

Oak Farm Montessori Athletics

Code of Conduct

The Athletic program at Oak Farm Middle School has as its primary objective the development of self-discipline, a spirit of cooperation, good citizenship and respect for rules and authority. We seek to instill in our students, principles of justice, fair play and good sportsmanship. Above all we want our players to have fun playing the sport.

In order to accomplish these objectives, it is necessary to develop and maintain a team and school spirit that is based on ethical principles, discipline and uniformity of goals. Certain regulations are necessary to prevent the disruption of team spirit. The benefits to be gained in the formation of personal character, initiative and teamwork will far outweigh any possible impairment of student right.

Players Responsibilities

1.) TRUSTWORTHINESS

- **Trustworthiness** – be worthy of trust in all I do.
- **Integrity** – Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor; do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
- **Honesty** – Live and compete honorably; don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- **Reliability** – Fulfill commitments; do what I say I will do; be on time to practices and games.
- **Loyalty** – Be loyal to my school and team; put the team above personal glory.

2.) RESPECT

- **Respect** – Treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student-athletes.
- **Class** – Live and play with class; be a good sport; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; give fallen opponents help, compliment extraordinary performance, show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- **Disrespectful Conduct** – Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- **Respect Officials** – *T* contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

3.) RESPONSIBILITY

- **Importance of Education** – Be a student first and commit to getting the best education I can. Be honest with myself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes that do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.
- **Role-Modeling** – Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right and that I am expected to represent my school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model. *Suspension or termination of the participation privilege is within the sole discretion of the school administration.*
- **Self-Control** – Exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- **Healthy Lifestyle** – Safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco and drugs.
- **Integrity of the Game** – Protect the integrity of the game; Play the game according to the rules.

4.) FAIRNESS

- **Be Fair** – Live up to high standards of fair play; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

5.) CARING

- **Concern for Others** – Demonstrate concern for others; never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to myself or others.
- **Teammates** – Help promote the well-being of teammates by positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

6.) CITIZENSHIP

- **Play by the Rules** – Maintain a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.
- **Spirit of rules** – Honor the spirit and the letter of rules; avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

Parent and Spectator Responsibilities

Attending an athletic event means that the spectator has assumed a responsibility for proper representation of Oak Farm, just as the athletes do. These rules apply to all spectators; students and parents alike at both home and away games for Oak Farm athletes, even when not observed by opposing teams and fans. Failure to meet these standards will result in disciplinary action.

- Spectators are to appreciate and give proper recognition to the good in others.
- Spectators are to cheer positively and are to totally avoid “booing” and abusive language and vulgarity. Spectators are not permitted to engage in any kind of intentional display of rude behavior (such as turning their backs on members of the opposing team, cheerleaders, and band).
- Spectators are to respect and obey property regulations established by each school.
- Spectators are always to regard the official’s decision as final.

Specific Parents Code of Conduct

Oak Farm has adopted the following policy for ALL athletic contests:

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Teach your child always to play by the rules.
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory.
- Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game.
- Your child will then be a winner, even in defeat. Do not ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or for losing a game.
- Set a good example. Children learn best by example.
- Cheer good plays by both teams! Never argue with the referee – the team is subject to fines and the coach can be carded which could lead to a suspension.
- Leave the coaching to the coach.
- Follow appropriate chain of command when addressing concerns. First start with the coach, and if the issue is not resolved, contact an Administrative Member.

Coaching Code of Conduct

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of a sport organization are channeled. Thus how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behavior of the coach. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behavior, which will allow their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self-confident and productive human beings.

Although this code is directed toward coaching conduct it equally applies to other members of the "Team Leadership Staff" i.e. volunteers and assistants. It is assumed that these people act in cooperation with one another to construct a suitable environment for the athlete.

Coaches Have a Responsibility To:

1. As a coach of an Oak Farm team you will be the major influence in installing the values and beliefs of the school in the sport you are coaching. All athletes and coaches are expected to reflect the values stated in the school's mission, philosophy and code of conduct.
2. Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
3. Direct comments of criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
4. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favorable image of their sport and coaching.
5. Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, and ability and fitness level of the athlete and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.
6. Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, athletes, officials and volunteers especially when speaking to the media or recruiting athletes
7. Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of his/her athletes.
8. Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when working with athletes.
9. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of his/her duties.
10. Communicate and co-operate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnoses, treatment and management of their athletes' medical and psychological problems. Consider the athletes' future health and well-being as foremost when making decisions regarding injured athletes and their ability to continue playing or training.
11. Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to other coaches or sport specialists. Allow athletes' goals to take precedence over them.
12. Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.
13. Treat opponents and officials with due respect both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of their sport and the spirit of such rules.
14. In the case of minors, communicate and cooperate with the athletes' parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
15. Be aware of the many pressures placed on athletes as they strive to balance the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of their lives and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow optimum success.



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I have read and understand the requirements of this Code of Conduct. I understand that I'm expected to perform according to this code and I understand that there are consequences or penalties if I do not.

1) Parent / Guardians' Signature _____ Date _____

2) Parent / Guardians' Signature _____ Date _____

Student-Athlete Signature _____ Date _____