



## School Sport Code of Conduct

**Student athletes registered with Nova Central School District schools cannot practice, compete or participate in any sanctioned event or activity between schools until the player, the player's parents or guardians and the player's coach read this entire document, sign duplicate copies, retain one copy and return a copy of the Code of Conduct Agreement to the school.**

### INTRODUCTION

In personal development throughout youth sports, the players, his/her parents/guardians, coaches and administrators play a critical role. To ensure that all participants work together to get the optimum benefits from sport, they all need to be on the same page regarding their roles and responsibilities. Each must understand and respect his/her relationship with the other and the commitments that are required as a member of their team.

The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid the participants in achieving a level of behavior that will allow all concerned to maximize the benefits of youth sport development and guide the athlete in becoming a well-rounded, self-confident and productive human being.

Three critical points are required to achieve a positive and healthy relationship between players, parents/guardians and coaches. They are to:

1. clearly define the roles of each participant;
2. establish rules of behavior; and,
3. ensure communications of expected conduct to all parties.

A clear understanding of these points of emphasis will help to ensure positive behavior.

### SPORTSMANSHIP

A growing problem in youth sports today is the all-too common attitude that winning is everything. Nothing could be further from the truth, and Nova Central School District believes this attitude can contribute to players, coaches, and parents displaying a lack of good sportsmanship.

In any athletic contest, the competitors should do their best to try and win. After all, striving to win is a part of healthy competition. However, winning or losing is only a result -- it should not be the reason the game is played. In addition, we sometimes need to be reminded to respect opponents and officials, because without them there is no game. We need to applaud good plays by both our team and by members of the opposing team.

Everyone in the game, including the parents/guardians and spectators, should have a sense of fair play. Satisfaction for players, coaches, officials, parents/guardians and spectators should come from watching athletes playing their hardest and doing their best. There is a big difference between losing and being a loser. By the same token, a team may have the highest score in the game, but if the participants are not humble in victory, or have played without respect for their opponents, they are not winners.

Sometimes there are exceptional athletes in grade eight or nine who may be quite capable of playing at the senior high level. However, it is the District's position that students from intermediate feeder schools should not be permitted to try out or play for senior high teams, if there is an adequate number of players to form a team at the high school level. The student in intermediate will have three years to play for the high school. The high school student may only have one opportunity. This is one of the big differences between school sport and community or club sports. School sport is about sportsmanship, participation and fair play, and not only about winning. The only exception to this is where a high school does not have enough interested students to field a team in any particular sport. In that case, the high school principal may approve a coach approaching the intermediate school to recruit players.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR**

All schools are responsible for the distribution, communication and enforcement of the rules and regulations and the Code of Conduct of Nova Central School District. All players, parents/guardians, administrators, teachers and coaches are responsible for being familiar with and supporting these rules and regulations and the Code of Conduct.

Nova Central School District has approved and adopted provisions that all players, coaches, and parents/guardians are required to sign a Code of Conduct Agreement that will be kept in a team binder. The document contains an acknowledgement that the participants have read, understood and pledged to behave in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and the Code of Conduct of Nova Central School District. The District's intent is that this process will communicate the standards of behavior to all participants, and in doing so help elevate the level of the youth sport experience for all concerned.

A copy of this preamble along with the appropriate form to be signed must go to parents, students and coaches/teacher sponsors.

It must be clearly understood that Nova Central School District does not tolerate fighting or rude behaviour in school, on school grounds, or during a sporting event. All school sanctioned events are an extension of school and school rules apply. This applies to

hockey as well as all other sporting events. A team member who represents a school in Nova Central School District and is found to be fighting **will** be removed from **all** school sport teams for 30 school days. Any reoccurrence will result in expulsion from all school teams for the equivalent of one school year. Players may be susceptible to other forms of school discipline.

Any player breaking any of the other rules and regulations or violating the Code of Conduct may cause the player to be suspended from the team for a period of time, to forfeit his/her player status with any school team, or to be susceptible to other forms of school discipline. Any non-teaching coach violating the Code of Conduct may be suspended from the team. Employees of Nova Central School District violating the Code may be dealt with through district policy.

**Parents/Guardian Code of Conduct**

**As a Parent/Guardian I will:**

- Encourage my children to participate in sports, and support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage my child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Be respectful of and will not embarrass my child by yelling at players, coaches, officials or other parents. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit young athletes. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Become familiar with the rules of the game, and support the officials. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Display good sportsmanship. Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Recognize good plays by both your team and the opposing team with applause.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches and officials. They are important to the development of my child and the sport. Communicate with coaches; support their decisions and trust their judgment and integrity.
- Act appropriately; not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents. Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- Be supportive after the game - win or lose. Recognize good efforts, teamwork and sportsmanship.
- Refrain from the use of abusive, obscene or profane language or gestures.
- Treat everyone fairly, regardless of gender, place of origin, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- Abstain from use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances or mind-altering drugs in the presence of student athletes attending District sanctioned activities or events.

**Signature**

**Date**

**Signature**

**Date**

**Players' Code of Conduct**

**As a member of the Team I will:**

- Understand that School rules apply to all school sponsored events including those occurring outside the school setting. (E.g., Arena)
- Conduct myself in an acceptable manner. Fighting, the use of abusive, obscene or profane language or gestures will not be tolerated.
- Understand that fighting will result in my removal from all school teams.
- Play for FUN.
- Work to my academic potential.
- Abide by the rules of my team, my school, and Nova Central School District.
- Work hard to improve my skills.
- Be a team player – get along in a team environment. Never place blame for a loss or tie on teammates. Understand that we win or lose as a team.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time for practices and games.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect and refrain from public criticism of; coaches, teammates, parents, opponents and officials. The respect you give will dictate the respect you get.
- Never argue with an official's decision. No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. Let the coaching staff handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
- Treat everyone fairly, regardless of gender, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- Abstain from use of tobacco, drinking alcoholic beverages, using illegal substances, or performance enhancing or mind-altering drugs.
- Be a good ambassador for my school.

**Players Signature**

**Date**

**Parents Signature**

**Date**

## **Coaches/Teacher Sponsor Code of Conduct**

### **As a Coach/Teacher Sponsor I will:**

- Understand that winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the development of the child than the winning of the game.
- Remember players are involved in sport for fun and enjoyment. Be reasonable, remembering that players have other interests and obligations.
- Teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- Be a positive role model to my players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Ensure that player behavior is acceptable and non-threatening for all participants.
- Understand fighting, the use of abusive, obscene or profane language or gestures cannot be tolerated and must be reported to the School Administrator.
- Ensure that School and District Rules and regulations are followed.
- Be generous with praise when it is deserved; be consistent, honest; be fair and just; not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach.
- Adjust to personal needs and problem of players, be a good listener, never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Give each team member a chance to play.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize myself with the rules, techniques and strategies of the sport; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Be concerned with the overall development of my players. Stress good health habits and active living.
- Refrain from the use of abusive, obscene or profane language or gestures.
- Treat everyone fairly, regardless of gender, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- Abstain from use of tobacco, drinking alcoholic beverages, using illegal substances, or performance enhancing or mind-altering drugs when involved with the team.
- Understand and teach players that to play the game is great; to love the game is greater.

**Signature**

**Date**