



## **MSBSD Coaches Code of Conduct**

“We prepare all students for success”

As set forth in the MSBSD High School Co-Curricular Handbook, a coach asserts the greatest influence on individual athletes and the viability of an athletic program. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that the coach is well-versed in the activity and demonstrates the highest standard of behavior, leadership, and sportsmanship before the team, student body, faculty, and community. Although winning is important, it should never be achieved at the cost of fair play and sportsmanship and it is the expectation that MSBSD coaches serve as positive role models for their athletes both on and off the field of play.

When entering the coaching profession, a coach accepts certain obligations and responsibilities to the athletes, fellow coaches, and to their sport. The following guidelines are required when representing the MSBSD. Failure to meet these requirements are grounds for disciplinary sanction or dismissal.

### **National Federation of State High School (NFHS) Associations Coaches Code of Ethics**

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by coaches at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

- The coach shall be aware that they a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco use.
- The coach shall avoid use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.
- The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.
- The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

- The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.
- The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- The coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- The coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

### **MSBSD Code of Conduct and Expectations**

- Coaches are expected to follow all NFHS, ASAA, and MSBSD guidelines when representing the MSBSD in any capacity including off-season events such as camps and spring/summer leagues.
- Coaches are expected to follow all ASAA rules governing their respective sport as well as the T.A.D. Policy and report all infractions immediately (within 24 hours) to administration.
- Coaches are expected to obtain and verify with the Activities Secretary all parental permission, parental information, and documentation needed for student participation. Additionally, coaches will provide an accurate team roster to be filed in the office, and keep an accurate roll book for practice and game attendance.
- Coaches are expected to verify athlete eligibility regarding minimum number of practices as well as the minimum requirements for academic performance.
- Coaches are expected to select, train, and supervise the team's members while providing safe, positive environments in both practices and contests.
- Coaches are expected to assume the responsibility of being with the team members at all practice sessions and for clearing locker rooms and practice areas at the end of practice.
- Coaches are expected to travel with the team when transportation is provided by the school or district.
- Coaches are responsible for the team's behavior at all team functions and public appearances.
- Coaches are expected to follow the MSBSD policy regarding zero tolerance for hazing and harassment and should report any infractions immediately (within 24 hours) to administration.
- Coaches are expected to complete an injury report within 24 hours for all injuries that require care beyond ice and taping. Injury reports will be turned into the school nurse. All injuries requiring medical transport must be reported directly to administration within 24 hours.
- Coaches are expected to maintain current coaching certifications and have them on file with the school prior to the start of each season.



- Head Coaches are expected to supervise or provide appropriate supervision by a MSBSD coach at all functions including but not limited to practices, games, and during travel. A chaperone of each gender is required for coed sports for road trips requiring overnight stay. Students must be supervised until they are picked up from all functions.
- Head coaches are expected to hire, supervise, and manage coaching staff and volunteers. Decisions on all assistant coaches and volunteers must be vetted through the AD or school administration.
- Head coaches are expected to coordinate daily team schedules, practices, and equipment usage.
- Coaches are expected to maintain an accurate inventory of all equipment throughout the season, which can be requested by administrators at any time during the season and should be included in an end of season report.
- Coaches are considered mandated reporters and are required to report any circumstances when they believe that a minor has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, child abuse, a reportable offense, or neglect that appears to have been inflicted on the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by being accidental in nature to administration immediately (within 24 hrs.)
- Coaches are expected to have the parental consent for medical treatment form at every contest.
- Coaches are expected to engage in thorough communication with parents and administration regarding context logistics, fundraising opportunities, and athlete behavior be it positive or negative.
- Coaches are encouraged to over report. Coaches should report all player or coach ejections, misconduct involving coaching staff, players or volunteers including but not limited to fighting, harassment, and social media.

### **Social Media Policy**

- All social media sites representing a MSBSD school shall include a site administrator with rights to remove inappropriate content.
- All social media sites should restrict content to the dissemination of information for players and parents and should not be used as a forum for discussion or dialog. All content is required to be school appropriate. Any violation of this policy can result in removal of the site or the responsible parties and can result in additional school sanctions.

### **Communication Policy (including any form of personal communication between coach and player)**

- When possible, communication sent to players regarding practices, game times, team strategies, itineraries, and changes should be sent to the entire team.
- Coaches are expected to limit all individual electronic communication with athletes. Individual or small group communications should only be used to answer questions/communicate specific program information (e.g. practice/game times, schedule changes).



**Sport:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coaches Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Coaches Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ (Initial) I understand that coaches are 'at will' employees of the district and can be removed at any time. Failure to abide by this coaches' code of conduct is grounds for termination.

