

## **“PIONEER PLAN” Parent and Guardian Approach**

### ***The Parent–Coach/Adviser Relationship***

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S COACH/ADVISER:**

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations and goals the coach has for student athletes, the team, and the season.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Specific team requirements, including special equipment, strength and conditioning programs, weekend activities, etc.
5. Injury procedures for practices and contests.
6. Team rules, guidelines, and consequences for infractions.
7. Lettering criteria.

### **COMMUNICATION THE COACHES/ADVISERS EXPECT FROM ATHLETES/PARENTS**

- Notification of any reasonable schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach, (***Athletes should always talk to their coach first***).

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player, or coach, player, and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other persons' position. When a conference is necessary, this procedure should be used to help resolve any concerns. ***Please wait 24 hours AFTER a game to approach a coach.***

### **WHEN IS IT APPROPRIATE TO USE THE “CHAIN OF COMMAND” / “PROTOCOL”**

- Discrimination based on gender, race, religion, national origin, color, creed, etc.

### **WHAT CAN I TALK ABOUT WITH COACHES/ADVISERS?**

#### **ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS:**

- Ways to help your student improve,
- How to support the program through volunteering,
- Behavioral expectations and academic behaviors to support at home.

### ***ANY CONCERNS OTHER THAN ABOVE PLEASE ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOL:***

- 1) Athlete openly discusses concern or questions with his/her coach
- 2) If the athlete has talked to the coach AND no resolution, then parent pursues discussion with coach.
- 3) If no further resolution, parent then requests a meeting with Athletic Director and Coach.

**Note: Any deviations from above will be redirected to follow the protocol procedures.**

## **THE GAME PLAN FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE PIONEER PLAN AT SPORTING EVENTS:**

Possible actions taken for unacceptable behavior might include:

- Verbal reminder, at event, of behavioral expectations set by The Pioneer Plan group.
- Letter: Pointing out unbecoming and unsportsmanlike behavior from District Administrator.
- Letter: Notification suspending attendance without personal meeting with Administrator.
- Letter: Notification of exclusion from all extra-curricular events.

## **WESTFIELD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS' PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT**

This Code of Conduct has been prepared by a community group to promote the positive encouragement of your child and to develop community-wide "winning habits" as your child participates in Westfield Public Schools Co-Curricular Programming.

Please read through the following Code of Conduct and sign this form in acknowledgement.

1. I agree to be in control at all times rather than to display anger whenever something occurs that goes against my child's team/group.
2. I agree to make sure my student athlete knows (win or lose), I love him or her.
3. I agree to let the officials/judges be responsible for their job without my interference.
4. I agree to encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches/advisers and officials/judges at every game.
5. I agree to place the emotional, physical and academic well-being of my student-athlete ahead of my personal desire to win.
6. I agree to help provide support and respect for coaches/advisers working with my child in order to provide a positive enjoyable experience for all and to create an environment of longevity and autonomy.
7. I agree to encourage my child to treat other players/participants, coaches/advisers, fans, and officials/judges with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
8. I agree to refrain from undermining the coach/adviser from the sidelines and at home. Instead, I will react with support for the team/group, individual conscientiousness, and increased effort.
9. I understand that some topics are "off limits" to discuss with coaches/advisers, and I will support this rule for the good of our co-curricular programming.
10. If I have a concern with the coach/adviser, I will follow the "chain of command" procedure.
11. I agree to thank the coach/adviser for giving of their time and energy to my student-athlete and ask if there is any way I can be of assistance.
12. I agree to adopt a positive attitude if my team loses, encouraging achievement of potential.

Remember, our students may forget about tonight's event. Next week they may forget even the score. However, the lasting impression and memories that all of us create as a community may last for lifetimes.

***In school sports, we all win if we develop winners. We all lose if all we care about is winning.***