

**CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Participation in any extracurricular activity is an important part of the high school or middle school educational experience. Primary goals of these activities are to teach students character and self discipline skills which will enable them to develop to their highest potential academically, as well as athletically. Student athletes, who serve as role models for younger students, are held to a higher standard for their actions. Each student, parent, and coach shall understand the obligations of being part of the athletic program, the established consequences of violating the Code of Conduct, and that participation is a privilege and not a right.

**Commitment Agreement**

Each student, parent, and coach participating in an extracurricular activity shall sign the Craven County Athletic Code of Conduct. Any student athlete charged with a criminal offense, other than minor traffic violations, must make the coach or athletic director aware of the charge prior to the next practice or contest but no later than 48 hours after the charge. Any criminal offense within the previous twelve (12) months must be reported to the coach prior to the beginning of tryouts for any sport.

**Consequences for violating the Code of Conduct will be as follows:**

These consequences will be in addition to any consequences imposed by the school.

Any student charged with a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or Federal law shall be suspended from participation until such charges are adjudicated. Once charges are adjudicated, if the student is not convicted of the charges, the principal will review the evidence regarding the incident, the student's discipline record, grades, and conduct to determine if the student will be eligible to participate.

Any student convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or Federal law or is an adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult is not eligible to participate in the North Carolina High School Athletic

Association Sports Program. Such ineligibility shall be immediate and shall prohibit participation in the NCHSAA sports program from the date of conviction or adjudication through the end of the student's high school career. Appellate or other post-conviction review of the conviction or adjudication of delinquency does not affect the student's immediate ineligibility.

If any student is charged or convicted of a lesser crime, the Principal, in consultation with the Athletic Director and Superintendent or designee will review the evidence regarding the incident, the student's discipline record, grades, and conduct to determine if the student will be eligible to participate. Failure to alert the coach or athletic director of the charge shall result in immediate ineligibility for athletic participation for 365 days from the date of the charge.

#### IN-SCHOOL AND OUT-OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

1. If a participating student is assigned to in-school suspension, he/she will not be allowed to practice or participate in a game/activity on the day of suspension. Suspension will be carried out regardless of the game/activity days or events.
2. If a student is given out-of –school suspension for any reason, he/she will be subject to the following additional consequences:
  - a. **FIRST OFFENSE:** A student athlete will not be allowed to practice or play during the suspension period. If there is not a game during the suspension period, the student will not be permitted to play in the next game following the suspension period.
  - b. **SECOND OFFENSE:** The student will be removed from athletics for the remainder of that season.
  - c. **REPEATED OFFENSES:** If a student continues to be suspended from school for consistent disciplinary infractions, the principal may remove that student from athletics for the remainder of that student's school career.

Reference North Carolina High School Athletic Association Handbook

Adopted by Craven County Schools September 18, 2008, Reviewed October 15, 2009.  
Reviewed July 19, 2011. Revised May 21, 2015.

Attachment

**CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**

Interscholastic athletic competition should demonstrate a high standard of ethics and sportsmanship and promote the development of good character. Excellent sportsmanship is achieved when participants are committed to pursuing victory according to the following traits: Academic Excellence, Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, Citizenship, Perseverance, Courage, and Self-Discipline.

1. Academic Excellence – achieving academic success in all classes
2. Trustworthiness – having the inner strength to be fair and courteous during athletic events.
3. Respect – showing high regard for coaches, officials, opponents, fans, administrators, self, team, and the school you are representing.
4. Responsibility – showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct, and being accountable for your actions.
5. Caring – being considerate, courteous, generous in spirit to the opposing team.
6. Fairness – treating others as you like to be treated. Recognizing the uniqueness and value of each individual.
7. Citizenship – setting priorities in accordance with team, county, state and national rules and demonstrating law-abiding behavior and volunteerism.
8. Perseverance – being persistent in pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of opposition.
9. Courage – having the determination to do the right thing even when others don't.
10. Self-discipline – refraining from inappropriate behaviors and maintaining self-control at all times.

## Coach's Pledge

As a coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I know that the principles of good sportsmanship are integrity, fairness, and respect. While teaching the skills of the game, I must also teach student athletes how to win and lose graciously, that sports are meant to be educational and fun, and that academic success is essential. I know the behavior expectations of me by this school and school system. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of ethical behavior, integrity, and good citizenship.

I agree to follow and abide by Craven County School's policy and regulation regarding the Athletic Code of Conduct. I have been provided with and read a fact sheet regarding concussions according to the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act G.S. 115C-12(23).

---

Coach Signature

---

Date

## Student Athlete's Pledge

As a student athlete, I know I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play while playing hard. I will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expectations of my school and school system. I hereby accept the responsibility and privilege of representing this school and community as a student athlete which includes being academically successful in all areas.

I have read and understand Craven County School's policy and regulation for the Athletic Code of Conduct including the requirement that I make appropriate school personnel aware of any previous criminal charges within the last twelve (12) months and any new criminal charges prior to the next practice or contest but no later than 48 hours after the charge. I have been provided with and read a fact sheet regarding concussions according to the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act G.S. 115C-12(23).

---

Student Athlete Signature

---

Date

## Parent's Pledge

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I will remember that school athletics is an extension of the classroom requiring that students achieve both academic and athletic success. I must show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. I will only participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved. I understand the spirit of fair play and the good sportsmanship expected by our school and school system. I hereby accept my responsibility to be a model of good sportsmanship that comes with being the parent of a student athlete. I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the guidelines entitled **Parent Coach Communication**.

I have read and understand Craven County School's policy and regulation for the Athletic Code of Conduct including the requirement that I make appropriate school personnel aware of any previous criminal charges within the last twelve (12) months and any new criminal charges prior to the next practice or contest but no later than 48 hours after the charge. I have been provided with and read a fact sheet regarding concussions according to the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act G.S. 115C-12(23).

---

Parent(s) Signature

---

Date

**Craven County Schools  
Parent/Coach Communication**

**Parent-Coach Relationship**

Parenting and coaching are both 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 children. As parents, when your child is involved in our program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on him/her. This begins with clear communication from the coach of the sports.

**Appropriate Communication Between Parents and Coaches**

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
3. Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

As your child becomes involved in athletic programs at middle and/or high school, he/she will experience some of the most rewarding moments of his/her life. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you and your child wish. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged. It is the first and most integral step to understanding and resolution.

**Appropriate Concerns to Discuss With Coaches**

1. The treatment of your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you had hoped. Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all student-athletes involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. The three items listed below should be left to the discretion of the coach.

1. Playing time, positioning, and event entry.
2. Team strategies, game tactics, play calling.
3. Any discussion about other student-athletes.

## **Conferences**

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and player or coach and parent. These conferences are encouraged. It is important that all parties involved have a clear understanding of the other person's position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedures should be used to help resolve any concerns.

1. Student-Coach – open-door policy for all coaches
2. Parent-Coach – done by appointment

If you have a concern to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is:

1. Call the coach to schedule an appointment.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the school athletic director; he/she will set a meeting time for you.
3. Please do not attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature usually do not promote positive resolutions.

## **The Next Step**

What can a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and schedule an appointment with the school athletic director to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting the appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

## **Transportation**

All student athletes who travel with a team to an away athletic event must return to the school with the team.

The only exception to this policy is when both the coach and parent/guardian agree that it is beneficial for the student athlete to ride home with the parent/guardian. Student athletes are not to ride home from athletic events with any other person.