

# **Hunterdon Central Regional High School District** **Athletic Code of Conduct**

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of Hunterdon Central Regional High School's Athletic Program is to create an educational and competitive experience within an atmosphere of sportsmanship. We strive to develop and realize individual and team potential by promoting high standards of competence, character, civility, and citizenship.

## **Statement of Philosophy**

At Hunterdon Central, we believe that participation in athletics can provide students with the opportunity for personal growth. Teamwork, the mental and physical challenges of training and competition, and the experience of winning and losing graciously and respectfully are important life lessons that will serve students well in their future.

Developing good character habits requires time and effort. Coaches and parents can help students develop such habits by discussing, modeling, and reinforcing the desired attitudes and beliefs over time.

We also understand that participation on an athletic team demands a commitment that involves both dedication and sacrifice. This is required of not only student athletes, but also of coaches and parents.

## **Athletic Program Goals**

Hunterdon Central's Athletic Department is aware that students participate in athletics for the following reasons:

1. Enjoyment
2. Participation
3. Personal improvement

Therefore, the Hunterdon Central Regional School District Athletic Program commits to the following:

- Offer students an enjoyable experience;
- Provide the greatest possible opportunity for athletes to participate in both practice and competitions;
- Promote personal improvement in skills, physical condition and knowledge of the sport;
- Promote programs of excellence that accomplish the above and lead to success on and off the playing field.

In order to achieve these goals, we hold the following positive expectations for the primary stakeholders in our Athletic Program.

## **Coach's Code**

The Athletic Director and Coaches are leaders, dedicated to more than the X's and O's of competition. As professional educators, leaders and role models for students, Hunterdon Central's coaches and Athletic Director will:

- Exemplify the highest character as a role model for young people.
- Recognize the individual worth and reinforce the self-image of each team member.
- Establish a realistic team goal or vision for each season and communicate that to the athletes and parents.
- Encourage and assist team members to set personal goals to achieve their highest academic potential.
- Create a set of training rules for athletes that reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
- Strive to develop the qualities of competence, character, civility and citizenship in each team member.
- Provide a safe, challenging and encouraging environment for practice and competition.
- Gain an awareness of the importance of prevention, care and treatment of athletic injuries.
- Respect the integrity and judgement of the game officials.
- Teach and abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Build and maintain ethical relationships with coaches and administrators.
- Strive for excellence in coaching skills and techniques through professional improvement.
- Promote personal fitness and good nutrition.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

## **Parent's Code**

Parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes and the success of Hunterdon Central's program. Therefore, we expect parents to do the following:

- Be a positive role model through their own actions to make sure their child has the best athletic experience possible.
- Be a "team" fan, not a "my kid" fan.
- Weigh what their children say; they will tend to slant the truth to their advantage.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Don't instruct their children before or after a game, because it may conflict with the coach's plans and strategies.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and 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 their child learn that success is experienced in the development of their skills, and that they can feel good about themselves, win or lose.
- Take time to talk with coaches in an appropriate manner, including proper time and place, if there is a concern. Be sure to follow the designated chain of command. (Coach, Athletic Director, Principal, Superintendent, and Board of Education).
- Please reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests.
- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.

## **Supporter's Code** (other adult fans)

The larger school-community has an interest and investment in the success of our Athletic Program. These adults play a key role in reinforcing the educational goals of our program. Therefore, we expect these important program supporters to do the following:

- Remember that a ticket to a school athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest.
- Be a positive role model through their behavior at athletic contests.
- Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
- Be respectful of all officials' decisions.
- Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
- Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the sport.
- Reinforce our alcohol, tobacco and other drug-free policies by refraining from the use of any such substances before and during athletic contests.

## **Athlete's Code**

Given our belief that high school athletics provides a unique opportunity for the development of physical conditioning, athletic skill, but character traits, we expect every Hunterdon Central athlete to strive for the following:

### ***Competence***

- To develop the skills necessary to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the rules and conventions of the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of the strategies of the game.
- To demonstrate a level of physical conditioning and fitness sufficient to participate competently in the game.
- To demonstrate knowledge of healthy behaviors including nutritional issues.
- To understand the necessity of abstaining from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in order to achieve the positive benefits of interscholastic athletics.

### ***Character***

- To be dependable in fulfilling obligations and commitments.
- To accept responsibility for consequences of actions, to not make excuses or blame others.
- To strive to excel.
- To be committed.
- To persevere, give 100% effort and not give up in the face of setbacks.
- To demonstrate truthfulness.
- To play by the rules of the game.
- To control anger and frustration and refrain from displays of temper and bad language.
- To accept losing and winning graciously; by congratulating opponents and by not sulking or displaying, other negative behaviors.

### ***Citizenship***

- To be faithful to the ideals of the game, including sportsmanship.
- To keep commitments to the team.
- To show team spirit, encourage others and contribute to good morale.
- To put the good of the team ahead of personal goals.
- To set a good example for teammates, younger athletes, fans, and school community.

## ***Civility***

There will be no tolerance for negative statements or actions between players and coaches. This includes taunting, baiting, berating opponents, “trash talking”, or actions which ridicule or cause embarrassment to them. Any physical, verbal, written (cyber or otherwise) conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion shall not be tolerated, and could be subject to violator ejection, and may result penalties, being assessed against your team. If such comments are heard, a penalty will be assessed immediately.

Then NJSIAA Sportsmanship Rule requires that “high standards of courtesy, fair play, and sportsmanship must be featured at all high school competitions”. The Sportsmanship Rule is the heart of the NJSIAA program. Good sportsmanship, respect for rules, respect for others, and fair play are the fundamental principles that support and interscholastic athletic program. NJSIAA has made sportsmanship a priority. Statements cautioning student-athletes against unsportsmanlike conduct are read before each competition. Students are told that “actions which ridicule or cause embarrassment to opponents are unsportsmanlike and a HIB violation.

**We also expect every student athlete in our athletic program to abide by all rules and regulations developed for each individual sports team, and also all rules and regulations approved by the Board of Education and contained in the Student Handbook. For any violation of the Code of Conduct or any other rule or regulation of the Board of Education, student athletes may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to exclusion from extracurricular activities, suspension, and/or expulsion, consistent with law, regulation, and/or board policy.**

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