

# **COLUMBUS NORTH ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**



## **PARENT GUIDELINES AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

Columbus North's philosophy of educating the whole child applies to athletics and sports as well as to the academic life. When students participate in club sports, middle school athletics or varsity teams, they do so as a part of their total educational experience....building skills of commitment, sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork.

Interscholastic athletics at Columbus North offer proof that athletic and academic success can thrive together in a supportive environment. As your children become involved in the athletic programs at Columbus North, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. Research indicates that a student involved in an extracurricular activity has a greater chance of success during adulthood. Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant in the Columbus North athletic program are exactly those that will promote a successful life after high school. We hope the information provided within this pamphlet makes both your child's experience and your experience with the Columbus North Athletic Program enjoyable and beneficial.

### **Parent/Coach Relationship**

Both parenting and coaching are challenging vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to the student-athletes. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our program, you have the right to understand the expectations that are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

## **Communication You Should Expect from Your Child's Coach**

1. Information about members of the coaching staff and which coaches may be specifically working with your child.
2. Expectations the coach has for your child.
3. Location and times of practices and contest.
4. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, specific team rules.
5. Procedures should your child be injured during practice or a contest.
6. Discipline procedures 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 concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
4. Specific medical problems that could adversely impact your child's performance or safety.

## **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.
4. Family concerns that may have an emotional impact upon your child and his or her athletic participation.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be best for all of the student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following items, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

## **Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches**

1. Playing time, team strategy, play calling, lineups, substitutions, and other student-athletes on the team.
2. Other members of your child's team.

## **Unacceptable Contact with Your Child's Coach**

1. Prior to and during practice.
2. Prior to, during, or after a contest.

These are typically either very busy times or, in the case of a contest, emotional times for all parties involved. Things can and will be said that are not meant. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution.

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 have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution.

It is of utmost importance that the proper chain of command be followed. Though we understand your desire to talk with the Athletic Director or Administration first, those phone calls first will be referred to the appropriate coach.

## **If You Have a Concern to Discuss with a Coach, This is the Procedure You Should Follow:**

1. Call or email the coach (during an appropriate time) to set up an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the Athletic Department 376-4265 to help schedule the meeting.

## **What Can a Parent Do If the Meeting with the Coach Did Not Provide a Satisfactory Resolution?**

1. Call and set up a meeting with the Athletic Director 376-4265 to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined.

## Columbus North Athletic Program Parent or Guardian Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Parent or Guardian Code of Conduct is to develop parental support and positive role models for our athletic program. In the tradition of excellence, one purpose of Columbus North's athletic program is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of each student and all of our student-athletes. Parents and guardians are an integral part of this process.

### Parent or Guardian Code of Conduct

1. Pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement to my student-athlete and his or her team, coaches and school.
2. Pledge to provide positive support and encouragement to the visiting team, their coaches and school.
3. Maintain a positive behavior and attitude at all athletic contest.
4. Respect the position and professionalism of the game official.
5. Refrain from the use of foul language.
6. Refrain from yelling criticism at my student-athlete and his or her coach or team.
7. Refrain from making derogatory comments to players, other parents, game officials or school administrators.
8. Refrain from interfering with the coach.
9. Willing to let the coach be responsible for my son or daughter during practice, games and team-related activities.
10. Will assist in providing for student safety and welfare.
11. Will sign and submit, with accurate information, all required student-athlete handbook forms to the Athletic Department.
12. Will not attempt to circumvent any rules or guidelines of Columbus North or the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA)

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### Parent or Guardian Agreement

The Parent or Guardian agrees to:

1. Abide by the Parent or Guardian Code of Conduct at all athletic events involving Columbus North.
2. Know and understand the information covered in the Athletic handbook and encourage my son or daughter to abide by the Athletic Handbook.
3. Encourage good sportsmanship by personally demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and game officials.
4. Treat all players, coaches, fans and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

*I/we, the parent(s) or guardian of the student-athlete, acknowledge that I/we have read the terms of these Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct. I/we agree to conduct myself/ourselves according to the terms of this Code of Conduct. I/we also understand and agree that any violation of this code of conduct will be cause for suspension, dismissal, or permanent expulsion from future athletic contest. I have read, understand, and agree to the Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of student-athlete

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
coach or to the Athletic Dept.

Please detach and return this form to appropriate