

**Pursuing Victory with Honor\***  
**Code of Conduct for Coaches**  
**Of Interscholastic Age Student-Athletes**



*This Code of Conduct applies to all coaches of interscholastic age athletes.*

*The Code has been adopted by \_\_\_\_\_*

We believe that interscholastic athletic 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 according to the six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship, (the “Six Pillars of Character”). This Code applies to all coaches involved in Horseheads Interscholastic Athletics.

**TRUSTWORTHINESS**

- *Trustworthiness* — Be worthy of trust and emphasize with student athletes the importance of integrity, honesty, reliability and loyalty.
- The coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach shall emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.

**RESPECT**

- *Respect* — Treat people with respect and require the same of student-athletes.
- A coach shall respect participants, opponents, and all others involved.
- A coach shall respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials.
- A coach shall promote academics and the educational process.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

- A coach shall recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, emotional well-being of individual players.
- A coach shall avoid profane and abusive language and obnoxious behavior.
- A coach shall discuss ethical and sportsmanship issues in relation to actual and/or hypothetical situations that may occur in practice or games.

**FAIRNESS**

- *Fairness and Openness* — A coach shall develop and use a process that contains objective criteria and standards that shall apply to competitive situations, team selection and discipline. A coach shall be open-minded and willing to listen.
- The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the contest rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements.
- The coach shall stress the values derived from playing the game fairly.

**CARING**

- A coach shall demonstrate concern for student-athletes as individuals and encourage them to look out for one another and think and act as a team.
- A coach shall always set a good example for others to follow.
- A coach shall be a good host and treat visitors as guests.
- A coach shall accept both victory and defeat with pride and compassion, never being boastful or bitter.

**CITIZENSHIP**

- A coach shall observe and require student-athletes to observe the spirit and the letter of the rules of the game and those relating to eligibility, recruitment, transfers, practices and other aspects governing interscholastic competition.
- A coach shall show cordial courtesy to visiting teams, coaches and officials.
- A coach shall remember that an athletic contest is only a game...not a matter of life or death for player, coach, school, official, fan, community or nation.

*I am in receipt and have read the above document. I will abide by this code of conduct when I am performing my duties as a coach and understand that failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*Our athletic program endorses the *Pursuing Victory With Honor Arizona Sports Summit Accord*.  
“Pursuing Victory With Honor” and the “Six Pillars of Character” are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. [www.charactercounts.org/sports](http://www.charactercounts.org/sports)  
This code references and incorporates: NFICA, NYSPHSAA, STAC and PVWH.