

## **PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS**

At Archbishop Walsh we strive for excellence on and off the field of play. We desire to develop character, athletic skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship as we seek to field high quality competitive teams in all sports. A tradition of clean, hard playing athletes have made a place for interscholastic athletics in the educational program at Archbishop Walsh.

It is important to remember the student/athlete is a student first and foremost. Interscholastic athletics at Archbishop Walsh is a component of the health and physical education program and therefore is an integral part of the school's total educational program. Athletics should be a broadening experience in which harmony of the mind and body is created through striving for physical and mental excellence. This value building experience should be offered to as many students as possible. A well coordinated program is vitally important to the morale of the school and our community.

Everyone involved in the athletic program possesses a unique opportunity to teach positive life skills and values. Therefore, this educational experience demands highly qualified coaches. Desire, dedication, and self-discipline need to be developed in order to help ensure the commitment to integrity, pride, loyalty, and overall character. The ultimate outcome being a better citizenry carrying these values throughout their life.

It is the nature of athletic competition to strive for victory. However, the number of victories is only one criterion when determining a season's success. Guiding the team to attain maximum potential is the ultimate goal. To this end, the coaching staff must teach student/athletes to prepare their minds and bodies in order to reach maximum potential, and also to be modest in victory and steadfast in defeat.

The athletic department of Archbishop Walsh recognizes that student/athletes often hold a unique place in society and that they are under considerable pressure to not only perform in athletics, but in the classroom as well. Student/athletes are often looked upon as public role models. They must develop and maintain outstanding levels of achievements and athletic endeavors and adhere to the highest standards of ethical behavior and sportsmanship. The way a student/athlete conducts himself/herself is a direct reflection, not only of themselves, but of Archbishop Walsh as well.

**TAKE PRIDE**

## **WALSH'S ATHLETIC PROGRAM DESIGN**

**Modified Level** –Emphasis is placed on developing good sportsmanship, team strategies and individual sports skills. Although winning must be part of any program that centers on competition, at this level it will be a secondary goal. Coaches will make every effort to have each team member participate in every contest. Playing time is not based solely on an individual's skill level. Everyone should be aware that all team members are not guaranteed equal playing time. Cuts due to a high number of players should not be made.

**Junior Varsity Level** – A continued emphasis is placed on developing good sportsmanship and individual sport skills. Team strategies and tactics become more important while the team concept of being competitive and successful receives more attention. Winning contests takes on new meaning because when a team wins, valuable lessons in developing the team concept of working together are easily understood. Coaches will continue to make every effort to have each team member participate in every contest, but doing so becomes more difficult. Skill level becomes a factor in determining playing time and athletes need to learn the relationship of performance, work ethic and teamwork to the rewards of increased playing time. Coaches must be aware that athletes cannot develop skill unless they are in a competitive environment; playing opportunities are needed. Cuts may be made by the coach.

**Varsity** – Coaches spend considerable time on team strategies and tactics. Sportsmanship becomes of great importance because a varsity team represents our community at the highest level of interscholastic athletics. Coaches will make decisions about playing time based on the goal of being competitive in each contest. Often this means some athletes will not play in a game or several games. The decision making process of coaches and the performance level of athletes all play a major role in winning contests, which is a goal of varsity sports. Cuts may be made by the coach.

## **COMMUNICATION PROCESS**

Parents and athletes must use the following process as a guide to address concerns should the need arise during the sport season.

STEP 1: Athlete discusses situation with the coach.

STEP 2: Parent discusses situation with the coach.

STEP 3: Parent discusses the situation with the Athletic Director.

STEP 4: Parent discusses the situation with the Principal.

# SPORTSMANSHIP

## The athlete should:

- \* Be courteous to visiting teams and officials
- \* Respect the integrity and judgment of officials, and accept their decisions without question
- \* Respect the facilities of the host school and the trust extended in being a host  
each athlete should realize that the true athlete does not give up, nor do they quarrel, cheat, or grandstand (showboat).
- \* Encourage their teammates and speak highly of them when talking to others, unity should be a priority on any team
- \* Respect the coach
- \* Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A good sport does not offer excuses for failures.

