

# ATHLETICS HANDBOOK



## HONOR CODE

(The Honor Code outlines certain standards of ethical conduct for persons associated with the Zionsville Community High School athletic department. The policies of the Honor Code apply to athletes, coaches, and administrators.)

*All athletes shall abide by a code of ethics. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the athlete, the team or the school will not be tolerated. ZCHS athletes should be diligent in preparation, relentless in effort, disciplined by nature, respectful in action, self-controlled with works, humbled in spirit, and aggressive in pursuit of excellence, without regard to the score, opponent, time, referees, etc. (Violation of the Honor Code may result in disciplinary action in the discretion of the coach.)*

### RESPECT

I UNDERSTAND THAT RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS IS THE GUIDE FOR ALL INTERACTIONS AT ZCHS. I WILL MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY, JUST AS I WILL EXPECT THE SAME IN RETURN.

### HONESTY

I WILL NOT TAKE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF MEMBERS OF MY SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY. I WILL BE HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY TO MYSELF AND OTHERS.

### RESPONSIBILITY

I UNDERSTAND THAT RESPECT DEMANDS RESPONSIBILITY. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY ACTIONS. MY INTEGRITY AS AN INDIVIDUAL DURING COMPETITION, WHERE I MUST LEARN TO DISCERN AND APPLY RIGHT FROM WRONG, IS REINFORCED AND AFFIRMED.

### LEADERSHIP

I WILL NOT ABUSE NOR TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY POSITION OF LEADERSHIP. I WILL SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE THROUGH DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO MY SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

## ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL TITLE IX COMPLIANCE POLICY

It is and shall be the policy of Zionsville Community High School to actively pursue gender equity in all aspects of our sports program. Our compliance with Title IX goes beyond our intent to comply with the law. We feel that there should exist a "spirit" of fair play for both genders. Further, that we will create an environment in which opportunities and resources are distributed equally, and in which no one experiences discrimination on the basis of gender.

Our Athletic Department procedures are to see that:

1. We seek the best qualified applicants and make no gender differentiation in hiring coaches (regardless of whether the opening is in a male or female sport.)
2. We render commensurate compensation for coaches with similar experience, responsibilities, and program size.
3. We make no gender differentiation in hiring officials.
4. We make the budgets for the purchase of equipment equitable. (Note: Outside donations to specific sports cannot absolve the school from responsibility of offering similar equipment benefits to other groups.)
5. The length of seasons and number of games/matches/meets and practices are scheduled equally.
6. Any per diem, meal or travel money is dispersed equally.
7. Locker rooms, practice facilities, game facilities are provided and maintained in the same fashion for both genders.
8. Medical resources and use of the training room will be equal to all student athletes. Availability of team doctors depends upon suitable volunteers. Availability of trainers is to be the same for all like or comparable sports.
9. Publicity and promotion of sports teams will be equal in as far as the school has the ability to control that aspect (realizing that the media does not treat all sports equally.)
10. Support services such as video tape recorders, secretarial assistance, use of team meeting rooms will be equally available.
11. Pay for event workers will be the same for male and female sports which are comparable (example: baseball-softball) in time and work effort expended.
12. Coaches offices and locker rooms are not dissimilar in design or space and equal facilities are offered to each gender.

## **WHAT MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOUR FIRST PRACTICE**

(A **new** physical, code of conduct form and medical release form must be filed each year in the Athletic Office.)

Before participating in a practice for any team, an athlete and his/her parent/guardian must have all forms required by Zionsville Community High School and the IHSAA completed, signed and on file in the Athletic Office:

- a. Physical examination form (dated after April 1 of the current year by the start of fall practices and updated once every 12 months).
- b. Code of conduct form.
- c. Emergency medical release form.
- d. If a transfer – forms beginning the athletic transfer process

Transfer students new to Zionsville Community High School cannot compete in interscholastic contests until an athletic transfer is complete.

