

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TONASKET ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

We believe that interscholastic competition should demonstrate high standards of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character and other important life skills. We also believe that the highest potential of sports is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory with honor.

THE GOALS OF TONASKET ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES

- Positive experience for all involved
- Cohesion throughout all Tonasket School athletic and activity programs
- Maximize potential/growth
- Integrity among students, athletes, coaches, parents, volunteers, and spectators

PARENT – COACH – STUDENT COMMUNICATION

*Let the coaches' coach!
The players play!
The referees' ref!*

Parent – Coach – Student Relationship

We are pleased that your son/daughter has chosen to participate in the Tonasket School District activities/athletic programs. We will do all we can to provide a positive experience for him/her. A very important ingredient in achieving this outcome is to ensure that lines of communication are developed to allow for free and easy resolution of questions before they become issues. As a parent, you have a right to know what expectations are placed on your son/daughter. This policy is intended to spell out all levels of communications so that parents, coaches and participants are aware of the steps they have available to resolve anything they think is or might become an issue.

Communication Parents and Students Should Expect from the Coach

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests, and timely communication of schedule
4. changes to all participants.
5. Team requirements: equipment, off season training, etc.
6. Procedure to follow should your son/daughter become injured during participation.
7. Participant conduct code and consequences for not following these guidelines.
8. Requirements to earn a letter where applicable.
9. How to communicate with coaches about concerns.
10. Disposition of lost/outstanding equipment at the end of the season.
11. Consistent, ongoing communication with the student concerning their growth/performance on the team and how he/she fits into the program.

Communication Coaches Expect from Parents

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach first.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Specific concerns that might impact the student's ability to participate.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

1. The treatment of your son/daughter: psychologically and physically.
2. Ways to help your son/daughter improve.
3. Concerns about your son/daughter's behavior.

At times, it may be difficult to accept the fact that your son/daughter is not playing as much as you or he/she would like. Coaches are professionals who make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for the team and all involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your son/daughter's coach. We ask that other things, such as those below, be left to the discretion of the coach.

Coaches' Decisions

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Matters concerning other participants

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

If you or your son/daughter has a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure listed below should be followed:

1. First, have your son/daughter speak with the coach.
2. If the issue has not been resolved, the parent should make an appointment to meet with the coach.
3. When necessary, the coach will follow up with the parent to communicate the resolution of the issue.
4. Please do not attempt to discuss concerns with a coach before or after a contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. As a general rule, wait 24 hours before discussing the issue with the coach.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director or appropriate supervisor to discuss the situation. The supervisor will follow up with the parent to communicate the resolution of the issue.
- If a satisfactory resolution is not reached at this step, set up an appointment with the building principal.
- The next step would be to meet with the superintendent and then with the school board. Problems are best solved at the lowest level and following this procedure will increase the chances of a positive resolution to the concern.

What can a coach do if the meeting with the parent did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director or appropriate supervisor to discuss the situation.

THE DEFINITION OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is character displayed through athletic competition. People of character live by the “Six Pillars of Character,” universal values that can be used to define a good person: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. This code applies to the parents, coaches, staff and all student-athletes involved in interscholastic sports.

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF OF
INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Integrity – live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship; do what’s right even when it’s unpopular or personally costly.

Honesty – live and act honorable; don’t lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Reliability – fulfill commitments; do what you say you will do; be on time; when you say you will attend an event, be sure to do so.

RESPECT

Class – live and cheer with class; be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity; compliment extraordinary performance; and show respect for all competitors.

Respectful Conduct – don’t engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.

Respect Officials – treat contest officials with respect; don't complain about or argue with official calls or decisions during or after an athletic event. It is the job of the coach and team captains to appropriately interact with officials.

Respect Coaches – treat coaches with respect at all times; recognize that they have team goals beyond those of your child. Don't shout instructions to players from the stands; let the coaches coach.

RESPONSIBILITY

Importance of Education – stress that student-participants are students first. Place academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being above desires and pressures to win.

Role-modeling – Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a role model.

Self-Control – exercise self-control; don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration; have the strength to overcome the temptation to demean others.

Privilege to Compete – participation in interscholastic sports and activities is a privilege, not a right. All are expected to represent our teams, school and community with honor, on and off the field.

FAIRNESS

Objectivity - Treat all competitors fairly; be open-minded; always be willing to listen and learn.

CARING

Encouragement – encourage the participants regardless of their play; offer positive reinforcement.

Concern for Others – demonstrate concern for others; never encourage the injury of any player, officials or fellow spectator.

Empathy – consider the needs and desires of all teammates; help promote the team concept by encouraging all team members.

CITIZENSHIP

Do your part for the common good - developing good citizen-athletes/participants involves defining and developing the relationship from athlete to athlete, from athlete to team and from athlete to community.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS OF SPECTATORS

Remember that you are at the contest to support and cheer for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition not to intimidate or ridicule any team or its fans.

Remember that school athletics and activities are a learning experience for all and that mistakes are sometimes made.

Praise student-participants in their attempt to improve themselves as students and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.

Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.

Show respect for all participants, coaches, spectators and support groups.

Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the participant, and appreciate their willingness to participate in full view of the public.

Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding play.

Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the event on or near the site of the event.

Refrain from using cheers that are derogatory in nature or that are negative towards an individual or team.

Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and by encouraging those around you to do the same.

Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.

Contest officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility. There is no such thing as a “right” to attend interscholastic athletics and activities. Interscholastic athletics and activities are considered a “privilege” and the spectator who avails themselves of it is expected to conduct him or herself accordingly. Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.

The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions of patrons in violation of WIAA standards and rules.

Since research indicates a student involved in athletics and activities have a greater chance for success during adulthood, Tonasket School District strongly supports the activity/athletic programs. Many of the character traits required to be a successful student-athlete/participant are exactly those that will promote a rewarding life after high school. We trust the information provided within this document makes both your child’s and your experience with Tonasket’s activity/athletic program more enjoyable and less stressful.

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Tonasket School District