

# St. Mary's County Public Schools Athletic Code of Conduct

## Philosophy

St. Mary's County Public Schools support the philosophy that a quality interscholastic athletics program is vital to the positive social, physical, and educational development of students. The interscholastic athletics program enhances and supports the academic mission of the school system. We are committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play at all athletic contests. We support high standards of good citizenship and propriety, along with regard for the rights of others. Being a member of the interscholastic athletics program is a privilege to be earned and maintained throughout the season. Participants are expected to represent themselves, their families, their teams, and their schools in a responsible, sportsmanlike manner each time they enter a school, step onto the practice field, and/or participate in a game.

## Athletes

- As a student athlete, I know I am a role model.
- I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard.
- I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact.
- I know the behavior expectations of my school, the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association and hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student athlete.

## Parent/Guardian

- As a parent/guardian, I acknowledge that I am a role model.
- I will remember that high school athletics is an extension of the classroom, offering learning experiences for the students.
- I must show respect for all players, coaches, officials, spectators, and support groups.
- I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved.
- I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school, the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference, and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association.
- I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent/guardian of a student athlete.
- I understand that a failure to adhere to these expectations while attending an event may result in removal from and/or exclusion from athletic events.



# *Respect the Game!*