## **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Participation in the athletic program at Zionsville Community High School requires self-discipline and sacrifice. An athlete is an example for peers and the young people in the community. Students with sufficient ability are eligible to participate on a Zionsville Community High School athletic team, provided they meet the scholastic standards and appropriate conduct standards established by the Indiana High School Athletic Association and Zionsville Community High School. Students may use the following criteria to determine eligibility for athletic participation:

1. A student who is or shall be twenty (20) years of age prior to or on the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals in a sport shall be ineligible for interschool athletic competition in that sport; a student who is nineteen (19) years of age on the scheduled date of the IHSAA State Finals in a sport shall be eligible as to age for interschool athletic competition in that sport.
2. Shall be currently enrolled and passing in five full credit subjects.
3. Any student that receives a D or F at the end of an official grading period is required to participate in an intervention activity developed by the coach in consultation with the Athletic Director.
4. Shall have a physical examination completed using the IHSAA physical examination form and with a consent and release statement signed by a parent on file in the athletic office and dated between May 1 and the first practice each year.
5. Shall not have changed schools without a corresponding move by a parent.
6. Shall not participate in non-school contests in a sport after beginning practice and participation in the sport unless waivers are available for that sport and completed appropriately.
7. Shall follow the IHSAA practice guidelines.
8. Shall have never received money or merchandise directly or indirectly for athletic participation.
9. Shall abide by rules and regulations of the coaching staff in the sport of participation.
10. Shall attend school a minimum of the last three periods of a school day in order to practice or compete in athletic contests. Individual circumstances which may prove to be the exception shall be handled by the assistant principal or athletic director.
11. Shall have on file a signed parent consent form agreeing to abide by the terms of the Athletic Code.
12. Shall have on file a trainer's emergency medical card.

Zionsville Community High School athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with school policy whether it be in or out of season and whether or not school is in session. All athletes should be aware that any act that would generally result in a recommendation for expulsion from school, regardless of when or where that act occurs, shall constitute sufficient reason for the athletic council to deny participation for a maximum of one athletic year. Each coach may set training rules consistent with the moral philosophy of Zionsville Community High School and the IHSAA. Failure to comply with the rules or repeated violations of the rules shall result in the denial of an athlete's privilege to participate in athletics at Zionsville Community High School and the denial of all athletic awards. The high school principal is the final authority in matters relating to an athlete's eligibility.

## **CHANGING A SPORT**

Completion of a season includes through that sport's sectional. If an athlete is "cut" from a team, he/she may join another team or program in that sport season. An athlete cannot quit one sport and join another sport, until that sport season is concluded. Any exceptions to this rule must be cleared by the Athletic Director.

## **TEAM CUTTING POLICIES**

Coaches of athletic training, cheerleaders, and the nineteen varsity sports at Zionsville Community High School have their own policy on how they will choose their teams. In some sports, "cutting" a team down to manageable size is a necessity. Coaches will explain their policy to candidates for their team at the first meeting. An athlete may be cut from a team any time during a season.

## **WEIGHT ROOM/PRE-SEASON/SUMMER WORKOUTS**

The weight room is available for use by teams before and after school. There is a full program of weight training offered during the school year and summer under the guidance of a weight coach. No student shall use the weight room or participate in pre-season/summer workouts or conditioning without adult supervision, nor without having a physical exam on file in the athletic office. Physicals must be updated every 12 months for student-athletes to be eligible to participate in athletic contests, practices or summer/pre-season workouts.

## **Practices : Regular /Vacation /School closing**

All team members are expected to attend all practices. Practice schedules during school vacations are set by the coach and only the coach can excuse an athlete from practice. Practice during a school closing time (snow, etc.) are often held and attendance at these practices are considered voluntary.

## **TRAVEL**

In general, students should travel to sports events via school transportation and return by the same means. However, the Athletic Department recognizes certain unique situations when other options are acceptable, if sparingly utilized. Such would be:

- a. A parent wishing to transport his/her own child may do so by giving the coach a signed note to that effect. The note must be given to the coach by the parent or verified as authentic by the parent.
- b. A child may only ride with someone else's parent in rare cases and with an authenticated note from his/her own parent.
- c. In cases where school transportation is not available or is in poor use of resources, a student may travel to or from an event with the parent or coach after providing the coach with an authentic note of permission.

(Example: taking one diver to the IHSAA regional). Any coach transporting a student will be required to have on file with the Athletic Department, proof of insurance as required by the Indiana Department of Motor Vehicles, and a copy of his/her current driver's license.

- d. In the very rare event that a coach cannot ride the team bus, he or she must have an assistant or another coach on the bus to supervise the team.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

1. Only one letter shall be awarded to any athlete. The letter shall be the first one earned. If displayed, the letter shall be put on a jacket approved by the Athletic Department Administration.
2. An athlete shall qualify for a letter jacket upon receipt of his/her second varsity letter. The cost of the jacket shall be borne by the athlete.
3. An athletic blanket shall be awarded to a senior athlete during the spring when they have earned seven (7) letters in any combination of sports.
4. An athletic honor ring shall be awarded any athlete that participates in a recognized sport during all twelve athletic seasons of their career.
5. Illness, injury, and other circumstances shall be handled by the Athletic Department Administration as each individual case arises.
6. All letters or credits awarded an athlete shall be approved by the athletic Department Administration.
7. Zionsville Community High School does not recognize letters at other schools.
8. To receive a letter or credit for an award, an athlete shall complete the season in good standing.
9. The following criteria shall be met in varsity competition to earn a varsity letter:

### **Baseball**

- (1) An athlete shall play in 33% of the total innings as a fielder.
  - (2) An athlete shall play in 15% of the total innings as a pitcher.
- DH shall count as 7 innings or the length of the game.

### **Basketball**

An athlete shall have participated in 33% of the total quarters and be certified for the sectional.

### **Cheerleading**

A cheerleader shall earn at least 90% of the possible points assigned to each season.

### **Cross Country**

(1) An athlete shall run in 75% of the meets.

(2) An athlete shall place in 75% of the meets in which he/she participates.

### **Football**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of the quarters

### **Golf**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of all the meets.

### **Lacrosse**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of the quarters.

### **Soccer**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of the halves.

### **Softball**

(1) An athlete shall play in 33% of the total innings as a fielder.

(2) An athlete shall play in 25% of the total innings as a pitcher.

(3) DP shall count as 7 innings or the length of the game.

### **Student Trainer**

Shall complete 200 hours of service to a team for both the fall and winter seasons and 150 hours for the spring season, be recommended by their coach, and show evidence of continuing to enhance their skills and knowledge.

### **Swimming/Diving**

An athlete shall place in scoring position in a minimum of 75% of all scheduled meets (or place in the top 12 at sectional).

### **Tennis**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of all meets.

### **Track**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of the meets and/or compete in the sectional.

### **Volleyball**

An athlete shall participate in 50% of the games and be certified for the sectional.

### **Wrestling**

An athlete shall participate in 33% of all meets.

## **INJURIES/SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Individual coaches retain the right to recommend (to the Athletic Council) injured athletes for a letter in cases where the athlete would have lettered but for the injury. Other unique cases may be recommended for approval by the coach to the Athletic Director (Athletic Council).

## **SCHOLAR ATHLETE PROGRAM**

### **1. EAGLE SCHOLAR AWARD**

Winner will earn an engraved medal and a multicolor patch that will be awarded at a recognition night in early Spring.

Academic Criteria: Must have earned a 4.0 cumulative GPA or better based on grades through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine-Weeks of the present school year. Student must be a sophomore, Junior, or Senior to be eligible for this award.

Athletic Criteria: Fall and Winter Athletes: Successfully complete their full sport season as a letter winner. Applies equally to all athletes, cheerleaders and training staff.

Spring Athletes: Must be a member of a spring sport athletic team on the date of the recognition and be projected to be a varsity letter winner by the head coach.

### **2. SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD**

The Scholar-Athlete program was initiated in the fall of the 2007-08 school year. These awards are earned by and presented to those student-athletes who have been able to successfully complete the requirements of a rigorous academic and athletic load and to manage their time in such a way as to pursue excellence in both fields. All student-athletes at ZCHS who earned a 3.75 GPA or better, completed their season and have the recommendation of his or her coach are eligible to receive one or more of the Scholar-Athlete Awards. All grade levels are eligible for the award listed below.

Academic Criteria: Must earn a 3.75 GPA or better based on the athlete's GPA during the grading period in which they are competing. Fall will be based on first nine weeks, winter second nine weeks and spring fourth nine weeks.

Athletic Criteria: Fall and Winter Athletes: Successfully completed their sport season. Applies equally to all athletes, trainers, cheerleaders and student staff.

Spring Athletes: Must be a member of a spring sport athletic team on the date of the recognition as a varsity, junior varsity, freshman, trainer or student staff member of a team.

### 3. PRINCIPAL'S AWARD: HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL GPA ON SQUAD (During Season)

Winners will earn a coaches' Award Plaque given at the awards presentation of each sport after the conclusion of their season.

Academic Criteria: Awarded to a team member who has earned the highest GPA on their squad, varsity junior varsity, or freshman. This award is based on the athlete's GPA during the grading period in which they are competing. Fall will be based on first nine weeks, winter second nine weeks and spring fourth nine weeks.

Athletic Criteria: Successfully completed their full sport season. Applies equally to all athletes, trainers, student staff and cheerleaders.

## Student-Athlete Code of Conduct Statement

The following Zionsville Community High School athletic rules are in accordance with the Indiana High School Athletic Association Constitution. Combined with the following procedures and policies they constitute the Zionsville Community High School Student-Athlete Code of Conduct (Code.)

The conduct of participants in athletics at Zionsville, both IHSAA sanctioned and club sports, in or out of school, year-round, shall be such as: 1) Not to reflect discredit upon our school, and 2) Not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in our school. Any such misconduct violating these principles shall be subject to disciplinary measures.

### ENFORCEMENT OF THE STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The athletic director shall enforce all rules and regulations as described in the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct for athletes. All rules regarding behavior and/or training as outlined in the IHSAA regulations apply. The coach of each sport will reinforce the Code during the year. Parents/guardians and athletes are required to sign the acknowledgment, consent, and disclosure document stating that they understand the Code and the athlete is subject to disciplinary measure should he/she violate the code. **A new code of conduct form must be signed each year. (The Code is in force twelve (12) months a year, grades nine through twelve (9-12).**

**PROCEDURE:** The Athletic Director will meet with the accused student prior to enforcement of any penalty. At this meeting the student will receive a written or oral statement of the charges, a summary of the evidence against them if they deny the charges, and an opportunity to explain his or her conduct.

### APPEAL:

1st Appeal: the Assistant Principal who appoints a committee of himself/herself, three head coaches, and the Athletic Director (Everyone votes.)

2nd Appeal: Directly to the Principal

The student-athlete must appeal within 72 hours in each case at each level.

### PROHIBITED ACTIONS:

A. USE OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES - the use or possession of an intoxicating beverage in any form or quantity is prohibited. This also includes attending parties where alcohol is present.

B. USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS - the use or possession of controlled substances (not prescribed to that individual by a doctor) is prohibited. This also includes attending parties where drugs are present.\*

C. USE OF TOBACCO - the use or possession of any tobacco product is prohibited. This also includes attending parties where tobacco is present.

D. CRIMINAL ACTIVITY- Theft/Vandalism/Reasonable Proof of a Misdemeanor

E. Bullying/Intimidation/"Hazing" or any type of "initiation rite" constitutes a violation of the general conduct rules and will be dealt with as a serious matter. Coaches, the Athletic Director, and the administration will determine if an incident is considered hazing. If so determined, this will constitute a violation of both the Athletic and Student Handbooks.

F. FELONY\* \* – Reasonable Proof of breaking a law.

G. "MAJOR" CASES OF INFRACTION: Some major infractions may go beyond the scope of the actions listed above, and will be presented to the Athletic Director for an imposed penalty.

\*Attending a party where alcohol/drugs are present constitutes a violation of the Athletic Code. Failure to leave a party where alcohol or drugs are present ("leave" means immediately – leave and wait outside if necessary) will result in a violation of the athletic code.

\*\*It is acknowledged that the formal use of the terms "misdemeanor" and "felony" is largely inapplicable to the students at Zionsville Community High School due to their ages. Notwithstanding the same, these terms are used in describing certain behaviors and should be understood not to be limited by the legal age or juvenile status of an offending student.

## **STUDENT-ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT PENALTIES**

Any student who participates in athletics at Zionsville Community High School is considered an athlete. Being an athlete at Zionsville Community High School is a privilege and not a right. The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct will be adhered to during the entire year. Violations will accumulate throughout the athlete's career. i.e. if a first violation occurs during the athlete's freshman year and a second violation occurs during the athlete's senior year, the second violation will incur a full year penalty. The following penalties will be imposed for violations:

I. First Offense:

A. Intoxicating Beverage - 50% of Contests. (Self Report - 25%.)

Drug/Alcohol Ed. and/or Rehab Program completed within 6 weeks. May Practice. Loss of Awards.)

B. Illegal Drugs - 50% of Contests. (Self Report - 25%.)

(Drug/Alcohol Ed. and/or rehab program completed within 6 weeks. May Practice. Loss of Awards.)

C. Tobacco - 25% of Contests. (Self Report - 12.5%.)

(Drug/Alcohol Ed. and/or Rehab Program completed within 6 weeks. May Practice. Loss of Awards.)

D. Criminal Activity - 50% of Contests (With or Without Law Involvement.) (Self Report - 25%.)

E. Bullying/Intimidation/"Hazing" - 50% of Contests. (Self Report - 25%.)

F. Felony or "Major Infraction" - Referred to Athletic Director.

**Second Offense:** One-Year Suspension of Contests

**Third Offense:** Career Suspension.

## **General school and community conduct**

The IHSAA rule on "Conduct, Character, Discipline" states as follows:

Contestants conduct themselves, in and out of school, shall be such as

(1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or the Association

(2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral, or educational environment

1st Violation 10% of season Can practice

2nd Violation 50% of season Practice at Coach's discretion

Loss of awards

3rd Violation One calendar year No practice

4th Violation Life

NOTE: In such cases where students are suspended from class, they are not allowed to practice.

## **ATHLETIC CODE PARAMETERS AND PROTOCOL**

1. Suspensions are to begin immediately subsequent to the offense.

2. Any violation which causes a loss of 25% or more of the season carries also an automatic loss of letter and school individual awards for that season.

3 In order for a suspension to be considered complete, an athlete must serve his/her entire suspension in their current sport. If not, it then carries over to his/her next athletic season that they have participated in before. i.e., an athlete is a football player and has a first time violation and loses 50% of the football season or 5 games. There are only 2 games left in the football season. The remaining percentage would be served in the next sport in which he/she has already participated.

4. When determining the number of contests for a suspension, the number is always rounded up. i.e., an athlete has a violation and loses 50% of the season. There are 9 contests in their sport. That equates to a 4.5 game suspension. The athlete would have to sit out 5 contests.

5. If an athlete is suspended from school, he/she will automatically be suspended from all practice and game participation for the period of the school suspension. For the purposes of suspension, the following will be adhered to:

6. Jamboree or scrimmages will not be considered a contest for suspension purposes.

7. The decision to allow a suspended athlete to participate in a jamboree or scrimmage will be left up to each individual coach.

8. An athlete will be required to practice for the duration of the season and end the season in good standing when that suspension will be fulfilled during the current season.

9. If an athlete participates in two sports during the same season (i.e. cheerleading and volleyball), the penalty will be assessed in each sport. For example, a 50% penalty for such athlete would suspend the athlete from 25% of the volleyball season as well as 25% of the cheerleading season.

10. An athlete will not be able to serve his/her suspension in a sport they have never participated in or established themselves in prior to the suspension. i.e. the athlete has participated in golf in the fall,

basketball in the winter, and nothing in the spring. (Exceptions may be made to 9<sup>th</sup> graders who have not yet had the opportunity to establish themselves in a particular sport.) During the basketball season the athlete violates the code for the second career offense. The athlete receives a 50% suspension from contests. There were 20 contests scheduled which includes the sectional. There were five contests remaining including one sectional contest that we lost. The athlete therefore has missed 5 of the 20 basketball contests or 25%. The athlete still has 25% of a penalty remaining that will be served when golf season arrives in the fall because he/she participated in fall golf and not in a spring sport the previous year.

11. All suspensions will be based on contests at which level the athlete participates. i.e. freshman, jv, or varsity.

12. Drug and Alcohol Rehab or Education programs must be approved by the Zionsville High School Principal, and a certificate of completion must be sent to the Zionsville High School Athletic Department.

13. If a code or apparent code violation occurs, and the individual refuses to cooperate with the investigation by school authorities, he/she may be suspended from the sport until cooperation is obtained or until the investigation is complete, at which time further penalties may be imposed.

14. A season is defined as the total number of regularly scheduled contests. This does not include IHSAA tournament contests.

15. A coach may make team specific rules that are more restrictive than this code. Such rules must be approved by the athletic director prior to implementation and on file in the athletic office. Once approved these rules must be provided to team members and parents in writing.

16. A student may not participate (except practice if allowed by the code) during the appeals process. He/She has already been judged to have violated the code and therefore the penalty begins immediately upon his/her hearing with the Athletic Director.

