

Diocesan Athletic Conference Code of Conduct (Coaches, Parents, Spectators, and Student-Athletes)

Mission Statement

The Diocesan Athletic Conference exists to build an inclusive and competitive Christ-centered community, which fosters virtue, sportsmanship, and school spirit.

The Diocesan Athletic Council is established for the purpose of developing and maintaining consistent regulations and standards of behavior for all interscholastic sports activities within the Diocesan Interscholastic Athletic Program. The Council is accountable to the Superintendent of Schools, who, acting as the Bishop's representative for school-related functions, must ratify all resolutions submitted by the Diocesan Athletic Council. DAC regulations shall not conflict with Diocesan policies.

Purpose

The Diocesan Athletic Conference believes athletics are an extension of the educational and spiritual mission of our Catholic schools. Participation in interscholastic athletics provides opportunities for students to grow in faith, virtue, leadership, teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

All student-athletes, coaches, parents, spectators, administrators, and officials are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the teachings of Jesus Christ and the mission of Catholic education. Every contest should provide a positive environment where competition is balanced with respect, integrity, and Christian values.

To reinforce our Christ-centered mission, a prayer shall be offered prior to all DAC contests whenever possible. This moment serves as a reminder that our ultimate purpose extends beyond wins and losses and calls all participants to exemplify faith, humility, and respect.

Standards of Conduct

Student-Athletes

Student-athletes are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Compete with integrity and sportsmanship at all times.
- Accept the judgment of officials without unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from profanity, inappropriate language, taunting, or disrespectful gestures.
- Display self-control in both victory and defeat.
- Represent their school, parish, family, and the Diocese with honor.

Coaches

Coaches are expected to:

- Serve as Christian role models and mentors.
- Promote sportsmanship and respect throughout all contests.
- Treat officials, scorekeepers, opposing teams, and spectators with professionalism.
- Refrain from arguing with officials, score table personnel, or opposing coaches.
- Address concerns through proper channels after the contest when necessary.
- Teach athletes that respect for authority and sportsmanship are essential components of competition.
- Comply with all Diocesan Safe Environment policies at all times.

Parents and Spectators

Parents and spectators are expected to:

- Encourage all participants in a positive and respectful manner.
- Refrain from criticizing or arguing with officials.
- Avoid confrontations with opposing spectators, coaches, players, or school representatives.
- Refrain from profanity, personal attacks, or disruptive behavior.
- Respect the authority of game officials and site administrators.
- Remember that the primary purpose of DAC athletics is the development of young people.
- Parents are encouraged to wait 24 hours after a game before discussing concerns with a coach to ensure respectful and constructive communication.

Digital and Social Media

Coaches, Parents, Spectators, and Student-Athletes are expected to:

- Use social media in a way that reflects Catholic values and respect.
- Please refrain from posting negative, inappropriate, or harmful content about players, coaches, officials, teams, or schools.
- Avoid sharing private team matters publicly.

Communication and Resolution of Concerns

When concerns arise regarding contests, facilities, officiating, sportsmanship, or conference operations, all parties are expected to follow the established chain of communication:

1. Coach
2. Athletic Director
3. Principal
4. Pastor

School administrations will review the matter and communicate directly with the conference when appropriate.

If an issue arises involving a game official, coaches may submit an officiating report outlining their concerns. The coach will work with their athletic director to complete and submit the report to the conference. The conference, in collaboration with the Head Referee of that sport, will review the report and determine whether any appropriate action is warranted. Public confrontations with officials, scorekeepers, opposing schools, conference personnel, or spectators are not acceptable methods of resolving concerns.

The DAC and school administrations will work collaboratively to investigate concerns and determine appropriate resolutions or consequences when necessary.

Accountability

Violations of this Code of Conduct (by any individual party listed above) may result in disciplinary action as determined by the school administration and/or the Diocese Athletic Conference.

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Removal from a contest or event
- Suspension from future contests
- Probationary status
- Additional disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the school and conference

The goal of accountability is not punishment, but the promotion of virtue, sportsmanship, and a positive athletic environment consistent with the mission of the Diocese Athletic Conference.