**BUSCH MIDDLE SCHOOL OF CHARACTER ATHLETICS CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Introduction**

This material is presented to you because your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. Your family's interest in this phase of our school program is gratifying. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal, athletic, and academic growth.

As parents of student athletes, you also have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in this Athletic Code. Your signature on the Athletic Code, along with the signature of your student-athlete, indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and obligations, and agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Athletic Code.

**Mission Statement**

Our mission is to enrich the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of all students by providing competitive opportunities through which the lifelong values of character, sportsmanship, individual effort, teamwork, dedication, integrity, and total commitment are emphasized. Along with those values we expect all of our students to conduct themselves with Busch Middle School of Character five core values in mind, respect, responsibility, honesty, determination, and self-control.

**Demonstrating our Five Core Values:**

**Respect-** Respecting all officials, opposing teams, coaches, and teammates. Also, show respect to the game site by cleaning up after yourselves and leaving the area cleaner than it was when you arrived.

**Responsibility-** Be responsible for meeting eligibility standards, being on time to practices and games, remembering all uniforms and gear, and conducting yourself in a manner that aligns with our five core values.

**Self-Control**- Always demonstrate self-control when engaged in competition. This includes accepting results of the contest, keeping calm when things don’t go your way, not reacting to negative comments or actions by opposing teams, and playing by the rules and regulations of the contest.

**Determination**- It is imperative to demonstrate determination throughout the season, even when the team is not winning games or you might not be performing to the standard you were hoping to perform.

**Honesty-** Demonstrating can be done in a number of ways. Do not ever attempt to cheat during a contest and always demonstrate honesty when dealing with officials, coaches, or opposing teams.

**Eligibility:**

* Students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above and have no failing grades to be eligible to participate in sports. If a student’s gpa is 2.0 but they have a failing grade in a class, the student will remain on the team but not be allowed to participate in practice or games until the student bring their grade to passing status.
* Grade checks will happen at the end of second quarter and progress report for third quarter.
* Students must maintain an attendance rate of 90%.
* If a student is placed in Reflection Recovery (ISS) they will not be eligible to play in their game on Saturday. For example, if a student is placed in Reflection Recovery on a Friday and they do not get out until the following Wednesday, they will have to miss two games. Any time a student is in Reflection Recovery during the week, they will not be eligible to play that weekend.
* If a student does not attend any practices during the week, they will not be eligible to play that weekend.

**Eligibility Continued**

* Students are expected to communicate with their coach anytime they’re going to miss a game or practice. Not communicating with the coach regarding absences may result in the student not playing or being dismissed from the team.
* If a student receives an out of school suspension they will be subject to dismissal from the team, unless Mr. Lescher allows them to stay on the team. This will be decided on a case by case basis.
* At any time, coaches or administrators may dismiss a student for behavior/conducted issues.

**Behavior Expectations:**

Athletics are an extension of the classroom and all students are expected to conduct themselves in same manner as they would in the classroom.

**Bus**: Students are expected to stay seated on the bus and refrain from using vulgar language or any behavior that is deemed inappropriate by the bus driver.

**Practice**: Students are expected to stay with their team during practices and to ask the coach before leaving their practice area to get a drink, go to the bathroom, or leave for any other reason. Profanity at practice is strictly prohibited. Students are expected to conduct themselves in the same manner as they would in the classroom.

**Game**: Students are expected to follow their coach’s instructions and stay with their team before, during, and after games. We expected our students to conduct themselves with Busch’s five core values in mind. Trash talking, taunting, or putting down opponents in any manner are strictly prohibited and may result in a suspension or dismissal from the team.

Parents and Busch fans are also expected to conduct themselves with character in mind. Busch Middle School of Character asks that at no time a parent or fan yell at or act in an inappropriate manner towards officials, opposing players or coaches, or our own players and coaches.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF**: The most important of these responsibilities is to develop strength of character and positive values and behaviors through our five core values. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible benefit from your middle school experiences. Your academic studies and your participation in other extracurricular activities, as well as in sports, help to prepare you for your life as an adult.

2. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR SCHOOL**: The number one responsibility is to always remember Busch’s five core values when representing our school. Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. You assume a leadership role when you are on an athletic team. The student body and citizens of the community know you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can make positive contribute to school spirit and community pride. In addition, you are a role model for younger student athletes. These students look up to you and dream of being as successful as we hope you to be. Be sure the example you set is a positive one. Busch Middle School of Character cannot maintain its reputation as an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage.

3. **RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS**: As a team member you also bear a heavy responsibility to your family. When you know that you have lived up to all of your commitments that you have practiced with great enthusiasm and that you have played the game to the best of your ability, you can keep your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.

**Parent/Coach Relations**

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

**Communication You Should Expect from your Son/Daughter's Coach:**

1. Expectations the coach has for your son/daughter and the team.

2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.

3. Team requirements, i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning

4. Medical procedures, should your student-athlete become injured during participation.

5. Team rules, guidelines, and requirements for earning awards.

**Communication Coaches Expect from Student-Athletes:**

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.

2. Special concerns in regards to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

3. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating.

As your son/daughter becomes involved in the athletic programs at Busch Middle School of Character, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your student-athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

**Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:**

1. The treatment of your student-athlete, mentally and physically.

2. Ways to help your son/daughter to improve.

3. Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your son/daughter's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student-athlete's coach. Other things, such as the following, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

**Issues Not Appropriate To Discuss With Coaches:**

1. Playing time.

2. Team strategy.

3. Play calling.

4. Other student-athletes.

Let the……

 PLAYERS ---- PLAY

 COACHES---- COACH

 OFFICIALS----OFFICIATE

 FANS----STAY POSITIVE

 Everyone is trying their best!!

This page is to be returned to your coach or Mr. Franklin

By signing this page, you are giving confirmation that the Busch Middle School of Character student-athlete and parent/guardian have fully read the information listed above. Your signature is an agreement to that standards we have asked to be met and understanding of the consequences if those standards aren’t met.

**Circle your sport: Cheerleading Girls Basketball Boys Basketball**

**Track Flag Football Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Volleyball**

Student-athlete name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student-athlete signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!!!!**

Mr. Jake Franklin

Intramural Coordinator

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