



## Pursuing Victory with Honor\*

### Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Student-Athletes

We believe that athletic competition of interscholastic age students should be fun and should also be a significant part of a sound educational program, embodying high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while developing good character and other important life skills. Essential elements of character building are intrinsic in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship, (the “Six Pillars of Character”). The highest potential of sports is achieved when learning from the T.E.A.M. concept (Teaching, Enforcing, Advocating and Modeling these values) and by committing to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well-being of all teammates. This Code applies to all student-athletes involved in Horseheads Interscholastic Athletics.

#### TRUSTWORTHINESS

- *Trustworthiness* — Be worthy of trust in all you do.
- *Integrity* — Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what’s right even when it’s unpopular or personally costly.
- *Honesty* — Live and compete honorably. 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 to practices and games.
- *Loyalty* — Be loyal to your school and team. Put the team above personal glory.

#### RESPECT

- *Respect* — treat all people with respect all the time and require the same of other student-athletes.
- *Class* — Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Help up fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- *Disrespectful Conduct* — Don’t engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual or racial nature, trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- *Respect for Officials* — Treat game officials with respect. Don’t complain about or argue with calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

- *Importance of Education* — Be a student first, and commit to earning your diploma and getting the best education you can. Be honest with yourself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably.
- *Role Modeling* — Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right, and that you are expected to represent your school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.

- *Self-Control* — Exercise self-control. Don’t fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Do not retaliate.
- *Healthy Lifestyle* — Safeguard your health. Don’t use any illegal or unhealthy substances, including alcohol, tobacco, drugs and some over-the-counter nutritional supplements, or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.
- *Integrity of the Game* — Protect the integrity of the game. Don’t gamble on Horseheads Interscholastic Athletics.
- *Sexual Conduct* — Sexual or romantic contact of any sort between student-athletes and adults involved with the Horseheads Interscholastic Athletic program is improper and strictly forbidden. Report misconduct to proper authorities.

#### FAIRNESS

- *Fairness and Openness* — Live up to high standards of fair play. Be open-minded, always be willing to listen and learn.

#### CARING

- *Concern for Others* — Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to yourself or others.
- *Teammates* — Help promote the well-being of teammates through positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

#### CITIZENSHIP

- *Playing by the Rules* — Have a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules.
- *Spirit of Rules* — Honor the spirit and the letter of rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

*I agree that if I fail to abide by this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following: Warning, Single or Multiple Game Suspension, 10 or 20 Week Suspension or Dismissal according to the Horseheads Interscholastic Sports Eligibility Rules and Athletic Code of Conduct.*

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Student-Athlete Signature

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Date