17. Appeals will be handled expeditiously.

18. In the event there is an apparent offense, but it falls into an "uncovered" or "gray" area, then the Athletic Director shall, after seeking any possible parallels or common and standard procedures in such cases, evaluate the evidence and administer a penalty commensurate with the offense.

19. Self-reporting is defined as notifying the Coach, Athletic Director, or school administrator by noon on the next school day after the infraction. If the violation occurs on a weekend during the school year, the student must self-report by noon the next day school is in session, or by the end of the next practice if that occurs before school is in session. If the violation occurs over Thanksgiving, winter break, spring break, summer break, or other extended breaks the student has 48 hours in which to reach a coach, the Athletic Director or school administrator, or must report by the of the next practice if practice occurs within 48 hours. Personal contact with one of these officials is strongly encouraged but email or voice mail will constitute initiation of the self-reporting process. An athlete may self-report only one time (on the first offense of their career) in order to receive a lesser penalty. If a parent or student has acted "above and beyond" in self-reporting an incident, the time limit on self-reporting may be waived through the appeals process.

20. Because we adhere strongly to the policy that a student athlete is a representative of his school and community, all athletes are responsible to hold themselves to this code and to high standards of behavior 365 days per year for the four years of high school. This code comes into effect when a student officially graduates from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The policy has no jurisdiction over non-athletes or over athletes who renounce their eligibility to compete.

21. Violations from middle school shall not be carried over to high school, but all high school violations shall be considered cumulative.

## **ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICY REGARDING STUDENT HAZING AND HARASSMENT**

Hazing and harassment are behaviors, by one person towards another, which are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, malicious, degrading or offensive. It creates negative and uncomfortable feelings for the person, or groups of persons, to whom it is directed. Such a person may feel anything from a discomfort or embarrassment in the presence of the person or group of people displaying the behavior, to a feeling of terror or even fear for their safety. Hazing and harassment can take many forms whether physical, verbal, sexual or emotional, and can involve a combination of these elements. Sexual hazing or harassment is a form of sexual discrimination under both Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972. Hazing, or initiation rites, which single a person or group of people out and subject them to embarrassing, degrading or secretive behavior will almost always be viewed as harassment. It is the policy of Zionsville Community Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from sexual hazing and harassment. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee of Zionsville Community Schools to haze or harass another employee or student through conduct or communication of a sexual nature. This is also applied to behavior between students or groups of students.

It is not just the conduct itself which may make certain behavior inappropriate, but the context or way

in which it is delivered, or its repetitive nature. Allegations of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse or neglect involving a minor must be reported to an available administrator. Once a complaint of harassment or abuse is made, the school must work with it, as the school has a responsibility to ensure a safe environment for its students and staff alike. The school will work with harassment and abuse matters promptly, fairly and openly.

Coaches must be alert to society's changing perceptions about the appropriate use of power. With coaching comes power, with power comes vulnerability. Codes of behavior for players and coaches must be developed and communicated in such a manner that guide and govern "the words and actions" of all participants during their sport season. The coach is the most influential participant in preventing harassment, hazing and abuse during their coach season. The coach must use every opportunity to reinforce the principle of appropriate behavior by being a role model and communicating with athletes daily in practice, during pre-competition preparation, during competition, and in post-competition feedback sessions. The coach has a responsibility to behave in a respectful manner. The coach is an important leader who must reinforce an environment free of abusive, hazing and harassing behaviors of all student athletes and coaches alike.

The value and safety of children and youth must be reflected in the standards of the entire athletic department and of all of the people of authority involved and associated with the advocacy of our students.

### **PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIPS**

Both parenting and coaching are extremely rewarding but sometimes difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each other's positions, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

### **COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD'S COACH**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad (i.e. what is your child's role on the team).
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests (realizing that flexibility is necessary).
4. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, level of skill required.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during the participation.

### **COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflict well in advance.
3. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. As we grow, schedule conflicts will become increasingly evident, and choices between activities will have to be made by the student and family with clear communication to the coaches.

### **APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you hope. Coaches are professional. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved and are not out to harm any child. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be discussed with your child's coach. Other things must be left to the discretion of the coach.

### **ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES**

1. Playing time.
2. Team strategy.
3. Play calling.
4. Other student athletes.

### **PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING CONCERNS**

1. As your children become involved in the programs at Zionsville Community High School, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes.

