



**BOSQUE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**ATHLETICS**

**A PARENT'S GUIDE**

**2007-2008**



## BOSQUE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

*To prepare young men and women to become lifelong learners with the highest character values and academic goals in a natural New Mexico setting with strong family and community involvement.*

### PURSuing VICTORY WITH HONOR

Dear Parent:

Over the past few years, our school and league has stepped up its sportsmanship and commitment efforts to emphasize what is truly important in educational athletics. We feel our coaching staff, student-athletes and student body in general have benefited as a result. All of these groups display exemplary behavior at our events. We have raised their expectations.

But there is one group with whom efforts need to be intensified: the spectator/parent. It seems that over time some parents have lost sight of the fact that the true goal of educational athletics is to educate. It's not about wins and losses. It's not about championships or remote dreams of earning an athletic scholarship to college. It's about learning and having a positive and meaningful experience. And learning the values taught by athletics, especially respect is what sets school sports apart from other levels of competition. It's why school sports exist.

We will be incorporating the themes of the Pursuing Victory with Honor program into our athletic programs, with support from the NMAA and APIAL (the middle school league). This is a successful nationwide program that reinforces the need for sportsmanship in educational athletics.

As a society, we are constantly bombarded with the message that winning is everything. Not everyone can regularly win games or finish first. But everyone can practice the Golden Rule – treating others the way they themselves would like to be treated – and adhere to the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

Please take a few moments to review the attached guidelines for behavior, describing the example we expect our spectators to set at athletic events. As a representative of ours, your actions are scrutinized by family and friends, opposing fans, and the local community, and they reflect back upon us. Displays of good sportsmanship will say positive things about you and our school, and hopefully remind us all that in the end, sport is meant to be fun. Please include your children in this review as it ultimately pertains to their experience. Remember this material is only a suggestion as to how to improve and support your child's overall athletic experience.

We look forward to serving you in the season ahead, and appreciate your continued supports

Kind Regards,

Bosque Middle School Athletics

Source: [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)

# The Six Pillars of Character

## TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Be Honest
- Don't Deceive, cheat, or steal
- Be reliable---do what you say you'll do
- Have the courage to do the right thing.
- Build a good reputation
- Be loyal—stand by your family and friends

## RESPECT

- Treat others with respect; follow the golden rule
- Be tolerant of differences
- Use good manners, not bad language.
- Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone
- Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

## RESPONSIBILITY

- Do what you are supposed to do
- Persevere; keep on trying!
- Use self-control; be self-disciplined
- Think before you act---consider the consequences
- Be accountable for your choices

## FAIRNESS

- Play by the rules
- Take turns and share
- Be open minded; listen to others
- Don't take advantage of others
- Don't blame others carelessly

## CARING

- Be kind
- Be compassionate and *show* you care
- Express gratitude
- Forgive others
- Help people in need

## CITIZENSHIP

- Do your share to make your school and community better.
- Cooperate
- Stay informed; vote.
- Be a good neighbor.
- Obey laws and rules.
- Respect authority.
- Protect the environment

## **A GUIDE TO SPORTS PARENTING**

### **Before the game:**

- Tell your child to “give it your best shot and have fun!”
- Make a commitment to honor the game in action and language no matter what others may do.

### **During the game:**

- Don't add to your child's confusion by giving him or her instructions during the game. Let the coach correct player mistakes.
- Cheer and acknowledge good plays by both teams.
- Mention good calls by officials to other parents, but refrain from commenting on officials' mistakes.
- Find ways to gently correct the unsportsmanlike behavior of other parents and spectators.
- Don't do anything in the heat of the moment that you will regret after the game. Ask yourself, “Will this embarrass my child or the team?”
- Have fun and enjoy the game.

### **After the game:**

- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job.
- Thank the coaches for their efforts. Understand that after a loss is not the best time to question a coach.
- Thank or congratulate your opponents for a good game.
- Congratulate your child and his or her teammates for their efforts regardless of the result.
- Compliment individual players on their standout plays and displays of sportsmanship during the game.
- Don't give too much advice. Instead, ask your child what he or she thought about the game and be a good listener.

### **During the car ride home:**

- Point out a good play, either athletic or sportsmanlike, that your child made during the game.
- Avoid criticizing or correcting mistakes.
- Ask open-ended questions about how the game was played, not how many points were scored. Some good questions are:
  1. Did you have fun?
  2. Did you give it your best effort?
  3. What did you learn from the game?
  4. What was the best play you or your team made and how did it feel?
  5. Did you bounce back from your mistake?

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CODE**

- Remember, young people play for their own enjoyment, not yours
- Don't force an unwilling middle school student onto the field or court
- Applaud good plays by opposing players as well as your own
- Set a good example. Young people learn best by imitation
- Teach your child always to play by the rules
- Show your child that hard work and an all-out effort can matter more than victory
- Help your child improve skills and sportsmanship in every game. Your child will then be a winner, even in defeat.
- Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or for losing a game.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from middle school sports.
- Do not publicly question a referee's judgment or integrity
- Recognize the value of coaches, referees, and officials and give them clear signs of respect.

## **SPECTATOR'S CODE**

- Treat all players, coaches, referees, and opposing fans, as you would like to be treated.
- Respect all players, coaches, referees, and opposing fans, and the integrity of the game.
- Model sportsmanship for your organization.
- Cheer your team, but don't jeer the opponents.
- Cheer good plays by either team.
- Be a fan, not fanatic.

# **A Parent's Guide To Dealing With Teachers/Coaches**

## **What you deserve to hear from the teacher-coach:**

- Basic requirements, such as equipment needed, fees, school and team rules, and off season expectations
- When and where practices and games will take place
- The coach's expectations of your child and other players
- The coach's baseline policies, such as rules on who gets to play
- What the team will do if your child gets hurt

## **What the teacher-coach deserves to hear from you:**

- Advance notice of any schedule conflicts
- Concerns about your child or the coach's philosophy expressed *at the proper time and place*

## **What concerns you can discuss with a coach:**

- How your child can improve
- Your child's behavior
- The mental and physical treatment of your child

## **What concerns you CAN'T discuss and must leave to the coach's discretion:**

- Overall team strategy
- Individual play calling
- Each athlete's playing time
- Situations dealing with other student-athletes

## **To discuss a concern with the coach, follow these steps:**

- Contact the coach and arrange an appointment
- If you can't reach the coach, call the athletic director and ask to set up a meeting with the coach
- Think about what you can reasonably achieve with the discussion. Try to put yourself in the coach's position
- At the meeting, stick to discussing the facts, as you understand them. Leave emotion out.
- DO NOT confront the coach before, during, or after a practice or contest. These can be emotional times for both the parent and coach. Such meetings rarely resolve the situation, and often worsen it.

## **What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach doesn't provide satisfactory resolution?**

- Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the AD, coach, and parent present.
- At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary

