Code of Conduct for Coaches

The New Hanover County Schools Board of Education expects coaches of interscholastic sports model appropriate behavior, demonstrate dedication, scholarship and integrity, and reflect the values and ideals of the education community. 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 the coach at all times.

Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted:

1. No coach shall recruit any student to move or attend a school in order to play sports, or have knowledge of any student or parent doing so. No coach shall enlist other individuals to recruit students on their behalf.

2. The coach shall disclose, fully and honestly, his outside activities and his relationships in a community setting with athletes enrolled at other schools. Coaches with outside contacts with players from other schools will be monitored, and if students with outside contacts with coaches transfer to another school during their high school career, the coach's outside interests may be deemed to be interfering with the coach's ability to carry out the goals and purposes of the district.

3. Principals and athletic directors at each school will be held responsible for the coaches and assistant coaches at their schools, including assuring that the coaches and assistant coaches follow the policies and practices of the New Hanover County Board of Education, North Carolina High School Athletic Association (**NCHSAA**), the NC State Board of Education, and the NC Department of Public Instruction.

4. Participation in any co-curricular activity is an important part of the educational experience in the New Hanover County Schools (**NHCS**). A primary goal of such activities is to teach students character and self-discipline skills that will enable them to develop to their highest potential. As role models for student athletes, coaches must conduct themselves in a manner that will facilitate teaching desired outcomes to student participants. Due to the public nature of the co-curricular programs, coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a manner reflective of the high standards and ideals of **NHCS**, their respective schools, and community. Coaches become subject to the Code of Conduct upon accepting a position of employment as a coach at any level in the **NHCS** system, including as a volunteer coach. Coaches are subject to the Code at all times during the calendar year, including summer months, whether on or off campus.

The Coach will:

- Uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (**NCHSAA**), the media, and the public.
- Promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.
- Be aware of the tremendous influence he/she has on student-athletes and will never place winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character and integrity.
- Strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct with the student athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the **NCHSAA**, the media, and the public.

- Discipline athletes who display unacceptable behavior, regardless of the impact on competition.
- Understand the game rules and be responsible for their interpretation to team members. Additionally, the coach will not try to seek an advantage by circumventing the spirit or the intent of the rules.
- Assure that all pre-participation screening forms, **NHCS** participation forms and concussion forms of the **NCHSAA** and **NHCS** are completed and in place prior to allowing any student to participate in practice or a competition.
- Respect and support contest officials by avoiding conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials.
- Promote good sportsmanship of team members; including players and other team personnel such as managers and statisticians.
- Actively promote good sportsmanship of spectators by working closely with administrators, cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, and booster clubs.
- Meet and exchange greetings with the opposing coach before and after the contest to set and maintain a positive tone for the event.
- Take an active role in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse, while stressing the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- Ensure that every injured athlete is given immediate medical attention.
- Ensure that every participant meets all requirements for athletic eligibility.
- Inspire the student-athletes to achieve the highest academic success possible.
- Advise participants as to the proper conduct in meetings with the media and how to conduct themselves in interviews, both for their own protection and to avoid any embarrassment.
- Conduct all financial transactions in accordance with board policy using good accounting procedures and act ,at all times, on behalf of the team without taking personal advantage of his/her position.

_____
School

_____ _____
Coach's signature Date

_____ _____
Athletic Director Date

References: North Carolina High School Athletic Handbook,
North Carolina Coaches Association Code of Ethics,
National Federation of State High School Coaches Code of Ethics,
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Middle School Athletic Manual,
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