

September 2023

Dear Families,

As the oldest secondary school athletic league in the nation, the Inter-Academic Athletic League is steeped in history and tradition while it promotes life lessons of teamwork, collaboration, competition, and skill development for our students. In fact, this is what distinguishes the Inter-Ac from other athletic leagues: Our athletes are students first; our programs are extensions of our classrooms; and, as stated in our league charter, “Our purpose goes far beyond transactional win-loss records...to an earnest commitment to educating the whole student athlete.”

Critical to this lofty educational endeavor are the lessons we teach about sportsmanship. We, the Heads and Athletic Directors of Inter-Ac schools, write you, our families, to partner with us to affirm sportsmanship as the expectation for our student athletes, coaches, spectators, and parents. Each of our schools will continue to display a banner that delineates our commitment to sportsmanship. It states: “We are the Inter-Ac League where sportsmanship is the expectation. So please let: the players play, the coaches coach, the officials officiate, and the spectators be positive at all times.” These banners serve as reminders of our commitment to sportsmanship as a core value of the Inter-Ac League.

As a league, we are consistently reminded of the persistent problems throughout youth and scholastic sports. Many of the concerns involving improper and disrespectful spectator behavior towards other spectators, officials, coaches and players are exacerbated by the consumption of alcohol prior to and during contests. As such, we remind our fans that the Inter-Ac schools never permit alcohol to be served as a prelude to a contest or during a contest. This includes, but is not limited to tailgating. As we head into a new season of our storied traditions and rivalries, we feel this is an important reminder to our most loyal fans.

Thank you for your support of the Inter-Ac League’s expectations for sportsmanship, our schools, and our students. We look forward to seeing you on the sidelines and in the bleachers cheering on all of our schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Laura Hotchkiss , Head of School
Sheila Pauley, Athletic Director
Academy of Notre Dame



Tyler Castertano , Head of School
Michael Murphy, Athletic Director
The Haverford School



Sally B. Keidel, Head of School
Courtney Lubbe, Athletic Director
The Agnes Irwin School



Patrick Sillup, Head of School
Jim Stewart, Athletic Director
Malvern Preparatory School



Lynne Macziewski, Head of School
Meg Glascott, Athletic Director
Baldwin School



Dr. T.J. Locke, Head of School
Todd Fairlie, Athletic Director
Episcopal Academy



Rich Schellhas, Head of School
Tim Ginter, Athletic Director
Germantown Academy



Dr. Delvin Dinkins, Head of School
David Wilson, Athletic Director
Spirngside Chestnut Hill Academy



Karen Warren Coleman, Head of School
Michael Brooks, Athletic Director
William Penn Charter School