



## ***Code of Conduct for Athletes and their Families***

At Mercy High School, athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit to themselves, their team, the athletic department, and the school. All behavior on and off the field, track, or court must reflect honesty, integrity, and respect. It is only through such conduct that Athletics at Mercy can earn and maintain the positive image that reflects the mission of the school.

### **Expectations of All Players, Parents, and Guests**

- Sportsmanship and fair play are essential to athletics, and must be taught and developed at home and on the field both during practices and games. Permitting, encouraging, or condoning performance or behavior that is dangerous or demeaning to a player, coach, official, spectator, or anyone connected with the function of the game is unacceptable. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate conduct that is not sportsmanlike will not be tolerated.
- *The emphasis on winning should never be placed above the value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, or the skills of the game.*
- Derogatory comments are unacceptable. Positive reinforcement should always be used with players and adults, as criticism, once made, can never be retracted.
- All players, parents, and guests must adhere to the essential elements of this Code of Conduct.

### **Expectations of Players**

- All players must show respect for all others involved in the program (e.g., team members, coaches, Mercy High School staff, parents, officials, opponents.) Conduct that is not sportsmanlike will not be tolerated and could result in expulsion from the team.
- All players are responsible for their own actions both on and off of the field. It is expected that all players will conduct themselves appropriately and their actions will reflect honesty, integrity, and respect.
- All players are expected to practice Mercy values by dedicating themselves to improvement, working hard, maintaining a positive attitude, showing up on time, and encouraging their teammates.
- All players are expected to attend practices and any games in which they are scheduled to play, and give their best efforts at all times. If a player is absent without approval from her coach, her place on the team may be in jeopardy, and she could be subject to dismissal.
- All players are expected to meet with academic success.
  - If an athlete earns a grade below 70 in any quarter, she may no longer play or practice, so that she has time to improve her academics.

- If an athlete has earned an unsatisfactory grade in service, seminar, or the personal project, she cannot play or practice.
- If an athlete earns a grade below 70 the quarter before a tryout, including the last quarter of the prior year, she may not try out, so that she has time to improve her academics.
- An appeal for waiver to this policy may be made to the principal and the athletic director in writing. Any exception will be based on overall academic improvement in the student's record.
- All players are expected to be respectful and appropriate in their use of social media, whether in communication about another team, other players, or any other member of the school community or that of other schools. Violations could result in disciplinary action, which may result in removal from the team.

### **Expectations of Parents**

- All parents should adhere to Mercy values by encouraging good sportsmanship and respect for all players, coaches, Mercy High School staff, opponents, and officials. Unsportsmanlike conduct by parents or guests cannot be tolerated and may result in expulsion of the player from the team and/or family members being not allowed to attend Mercy events.
- Parents should familiarize themselves with the rules of their daughter's sports and encourage their daughters in play, but should leave coaching to the coaches.
- Parents should refrain from criticizing players, coaches, Mercy High School staff, and opponents while watching practices or attending games.
- Parents should follow a "24-Hour Rule" if they have complaints. If there is a concern resulting from a game or practice situation, please raise those concerns the following day with the coach. Grievances or misunderstandings with coaches, officials, or other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play in view of spectators or participants.
- Any serious problems or concerns should go directly to the Athletic Director immediately.

### **Channel of communication to resolve problems**

- Should there be any problems or concerns, the player should bring them to the attention of the captain(s) of the team and the coach. If there is no resolution, the player and her parent(s) or guardian(s) should speak with the coach.
- If, after the player or the player and her parent(s)/guardian(s) have spoken with the coach, there is still something to be resolved, the Athletic Director should be brought into the conversation. If the Athletic Director is unable to find a resolution to any concern, the player and her parent(s)/guardian(s) should not hesitate to contact the Principal.

**By accepting a position on a team, each player and her parent(s)/guardian(s) agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.**