The first step in resolving issues with a coach is to see if your student athlete can resolve the issue. Often a discussion with a coach resolves miscommunication or other issues. Remember, part of the process of education and growing up is conflict resolution. Student athletes should be the first step in the process. If this step fails or it is simply a matter that needs adult/parent attention, then parents should move on to step 2.

2. Sometimes a situation will require a conference between the coach and the parent. These conferences are encouraged if there is a problem. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution of the issue of concern. Call to make an appointment with the coach (873-3355).

If the coach cannot be reached, the Athletic Director will assist you in making the appointment. Do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

### **WHAT CAN A PARENT DO IF THE MEETING WITH THE COACH DID NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?**

In the event of the above occurring, the parent can call the Athletic Director to make an appointment to discuss the situation. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.

### **CONCLUSION**

Since research indicates that students who participate in athletics receive higher grades and have a greater chance for success in adulthood, we consider athletics an important part of the total educational process. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. With all that has been said in this section, the school takes the stance that good communication begins at home between parent and child. It is most definitely a two-way street. We hope the information provided here makes both your child's and your experience with the Zionsville Community High School Athletic Program an enjoyable one.

### **PARENT (FAN) DECORUM**

Rule 3, Article C-3-6, page 15 IHSAA By-Laws:

"A member school's responsibility includes the responsibility of instituting full and complete team and crowd control measures at all contests...assuring that the participants, staff and boosters of the member school conduct themselves at all times in a proper and sportsmanlike manner, assuring full compliance... of the member school of all Association rules..."

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger, often associated with youth sports, Zionsville Community High School wishes to state a philosophical stance of keeping our athletes, coaches, and fans safe; insisting on proper behavior, and promoting our positive reputation as regards to sportsmanship.

We recognize that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not, force us to address these issues.

In as much as our coaches have certain standards of expected behavior (Coaches Handbook), our student athletes are governed by the Student-Athlete Behavioral Code, and regular students are subject to school rules at athletic events; it becomes incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult fans and parents.

Zionsville Community High School will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward Zionsville staff or players, the opposing school and all its representatives, or the game officials. Such behavior by parents can cause the school to suffer severe sanctions from the IHSAA and is embarrassing to the school and community. Inappropriate behavior is embarrassing to the school and reflects poorly on our values as a community.

Zionsville Community High School supports the IHSSA rules and emphasis on good sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations, and sports are no exception. High school sports exist to build character, allow students to express themselves through physical exertion, and as entertainment. There is no place for poor behavior toward anyone. Parents need to understand certain facets of the structure of high school athletics and the relationships involved.

1. There is no inherent right to participate. Coaches will only retain those players whose skills and attitudes meet the needs of the program, as defined by the coach.
2. Likewise, the coach alone is responsible for deciding who plays and how much.
3. By allowing one's child or children to play sports, the parent is, in effect, turning the child over to that coach for that time period. The coach, as is naturally assumed, will instruct the child and keep the child safe within normally accepted standards.
4. Coaches are professional and, until proven otherwise, it is assumed that they are operating within the best interests of all student athletes in their charge.
5. It is inappropriate for a parent to confront a coach after a practice or event. Parents should wait until the next day and schedule a meeting with the coach. This will help avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time.
6. Making derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players of either team or other parents and fans at an athletic event is never acceptable.
7. Swearing in public at athletic events is never acceptable.
8. Coming to an athletic event intoxicated is not acceptable.
9. Being offensive in any fashion is not acceptable.

Parents who violate any of the above standards of decorum risk sanctions by the school corporation including, but not limited to, the following:

1. A warning, verbal or written.
2. Removal from the contest or premises.
3. Banishment from attendance at athletic contests for a short period of time or even permanently.
4. The severing of further contact with team personnel.
5. Civil or legal action could result.

In conclusion, we commend those parents who have always exhibited exemplary behavior and who, by such, have served as positive role models for our student-athletes. We encourage our parents to volunteer, to become involved with the teams, and to be supportive of the attempts of the entire community to educate our youth. By working together, we will establish Zionsville Community Schools and athletics as a "class" act.

We sincerely want to strive to make sportsmanship at Zionsville Community High School an expectation...

Where we let players play, coaches coach  
officials officiate, and fans be positive.