

A Letter To Parents:

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences, which assists students in personal growth. We, who are invested in the educational development of our students through athletics, feel that a properly controlled, well-organized sports program meets the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness and physical growth. It is our hope to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's growth both physically and mentally.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily choosing self-discipline and self-denial. These are the reasons we place such stress on good training habits and positive behavior. Failure to comply with the rules of training and conduct means exclusion from the team. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team. There is no place in athletics for students who will not discipline their minds and bodies for rigorous competition. We are striving for excellence and do not want our athletes to compromise with mediocrity.

When your son/daughter enlisted in one of our sports programs, he/she committed our staff to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are:

1. To provide adequate equipment and facilities.
2. To provide well trained coaches.
3. To provide equalized contests with skilled officials.

Likewise, we feel that you have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations. We would like to take this opportunity to acquaint you with specific policies that are necessary for a well organized program of athletics. It is the role of the department of athletics to make rules that govern the spirit of competition for the school. These rules need a broad basis of community support, which is achieved only through communication to the parent(s). It is our hope to accomplish this objective through this athletic publication for students and parents.

PARENTS CODE

Parents should remember:

- Children have more need of example than criticism
- Make athletic participation for your child, and others a positive experience
- Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not to increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences
- Be kind to your child's coach and to officials. The coach is providing valuable community service often without reward other than the personal satisfaction of having served the community
- The opponents are necessary friends. Without, your child could not participate
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team

Between the exuberance of the winner and the disappointment of the loser, we find a person called a referee. All of them follow the same creed to watch every move of every player and to call the game to the best of his/her ability.

- Do not openly question his/her judgment and never question their honesty.
- Accept the results of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship.
- Accept the results of each game, encourage the child to:
 - Be gracious in victory.
 - Turn defeat into victory by working towards improvements.

Parental evaluation carries a great deal of weight with the pre-adolescent. The attitude shown by parents at games towards the child, the opposing team, the officials and the coach influence the child's values and behavior in sports.

Parent (Fan) Decorum

Rochester Community School Corporation will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward Rochester 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 reflects poorly on our values as a community.

Rochester Athletics supports the IHSAA rules and emphasis on good sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in the 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 relationship involved.

There is no inherent right to participate. By allowing one's child to participate in 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 expected standards.

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. 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.

- Making derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players of either team or other parents and fans at an athletic event is never acceptable.
- Swearing in public at athletic events is never acceptable.
- Coming to an athletic event intoxicated is not acceptable.
- 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 per IHSAA policy
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 Rochester Schools and athletics as a "class act". We sincerely want to strive to make sportsmanship at Rochester an expectation where we let the players play, coaches coach, officials officiate, and let fans be positive.

Athletic Philosophy

Athletics at Rochester Community School Corporation are an integral part of our school program. It is by far the broadest and most comprehensive component of our student activities program. The purpose of our athletic program is to provide opportunities for our students to learn and improve their individual skills in a competitive situation, to develop physical fitness and desirable habits of health and safety and to make meaningful friendships through team play. More importantly, we believe that athletics helps instill the meaning of sportsmanship, responsibility, respect and sacrifice. While we take great pride in winning, we do not condone "winning at any cost" and frown upon any and all pressure, which may hinder good sportsmanship. We expect our athletes and coaches at all times to represent our school and community in the finest possible manner. Athletic competition adds to our school spirit and helps all students and spectators as well as participants to develop pride in their school.