

Poplar Grove Middle School Athletic Code of Conduct

Poplar Grove Middle School would like to emphasize to all of those involved in athletic events (players, coaches, school administrators, parents and other spectators) the importance of your leadership role in sportsmanship, appropriate behavior, and integrity. The professional manner in which you conduct yourself prior to, during, and following an event impacts the behavior of everyone involved.

Poplar Grove Middle School has established expectations for sportsmanship and an Athletic Code of Conduct for all to follow. Please read these carefully so we can enjoy the athletic events to the fullest and set a good example for others.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others:

- Fair Play: accept a loss without complaining and a win with humility
- Treat others as you wish to be treated
- Respect others
- Recognize and appreciate good play from both teams
- Displaying good character traits
- Be an excellent role model

Players' Code of Conduct

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from teammates, coaches, officials and others through my actions.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat everyone with respect and expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will do my best in all of my classes and set a good example for other students to follow.
- I will lead a healthy lifestyle by adopting good nutritional habits, getting adequate rest, and exercising.
- I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- I will acknowledge all good plays or performances by both my teammates and opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will respect and abide by their decisions.
- Any form of hazing or bullying will not be tolerated and will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the team.
 - I will not use social media in an inappropriate manner, or to bully or intimidate others in any form or fashion.

- I will not participate in any activity in school or out of school, which might embarrass my teammates, coaches, parents or other school personnel.
- I understand that behavior unbecoming to my team, family or others may result in immediate dismissal from the team.

Coaches' Code of Conduct

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I will do my best to provide a safe playing environment for the players.
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and opportunities.
- I will not make demeaning statements to the athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly, and I will remember that they play to have fun and should be encouraged which will help them to gain self-confidence.
- I will remember that the athletes need a coach they can respect and give praise when appropriate.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.
 - I will enforce the player code of conduct at all times.
 - I will work with the school counselors and administration to evaluate the academic progress of our athletes and make sure they are keeping up with set standards.

Parents' Code of Conduct

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game and practice.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child to promote a positive and enjoyable experience.
- I will do my best to make participating in athletics fun for my child.
- I will encourage my child to show respect and display excellent sportsmanship traits to all.
- I will remember that the game is for the athletes and not the adults.
 - I will provide adequate transportation for my child to and from practices, games and other events.
 - I will see to it that my child commits to the team that he/she has made, for the entire season.

Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics/Communicating With Your Children

- Make sure your children know that you appreciate their efforts regardless of the score. Be the one in the stands they can look to for positive reinforcement.
- Be honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude and sportsmanship.

- Do not relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. Athletic children need their parents. If the child is comfortable with you regardless of the outcome of the game, then they will enjoy participating in athletics.
- Do not compare the skill, courage or attitude of your child with other players on the team.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition and working to improve their skills and attitudes.

Communicating with the Coach

Information You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach

- Expectations the coach has for all of the players.
- Schedules for practices and games (please note: schedules for practices and games are subject to change, even at the last minute)
- Team requirements.
- Discipline procedures which affect your child's participation
- What role parents may play to help the coach or team...i.e. volunteer, transportation, fundraising, or help with tournaments.

Communication Coaches Should Expect From Parents

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - Phone number(s) to use in an emergency or if there is a last-minute change in scheduling
 - Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
 - Illnesses and/or injuries of your child
- #### Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches
- The treatment of your child, mentally and physically
 - Areas and ways to help your child improve.
 - Concerns about your child's behavior.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss With Coaches

- Playing time (At coaches discretion)
- Team strategy
- Other players on the team

*****GRADE POLICY*****

At Progress Reports If a student/athlete receives an "F" in any subject area, related arts included, the student/athlete will be on probation* for a minimum of one day and a maximum of one week. After one week, grades will be rechecked and if ALL grades are at a passing level, the student/athlete rejoin the team. If the grade is not at a passing level, then student/athlete will be suspended from the team until the next grade reporting period. (report card) *On occasion, teachers are late to put grades in the system etc. In this case, students/athletes can rejoin the team as soon as such errors are corrected.

At Report Cards If a student/athlete receives an “F” in any subject area, related arts included, the student/athlete will be suspended until the next Progress Report.** At this time grades will be checked, and the student/athlete will rejoin the team if grades are passing.

*Grades are checked at progress report and report cards (every 4.5 weeks) **In the event of errors made by the assigning teacher, students/athletes may rejoin the team as soon as the error is corrected.

Athletic Attendance Policy

Athletes must be in attendance during the school day in order to practice or play in games. A school day is defined as: Being in attendance for 3.5 hours or more during the school day. Field trips count as being present at school.

If an athlete is **suspended or placed in ISS**, or any other similar disciplinary action is taken.(OSS, EAC, ALC) They will not be allowed to practice or play in games for those days the action was assigned. Only the Principal may make adjustments to the time and sequence of an assignment.

Athletic Physicals

A sports physical (*original document signed and dated by a physician or legal representative of the physician*) must be on file with the AD before a child can work-out with, tryout for, practice with or participate in any game with the team. Sports physicals expire one year from the original date given. These records will be kept in the Final Forms sports data program. Also a hard copy will be kept on file with the Athletic Director. **Coaches will turn in forms to the AD as soon as possible. All 5th grade forms will be kept in a notebook as a hard copy by the AD. 5th graders do not show up in Final Forms.**

Final Forms

Beginning the 6th grade, parents must go on line and register your child for each individual sport in the Final Forms sports data program.(link is on the school web-site) All forms must be completed on this site and e-signatures must be added at the end of each form. Physical information will be added to this site by the AD. Students will not be allowed to play in any games until such forms are completed. **Fifth grade** physical forms and other parent signature forms will be kept as a hard copy by the AD.

Procedure to Follow if You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach

- Call the coach to set up an appointment (615-790-4721)
- If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Director to set up a meeting place and time.
- It is important not to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These are emotional times for parents and coaches and are not a wise time to make an attempt toward a resolution of a problem.

Displaying good sportsmanship will help everyone enjoy athletic events and appreciate all of the hard work these young men and women put forth. The Codes of Conduct should be followed by all parties. By adhering to these guidelines the athletic teams at

Poplar Grove Middle will represent our school with class and dignity and will earn the respect of their opponents and their fans.

Team Rules

Coaches may choose to use individual team rules and it is encouraged to do so, however, such rules will never over-ride the afore written code of conduct. A coaches set of team rules may be stricter than the code of conduct.

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