## The coach should:

- \* Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff, the school, and the community
- \* Demonstrate the highest ideals, desirable attitudes in personal behavior, good habits of courtesy and demand the same standards of the players
- \* Remember that the most important values are derived from playing the game fairly, and teach players that it is better to lose fairly than to win unfairly
- \* Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without loss of emotional control. Demonstrate to players how to interact with officials without humiliating them or being disrespectful
- \* Be a positive role model, develop good athletes as well as good citizens
- \* Respect the student/athlete
- \* Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat

## The spectator should:

- \* Realize that they represent the school just as distinctly as the players on a team. Therefore, he/she has an obligation to be a good sport, encouraging through personal example the practice of good sportsmanship by others.
- \* Understand that good sportsmanship involves applauding good team play, individual skill, and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.
- \* Treat visiting teams and officials as our guests and make them feel welcome
- \* Cheer *for* your team, not against the opposition
- \* Respect the judgment of officials, realizing that their decisions are based on fast moving game conditions as they observe them from their vantage point
- \* Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat

**\*Any fan violating the good sportsmanship rules and policies will be warned to cease their actions. If behavior continues they will be asked to leave. Any inappropriate contact with other fans, coaches, athletes, or officials will result in immediate expulsion from the event site.**

## **STUDENT/ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following code of conduct pertains to all athletes who represent Archbishop Walsh. The end point of any athletic program is the participant. We, therefore, shall always insist on:

1. Fair, hard play at all times with a sincere respect for our opponents and competition
2. Respect for officials and an appreciation for the job they are trying to perform
3. Maintenance of conduct of the highest type on the field of competition, in and out of school
4. Complete observance of training rules as determined by the coach, the coach is an adult and should be respected as such
5. Faithful completion of school work as practical evidence of loyalty to school, team and parents
6. Daily conduct becoming to that of a good school citizen
7. Realization that it is an honor and privilege to represent one's school on an athletic team
8. Treating equipment and facilities, both home and away, with proper respect
9. Refraining from using profanity during contests and practices
10. The strict prohibition of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco
11. Upholding the values of the Catholic Church

**<Failing to uphold the code and commitments outlined in this document may result in probation, suspension and/or dismissal from the team at the discretion of school officials >**

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a member of an Archbishop Walsh athletic team, do agree to abide by the following rules and standards of conduct. I realize that athletic involvement is a privilege, and not a right, and carries with it responsibilities. I further acknowledge that there will be consequences for misconduct or not fulfilling my commitment.

- A. I agree to attend and be on time for all practices, meetings, and games. This includes awards banquets, team pictures, and all other team functions.
- B. I agree to personally gain prior permission from my coach if extenuating circumstances arise where I must be late or miss a team function (ie. academic help, family emergency, etc.)
- C. I agree to give 100% effort during practices and in games
- D. I agree to inform my coach of an illness or injury that I feel may affect my playing ability. I recognize that lack of practice due to an injury may limit my playing time and that I am still responsible to attend practices and games when I am injured unless excused by my coach
- E. I agree to inform my coach of transportation problems as soon as they arise.
- F. I agree to keep an attitude of encouragement towards my teammates in every situation. Initiations or hazing will not be tolerated
- G. I agree to perform any function that the coach, in his/her best judgment, not my own, determines is best for the team's overall success
- H. I agree to refrain from smoking, drinking, and profanity anytime and anywhere, I agree to avoid situations where alcohol and drugs may be present.
- I. I realize that being late due to a detention will not be tolerated and will avoid actions/attitudes that may lead to detention.
- J. I agree to maintain my academic eligibility as outlined in the athletic handbook
- K. I agree to take care of any uniforms or equipment that may be issued to me and will return it when I am asked. I understand that I will be billed for any unreturned uniforms and will not be issued a uniform for the next sport I play. If any damage occurs during my possession, I agree to pay for repair or replacement costs.
- L. I agree to remember who I represent as I wear the name Walsh on my uniform

By signing below, I, the student/athlete, and we, the parents/guardians, agree to the above stated responsibilities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

*It is important to remember that we are working with young people. These young people are:*

*1) adolescent; 2) human beings; 3) and prone to learning by making mistakes. Therefore, added to our organization is a healthy dose of flexibility in order to meet the needs of persons rather than stifle individuality in a strict adherence to narrow program demands. Certainly on some issues there can be no compromise, but on others there must be some flexibility.*

*It is a well established fact that athletic teams will reflect the attitudes and example of its coaching staff. Coaches are therefore charged with the important responsibility of being leaders in both precept and example.*

*Coaches should always be aware of the tremendous influence they have, for good or bad, with players under their care. Coaches through their own example, must always be sure that the students who have played under them are finer and decent persons for having done so.*

