

INDIANA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Coaches/Sponsors/Chaperones/Volunteers Code of Conduct

Policy/Procedure O-58

Preface

We, at the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, believe that athletic competition, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities should be fun but that it must also be a significant part of a sound educational program. We believe that those who coach, sponsor, chaperone or volunteer are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their sports programs and/or activities **promote important life skills and the development of good character.** We believe that the 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. We believe, further, that the highest potential of sports is achieved when teacher-coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M.) these values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Finally, we believe that sincere and good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well-being of our students. This Code of Conduct applies to all full-time, part-time and volunteers involved in interscholastic and intramural sports as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

I understand that in my position as a coach, sponsor, chaperone or volunteer I must act in accord with the following code and am subject to required background checks and must follow all policies and procedures set forth and adopted by the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired School Board.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

1. ***Trustworthiness*** — be worthy of trust in all I do and teach students the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.

Integrity — model high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; teach, advocate and model the importance of honor and good character by doing the right thing even when it's unpopular or personally costly.

Honesty —don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in or permit dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Reliability —fulfill commitments; I will do what I say I will do; be on time.

Loyalty —be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

2. **Primacy of Educational Goals** — be faithful to the educational and character-development missions of the school and assure that the objectives are not compromised to achieve performance goals; always place the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of students above desires and pressures to win.
3. **Counseling** — be candid with students and their parents and counsel them about the importance of educational programs and the importance of succeeding in the classroom as well as on the playing field(s).

RESPECT

4. **Respect** — treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of students.
5. **Class** — be a good sport, teach and model class, be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; encourage students to give fallen opponents a hand, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre and post-game/activity rituals.
6. **Taunting** — don't engage in or allow trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport/activity.
7. **Respect Officials** — treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an event.
8. **Respect Parents** — treat the parents of students with respect; be clear about your expectations, goals and policies and maintain open lines of communication.
9. **Profanity** — don't engage in or permit profanity or obscene gestures during practices, sporting events, on team buses, or any other situation where the behavior could reflect badly on the school or the program.
10. **Positive Coaching** — use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to students or others.
11. **Effort and Teamwork** — encourage students to pursue victory with honor, to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline. Discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome of the contest, than upon effort, improvement, teamwork, and winning with character.

12. **Professional Relationships** — maintain appropriate, professional relationships with students and respect proper teacher-student boundaries. Sexual or romantic contact with students is strictly forbidden as is verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed to or in view of students.

RESPONSIBILITY

13. **Life Skills** — always strive to enhance the physical, mental, social and moral development of students and teach them positive life skills that will help them become well-rounded, successful and socially responsible.
14. **Advocate Education** — advocate the importance of education beyond basic eligibility standards and work with faculty and parents to help students set and achieve the highest academic goals possible for them.
15. **Advocate Honor**— prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship in materials about the athletic, co-curricular and extracurricular programs and vigorously advocate the concept of pursuing victory with honor in all communications.
16. **Good Character** — foster the development of good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling (T.E.A.M.) high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and the six pillars of character.
17. **Role-Modeling** — be a worthy role-model, always be mindful of the high visibility and great influence I have as a teacher, sponsor, or chaperone and consistently conduct myself in private and coaching, sponsoring, or chaperoning situations in a manner that exemplifies all I want my students to be.
18. **Personal Conduct** —refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of alcohol or tobacco in front of students or other situations where my conduct could undermine my positive impact as a role model.
19. **Competence** — strive to improve competence and acquire increasing proficiency in coaching/teaching principles and current strategic character-building techniques, and first-aid and safety.
20. **Knowledge of Rules** — maintain a thorough knowledge of current game and competition rules and assure that my students know and understand the rules.
21. **Positive Environment**— strive to provide a challenging, safe, enjoyable, and successful experiences for the students by maintaining an environment that is physically and emotionally safe and that does not allow, support or contribute to hazing in any form.

22. ***Safety and Health*** — be informed about basic first aid principles and the physical capacities and limitations of the age-group coached/sponsored/chaperoned.
23. ***Unhealthy Substances*** — educate students about the dangers and prohibit the use of unhealthy and/or illegal substances including but not limited to: alcohol; tobacco; and recreational or performance-enhancing drugs.
24. ***Eating Disorders*** — counsel students about the dangers of and be vigilant for signs of eating disorders or unhealthy techniques to gain/lose or maintain weight.
25. ***Physician's Advice*** — seek and follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured student is ready to play or participate.
26. ***Privilege to Compete/Participate*** — assure that students understand that participation in interscholastic and intramural sports programs, and/or extra-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right and that they are expected to represent their school, team and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Require students to consistently exhibit good character and conduct themselves as positive role models.
27. ***Self-Control*** — control my ego and emotions; avoid displays of anger and frustration; don't retaliate.
28. ***Integrity of the Game*** — protect the integrity of the game; don't gamble. Play the game according to the rules.
29. ***Enforcing Rule*** — enforce this Code of Conduct consistently in all sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular related activities and venues even when the consequences are high.
30. ***Protect Students*** — put the well-being of students above other considerations and take appropriate steps to protect them from inappropriate conduct.
31. ***Access*** — help make the sport/activity accessible to all diverse communities.
32. ***Improper Commercialism*** — be sensitive to and avoid unwholesome commercialism including inappropriate exploitation of my name, the name of the school and undue financial dependence on corporate entities. Make sure any affiliation or association with a corporate entity is approved by the superintendent of the school.

FAIRNESS

33. ***Fair and Open*** — be fair in competitive situations, selecting a team/group, disciplinary issues and all other matters; and be open-minded and willing to listen and learn.

CARING

34. ***Safe Competition*** — put safety and health considerations above the desire to win; never permit students to intentionally injure any player/student or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to themselves or others.
35. ***Caring Environment*** — consistently demonstrate concern for students as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team.

CITIZENSHIP

36. ***Honor the Spirit of Rules*** — observe and require students to observe the spirit and the letter of all rules including the rules of game and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices and other provisions regulating interscholastic competition.
37. ***Improper Gamesmanship*** — promote sportsmanship over gamesmanship; don't cheat. Resist temptations to gain competitive advantage through strategies or techniques (such as devious rule violations, alteration of equipment or the field of play or tactics designed primarily to induce injury or fear of injury) that violate the rules, disrespect the highest traditions of the sport, co-curricular or extra-curricular activity or change the nature of competition by practices that negate or diminish the impact of the core athletic skills that define the sport, co-curricular or extra-curricular activity.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct. I will act in accord with this code and the policies and procedures of the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. I understand that school officials as well as league, section and conference officials will and should expect that I will follow this code.

Teacher/Sponsor/Chaperone/Coach/Volunteer
Signature

Date

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Approved: 10/21/13

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