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

V. CARING

- a) *Concern for Others* – demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to myself or others.
- b) *Teammates* – help promote the well-being of teammates by positive encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

VI. CITIZENSHIP

- a) *Integrity and Playing by the Rules* –protect the integrity of the game; maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.
- b) *Spirit of Rules* – honor the spirit and the letter of rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

Student's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____