**Philosophy of Interscholastic Athletics at Fairfield Area School District**

We are firm believers in an education-based interscholastic athletic program. Although we all want to win, winning is not the most important outcome in high/middle school athletics. The interests of the student-athlete come first. To this end, our athletes should learn life-long values and qualities, develop and grow as a person, and understand and embrace sportsmanship.

**Expectations**

 Athletes are expected to:

* share the responsibility for their learning.
* contribute to the quality of the learning environment.
* work hard to improve their performance.
* be accountable for their actions, choices, and behaviors.
* pursue the highest ideals of citizenship, academic performance, and sportsmanship.
* accept and respect others.

Parents are expected to:

* provide an environment that supports learning and fosters positive athletic experiences for their children.
* primary responsibility for teaching their children ethics, morals, and values.
* support the goals and efforts of the coaching staff.
* model appropriate behavior and sportsmanship while attending athletic events.

Coaches are expected to:

* hold high expectations for all athletes.
* treat each athlete with dignity, care, and respect.
* demonstrate exemplary ethical and moral conduct.
* utilize effective and safe teaching strategies associated with increased athletic performance.
* keep instruction as positive and encouraging as possible.
* be committed to accomplishing the educational goals of the school.
* encourage the principles of good sportsmanship and fair play.
* teach skills to help student-athletes become life-long learners.
* prepare well-thought out, sound and comprehensive practice plans.

The Athletic Director is expected to:

* provide an appropriate and safe environment for practices and games.
* promote teamwork and the common good among the adults and athletes.
* support professional growth for all staff.
* demonstrate responsiveness and resourcefulness to the needs of the coaches and athletes.
* find, hire, and mentor coaches of all ages and with varying levels of experience to provide the leadership for an education-based athletic experience for the student-athlete.

**Goals**

* Our student-athletes will not only be better athletes after participating in our education-based athletic program, but also better people.
* Our teams will consistently demonstrate class and sportsmanship. We want to be recognized at the conference, district, and state levels for our sportsmanship.
* Our teams will strive to win while manifesting integrity and principle.

**Priorities**

1. Family comes first! (This includes personal religious beliefs)
2. Academics must always be the second priority.
3. Athletics runs a slow third, compared to the other two.

**Motto** Honesty, Commitment, and Integrity