

CODE OF CONDUCT

A well written code should be a **positive** document that establishes a **comprehensive structure for running a program of excellence**. Athletic programs should ask, "Is our code to punish individuals for their mistakes or to educate them and to set clear and consistent boundaries for their behavior"?

INCLUDE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- First, it defines the positive expectations that we have for coaches, parents and athletes. The common values in our program need to reflect shared goals, a framework of principles agreed upon by the stakeholders and a need for active support from other stakeholders, such as the school board, school administration, other school staff and the community.
- Second, as in a clearly laid out playing field, it defines how we as a school will establish and maintain a healthy environment in which student athletes can mature in, through athletics, while considering the responsibilities of all stakeholders.
- Third, this Athletic Code is meant to be a useable, dynamic document to guide the educational process through our school's athletic program. It defines the mission, philosophy, goals and parameters of the program, and the priority activities.
- Fourth, it spells out the consequences for behavioral issues and violations but links the identified individual to a process for help and change. The code shall be a living document that is proactive and character based rather than reactive and punishment based. We shall simply tell our student athletes what is expected from them behaviorally, if they are to be afforded the privilege of representing this community.

MANDATORY PARENT/ATHLETE CODE MEETING

- Get it right from the start...
- Pre-season meetings: Seven non-negotiable areas are discussed with all stakeholders. It is also impressed upon all stakeholders, that by signing the codes an individual indicates that they have **knowledge, understanding and agreement to all standards set forth for the privilege of being involved in the athletic program**. Coaches and athletes discuss their expectations for the team, define 'success' and set for individual and team goals for the season ahead. Then share the goals with parents. Create a climate of KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT with Parents/Guardians and Athletes. Parents/Guardians and Athletes sign the Code of Conduct together.

According to a 2011 study sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) high school athletes are more likely than other students to drink alcohol and binge drink.

Young athletes should be sent the message that "being a competitor and being at the top of your game does not have to mean high alcohol consumption," said Yvonne Terry-McElrath one of the study's authors from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. "High school coaches should be educated about this issue as well."

Source: Reuters Health

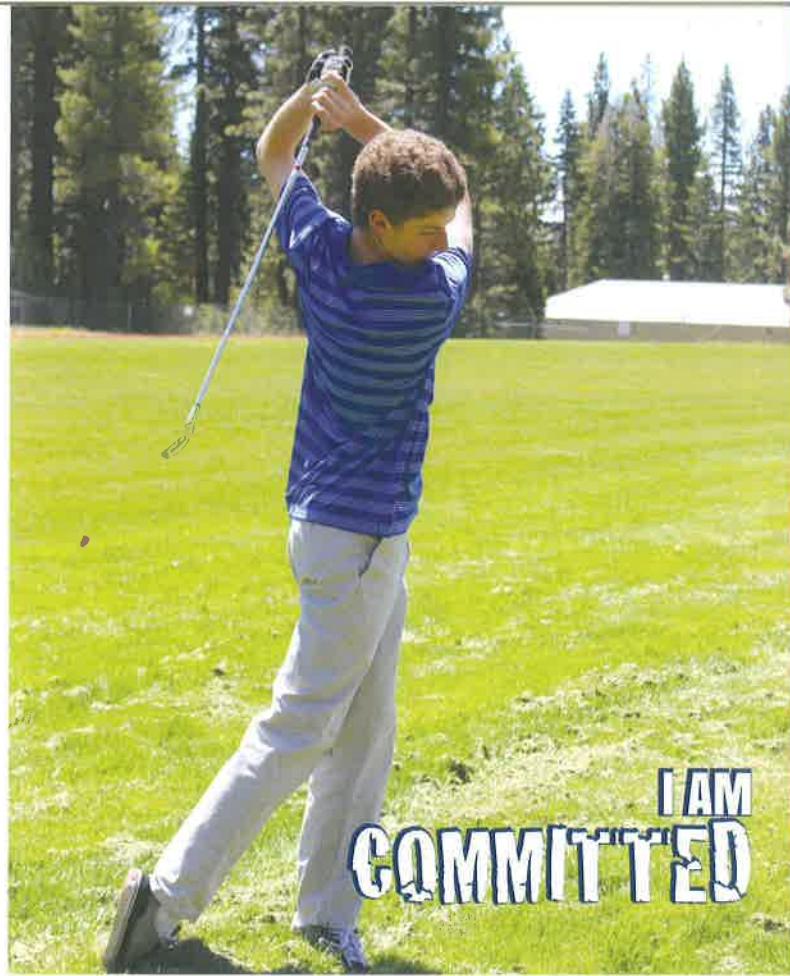
YOU CAN HELP SEND THE MESSAGE!

IN THE PRESENCE OF AOD AT PARTIES

- If a student-athlete attends a party/gathering, where alcohol or drugs are being illegally dispensed, the student-athlete must leave the party/gathering immediately (LEAVING MEANS LEAVING IMMEDIATELY) and report their attendance to a coach or administrator before the end of the next school day. Possession and use of alcohol or drugs by youth under age 21, is against the law, it is our intent to prevent any community youth, including athletes from being in an environment which greatly increases the risk of use, danger and all negative behaviors of concern.
- If athletes are allowed to be present in this illegal environment, we promote and allow the possibility for them to be involved in this illegal culture and we must assume some will partake in the use of these substances. Athletes should leave and take as many of their teammates with them possible.

COOPERATION DURING INVESTIGATION

- Athletes have the right to remain silent...but they may be in the bleachers on game day.
- It is important for all student athletes to understand that involvement in our athletic programs is a privilege. With the responsibility of being an athlete, comes a commitment, which are the conditions of this code of conduct. In the event that a student-athlete comes under investigation for possible violations to the provisions of this code, it is expected that:
 - The student-athlete shall be truthful
 - The student-athlete be forthcoming with information
 - The student-athlete not be deceptive or untruthful
 - The student-athlete be cooperative
- During the investigation of any student-athlete violation, the student-athlete must be truthful and forthcoming with information. The Athletic Director has within his/her power to impose a greater level of consequence if it is determined that the student-athlete has lied, been deceptive or untruthful, prior to, or after the determination of guilt and or consequences. Great weight must be placed on the privilege of representing our community outside the confines of our community and any athlete that would fail to be truthful and/or cooperative, would jeopardize the perceived character of our programs.
- Failure to comply with the above conditions may result in full expulsion from the athletic program for the duration of the student-athlete's athletic career.



EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT FOR CHEMICAL HEALTH VIOLATIONS

- As a pivotal part of our consequences for chemical health violations, the student athlete and or parent/guardian shall be referred to the appropriate program and/or required to complete an educational program as part of the process that may lead to resumption of participation in athletic programs. If we fail to educate athletes and parent/guardians when such violations occur, we fail to help them learn from their mistakes and are negligent in our duties as an educational institution.

CYBER IMAGE POLICY

- Cyber Image Policy - Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates a student-athlete to have been in possession or presence of alcohol or drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student-athlete must assume. It must also be noted that there may be persons, who would attempt to implicate an athlete, by taking such images, to place them in a situation where they might be in violation of this code standard. This is our rationale for demanding that our athletes not place themselves in such environments.