Coaches and their assistants are a vital part of the development of our student/athletes and the athletic program as a whole. Therefore we shall always insist on:

1. A strict adherence to the Ethics and Safe Environment program of the Diocese of Buffalo. Keeping current on VIRTUS requirements is mandatory.
2. Coaches are to demand that their squad members conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen at all times
3. Coaches are held responsible for the conduct of squad members during practice, at games, and on trips. Initiation and hazing will not be tolerated
4. Coaches are to be present at **all** practices and games, barring an emergency, and will not leave until all athletes have departed
5. Profanity is not to be used by coaches and or team members
6. The coach will assume the responsibility of caring for and reporting injuries. reports are to be filed with the athletic director.
7. Set an example of good sportsmanship for players and spectators. Discipline will be the same for all- substitute or starter.
8. Coaching is not your only job. Care of equipment, uniforms, and facilities are also part of your responsibility.
9. Financial guidelines set forth by the business office regarding fund-raising and purchases shall be followed.
10. Respect and sensitivity should be used in all situations when dealing with athletes under your care. A positive/fun environment should be promoted at all times. demand the best from your athletes, but know their limits.
11. Recognize that the purpose of athletics is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of individual players. Always place the needs of our athletes above your own personal gain or recognition.
12. Students should be encouraged to attend mass regularly and uphold the values of the Catholic Church

By signing below I, the coach, agree to the above stated responsibilities and I am aware that failure to adhere to these guidelines could lead to suspension or termination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*Coaching assignments shall be made by the athletic director on a yearly basis. All coaches, paid or unpaid, must fill out an application form and be approved by the athletic director and principal

# RULES AND POLICIES

## Academic

Students are expected to maintain passing grades in all subjects while participating on any athletic team. It is their responsibility to maintain excellence in the class room. Review of grades will take place every 5 weeks to determine eligibility status

**1 failing class** will result in probation, the student will be allowed to continue practicing and playing games with the team and will be given 5 weeks to bring their grade up to passing. If they fail to bring their grade up they will become ineligible to practice or play in any contests until they are passing the class.

**2+ failing classes** will result in the student being ineligible to practice or participate in any contests until they are receiving a passing grade in the classes.

A student declares himself / herself eligible after 15 school days by following the process outlined in the school handbook. If a student remains ineligible their status will be reviewed again at the end of the current 5 week period. Faculty will be available to encourage and help any student who is ineligible, on probation, or in danger of being in violation of the eligibility standards.

## Medical

All athletes are required to take and pass a physical examination, administered by the school physician or family physician before participating in the schools athletic program. This physical shall be filed with the school nurse. All Medical paper work must be submitted prior to the first practice.

## Use of Tobacco

The use of tobacco by an athlete is strictly forbidden. An athlete charged with violating this rule during the particular season for which the student is participating will be subject to the following:

**First offense-** The athlete shall receive an immediate two week (10 day) suspension, which shall include at least two, but not more than four games. Athlete may still practice with the team.

**Second Offense-** The athlete will be dismissed from the team, and will not be allowed to participate in another sport during the same sport season.

## **Use of Alcohol or Drugs**

The use, possession, and/or transfer of alcohol/drugs by an athlete is strictly forbidden.

**First offense-** The athlete will become immediately ineligible to participate in all school events for a period of ten(10) weeks.

**Second offense-** The athlete will be dismissed from the team and will lose eligibility for the remaining school year.

## **Harassment**

Those involved in hazing, initiations, or harassment of any student/athletes may face suspension or removal from the team.

## **Invasion of Privacy**

The use of camera phones or other recording devices with the intent to humiliate or share media without consent is a violation of New York State Law. If found in violation of this law disciplinary action will be take at the discretion of school officials and law enforcement will be contacted if necessary.

## **ELIGIBILITY BOARD for EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The eligibility board will consist of the high school principal, athletic director, guidance counselor, and an assigned member of the faculty. The job of the eligibility board will be to make decisions that need to be made which are not covered in the athletic handbook. They will also hear appeals of decisions regarding academic eligibility, code of conduct guidelines, and any other rules outlined in the athletic handbook. On a given occasion, the board may invite the student, teacher, coach, ect., to assist in deliberation. The principal will conduct the meeting. The principal will make the final determination based on the discussions and findings of the committee.

**Please contact the school with any questions:**

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**GO EAGLES**

# ARCHBISHOP WALSH



## ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

2009-2010

