



Pursuing Victory with Honor* Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Student-Athletes



We believe that interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that 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.

TRUSTWORTHINESS

- *Trustworthiness* — Be worthy of trust in all you do.
- *Integrity* — Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what’s right even when it’s unpopular or personally costly.
- *Honesty* — Live and compete honorably. Don’t lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct. Plagiarism or cheating is not acceptable.
- *Reliability* — Fulfill commitments. Do what you say you will do. Be on time to practices and games.
- *Loyalty* — Be loyal to your school and team. Put the team above personal glory.

RESPECT

- *Respect* — treat all people, including the teacher-coach, with respect at all times. Demonstrate an appropriate demeanor that reflects self-control and an unwavering commitment to fair play.
- *Class* — Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Help fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- *Disrespectful Conduct* — Don’t engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- *Respect for Officials* — Treat game officials with respect. Don’t complain about or argue with calls or decisions during or after an athletic event. Help youth sports organizations fill their need for qualified officials as a way to promote greater understanding and respect for the referee’s role.

RESPONSIBILITY

- *Importance of Education* — The primary responsibility of a student-athlete is academic achievement. Be a student first, and commit to earning your diploma and getting the best education you can. Be honest with yourself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably. Not achieving passing grades will result in your suspension from the team until the deficiency is cured.
- *Role Modeling* — Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right, and that you are expected to represent your 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. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- *Healthy Lifestyle* — Safeguard your health. Don’t use any illegal or unhealthy substances, including alcohol, tobacco, drugs and nutritional supplements, or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight. Be informed about the health risks involved in the use of recreational and performance-enhancing drugs, tobacco and alcohol, as well as in eating disorders.
- *Integrity of the Game* — Protect the integrity of the game. Don’t gamble or associate with or deal with professional gamblers.
- *Sexual Conduct* — Sexual or romantic contact of any sort between student-athletes and adults involved with the athletic program is improper and strictly forbidden. Report misconduct to proper authorities.

FAIRNESS

- *Fairness and Openness* — Live up to high standards of fair play. Be open-minded, always be willing to listen and learn.

CARING

- *Concern for Others* — Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to yourself or others.
- *Teammates* — Help promote the well-being of teammates through positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

CITIZENSHIP

- *Playing by the Rules* — Have a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules. Demonstrate and demand integrity.
- *Spirit of Rules* — Honor, observe and enforce the spirit and the letter of rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship. Do not engage in or allow any conduct designed to evade the rules governing fair competition.

I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct and acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from a team if I violate any of its provisions.

Student-Athlete Signature

Date

Our athletic program endorses the Pursuing Victory With Honor Arizona Sports Summit Accord adopted by the California Interscholastic Federation.

“Pursuing Victory With Honor” and the “Six Pillars of Character” are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.