



SDPC ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

Actions meant to demean teammates, coaches, opposing teams and their coaches, game officials, and spectators are not consistent with good sportsmanship and will be dealt with appropriately.

ATHLETE'S CODE

Given our belief that high school athletics provides a unique opportunity for the development of physical conditioning, athletic skill, and character traits, we expect every athlete to strive for the following:

Competence

- To develop the skills necessary to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the rules and conventions of the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the strategies of the game.
- To demonstrate a level of physical conditioning and fitness sufficient to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of healthy behaviors including nutritional issues.
- To demonstrate sound judgment by abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.

Civility

- To practice good manners on and off the field.
- To refrain from "trash talk" and other put-downs of opponents and teammates.
- To treat all persons respectfully, regardless of individual differences and to show respect for legitimate authority (e.g., Coaches, Officials, Captains, Teammates, Opponents).
- To be fair and treat others as one wishes to be treated.
- To listen to and try to understand others.
- To be compassionate and sensitive to others.
- To actively support teammates and others.

Character

- To be dependable in fulfilling obligations and commitments.
- To accept responsibility for consequences of actions, to not make excuses or blame others.
- To strive to excel.
- To be committed.
- To persevere, give 100% effort and not give up in the face of setbacks.
- To demonstrate truthfulness.
- To play by the rules of the game.
- To control anger and frustration and refrain from displays of temper and inappropriate language.
- To accept losing and winning graciously; by congratulating opponents and by not sulking or displaying other negative behaviors.

Citizenship

- To be faithful to the ideals of the game, including sportsmanship.
- To keep commitments to the team.
- To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to good morale.
- To put the good of the team ahead of personal goals.
- To set a good example for teammates, younger athletes, fans, and school community.

We also expect every student athlete in our athletic program to abide by all rules and regulations developed for each individual sports team, and also all rules and regulations approved by the Board of Trustees and contained in the Student Handbook and the rules and regulations of the South Carolina High School League (www.schsl.org).

For any violation of the Code of Conduct or any other rule or regulation of the Board of Trustees, student athletes may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to exclusion from extracurricular activities, suspension, and/or expulsion, consistent with law, regulation, and/or board policy.

COACH'S CODE

The Athletic Director and Coaches are leaders, dedicated to more than the X's and O's of competition. As professional educators, leaders and role models for students, the School District of Pickens County's coaches and Athletic Director will:

- Exemplify the highest character as a role model for young people.
- Display fairness, consideration, honesty, and integrity with athletes and communicate with them using appropriate language.
- Abide by the rules and regulations established by the School District of Pickens County, the South Carolina High School League, and the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- Recognize the individual worth and reinforce the self-image of each team member.

- Establish a realistic vision for each season and communicate that to the athletes and parents.
- Encourage and assist team members to set personal goals to achieve their highest academic potential.
- Follow a set of training rules for athletes that reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Strive to develop the qualities of competence, character, civility, citizenship, and punctuality in each team member.
- Provide a safe, challenging and encouraging environment for practice and competition.
- Gain an awareness of the importance of prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of the game officials.
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Build and maintain ethical relationships with coaches and administrators.
- Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.
- Promote personal fitness and good nutrition.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

PARENT’S CODE

Parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes and the success of the School District of Pickens County’s program. Therefore, we expect parents to do the following:

- Be a positive role model through their own actions to make sure their child has the best athletic experience possible.
- Be a “team” fan, not a “my kid” fan.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials’ decisions.
- Encourage your children before, during and after games. Remember the coach is responsible for implementing game plans and strategies.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Help their child learn that success is experienced in the development of individual skills and that they can feel good about themselves, win or lose.
- Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if there is a concern. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command. (Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, Director of Secondary Athletics, Superintendent, and Board of Trustees).
- Please reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.

SPECTATOR'S CODE (other fans)

The larger school-community has an interest and investment in the success of our Athletic Program. These spectators play a key role in reinforcing the educational goals of our program. Therefore, we expect these important program supporters to do the following:

- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.
- Be a positive role model through their behavior at athletic contests.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport.
- Reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests.