

# **Chatham High School Parent Code of Conduct** **for Interscholastic Athletics**

## Overview and Purpose

A goal of high school athletics as it relates to our student-athletes is to promote and develop responsibility, self-advocacy, and self-confidence. To accomplish this goal, student-athletes and coaches must communicate directly with one another. It is the parents' role to support their children. In accordance with the parameters set forth herein, all communication between a coach and parents shall occur in person or via school district email. Text messaging, individual phone calls, and emailing from a private email address are prohibited. Following are expectations for the accomplishment of the aforementioned.

## Communication Expected from Coach to Student-Athlete

1. Goals and expectations for the team.
2. Schedule for all team athletic events, including time and location, as appropriate.
3. Team rules and guidelines.
4. Ongoing feedback to the individual student-athlete regarding role on the team and ways to improve.

## Communication Expected from Coach to Parent

1. Any injury to or illness of an individual player.
2. Outline of team goals, expectations, and procedures, provided in the pre-season meeting.

## Communication Expected from Parent to Coach (and game officials)

1. There shall be no conversation with umpires, coaches, players, or parents regarding a call or a play.
2. There shall be no interference with a coach's and/or game official's instruction to a student-athlete.
3. Parents shall not approach a coach and/or game official to discuss playing time, position and/or strategy.
4. Parent communication with coaches shall be limited to (i) the treatment, safety, or well-being of one's child; (ii) ways to help one's child improve; and/or (iii) concerns about the child's behavior.

## Communication Expected from Student-Athlete to Coach

1. Student-Athletes are encouraged to speak with their coaches at the appropriate time to discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

## Changes to the Schedule

Changes to the time or location of an athletic event (i.e. contest or practice) are common as a result of inclement weather, poor field conditions, or other unanticipated circumstances. These changes sometimes occur at the very end of the school day. Coaches will utilize the school district email system to communicate changes in schedule to players in as timely a manner as possible. Parents may subscribe to notifications and updates regarding changes to athletic events at the [Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference website](#).

### Procedure for Addressing a Concern

As stated above and in Board Policy 9162, one goal of high school athletics is to emphasize self-advocacy. If a student-athlete has a concern to address with the coaching staff of a team, she or he should speak with the coaching staff at the appropriate time (before or after practice, generally speaking) to discuss the concern. In the event that a parent has a concern that has not been resolved between the coach and one's child, she or he may contact the coach if the concern relates to (i) the treatment, safety, or well-being of one's child; (ii) ways to help one's child improve; and/or (iii) concerns about one's child's behavior. If the concern is not resolved, the parent of the student-athlete may schedule a meeting with the high school assistant principal in charge of athletics to discuss the matter. This meeting will include the student, the parent, the assistant principal, and a member of the coaching staff.

### Expectations for Parent Conduct

It is the parents' role to support their children. Parents should demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times and should contact a coach about a concern only in the manner outlined above. Parents are prohibited from being in the team locker room, on the team bus, near the team bench area, or in any other area where contact with a coach is possible during the playing of the athletic event.

Additionally, student parents' and guardians' conduct is expected to adhere to the following:

1. Be positive role models at athletic contests. Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, game officials, and administrators at all times.
2. Be supportive of the coach. The team is the coach's responsibility, not the parents; refrain from coaching from the sidelines
3. Realize that as the coach he/she is an educator and therefore understands the sport he/she is coaching and the proper behavior for that sport.
4. Refrain from approaching the coach before, during or after a game unless the coach has asked for you or initiates conversation with you.
5. Remember the primary value of athletic participation is to provide our youth with an opportunity for self-development, physically, emotionally, and mentally.
6. Respect the judgment of the coaches and/or officials and refrain from openly criticizing each and every call the official and/or coaches make.
7. Refrain from arguing with other parents, players, and/or coaches.
8. Keep off of the field of play for any reason during the game.
9. Foul language is strictly prohibited.

Failure to comply with any aspect of the Parent Code of Conduct may result in the parent's exclusion from future contests or practices. The district shall also have full authority to invoke penalties or pursue legal action as consistent with school rules, district regulations, Board policies and State and Federal law. The authority to exclude parents from activities lies exclusively with the school district administration and Board of Education. Due process for parents shall be provided in accordance with school district rules, district regulations and Board policies and shall include the opportunity for a hearing with school officials.

**I have read and understand the Chatham High School Parent Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Athletics. By signing below, Parent/Legal Guardian represents that BOTH parents and/or legal guardians, as applicable, have read and understand the Chatham High School Parent Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Athletics.**

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**Name of Student-Athlete (please print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (please print)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Adopted: August 31, 2015  
Revised: November 6, 2017