

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

In June 1999, the National High School Athletic Coaches' Association Board adopted the following Parent Code of Conduct as a result of their concerns about the role parents are playing in school sports. St. Helen Catholic School adopted this Parent Code of Conduct as a standard for parents who wish their children to participate in different sports in our school. As a Catholic School, we feel that parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes; hence, we expect the following from parents:

- To be a fan of the team and not their kid alone.
- Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- To be a positive role model through your own actions to make sure your child has the best athletic experience possible.
- To always give a deeper thought to what your children say; they will tend to slant the truth to their advantage.
- Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Don't instruct your child before or after a game because it may conflict with the coach's plans and strategies.
- Praise student athletes in their attempts to improve themselves as students, athletes, as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Help your child learn that success is oriented in the development of skill and should make persons feel good about themselves, win or lose.
- If you as a parent have a concern, take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, time, and place.
- Be sure to follow the designated chain of command. (i.e. player, coach, athletic director).

In addition, we advised parents NEVER to curse, make derogatory comments about the players, coaches or referees, make threatening gestures, or statements while at, or in connection with, an athletic event or otherwise engage in other unsportsmanlike behavior. Parents who ignore this rule or those set forth above will be asked to leave the playing field area. Repeated violations of this rule may result in such parent being barred from attending athletic events and further review and action by Saint Helen Catholic School with our parent handbook.

Parental assistance with the implementation of the Parent Code of Conduct will be most appreciated in order to help Saint Helen Catholic School maintain its consistency in school behavior. If parents should fail to abide by this code, they or their children may be subject to verbal or written warning, exclusion from activities, or the administrative withdrawal of the student from school. Saint Helen Catholic School expects nothing short of excellence from the entire school community. Parental support is greatly appreciated.

PARENT/COACH RELATIONSHIP

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, 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 sports program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communications from the coach of your child's team.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and games.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, or necessary equipment.
5. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
6. Discipline that may result in the denial of your child's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Medical or physical limitations of your child.

As your children become involved in our athletic program, 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 wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

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 not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all players involved. As you may have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

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

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH, THIS IS THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW

- 1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach.
- 2. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a game 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 DOES NOT PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION?

- 1. Call and set up an appointment to meet with the principal and the coach to discuss the situation.
- 2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined.
- 3. Every effort should be made to resolve the problem at this level.

Over the years, research indicates a student involved in extra-curricular activities has a greater chance for success during adulthood, these programs have been established to help the kids. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote success after high school. We hope the information provided here makes both your child’s and your experiences with the Saint Helen Catholic School Programs less stressful and more enjoyable.

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To be signed and returned to Coach Clark

I have read and will abide by The Parent Code of Conduct

Parent signature _____ date _____

Student signature _____