Indiana Area School District

2025-26

Athletic Department

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct Manual

Last Revised 7/10/2025

Indiana Athletic Office

450 N. 5th Street, Indiana, PA 15701
(724) 463-3530 • Fax (724) 463-1394
www.iasdathletics.cc

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of Extracurricular Activities,

Indiana Area School District is proud to offer our students a variety of opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. These activities provide our students chances to learn through experiences and teamwork, to display good sportsmanship, and to develop a strong work ethic.

This manual contains information that is important for the parents and participants to understand before they begin participation in an extracurricular activity. Being a member of an extracurricular activity is a privilege for our students. Those students are expected to accept responsibilities that accompany that privilege. Also, the Indiana Area School District stresses the importance of good sportsmanship not only by the participants but also by the parents and spectators.

In addition, the manual will provide information on the communication guidelines which are helpful to parents. I hope you will enjoy your participation in any extracurricular activity which we offer and please, if you have any questions, contact me.

Good Luck,

Daniel Roan
Athletic Director
Indiana Area School District
droan@iasd.cc

Table of Contents

I. Acknowledgement of Warning

II. Definition of Athletic Extracurricular Activity

III. Extracurricular Participation Guidelines

IV. Parental Code of Conduct

V. Parent/Coach Communication

Parent/Athlete Signature Page

I. Acknowledgment of Warning

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WARNING BY ATHLETE

I hereby acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the Indiana Area School District, that by participating in the sport, I am exposing myself to the risk of serious injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and /or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to participate in the above sport, and should I choose to participate in the above sport, I hereby further acknowledge that I do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to which I am exposing myself by participating in the above sport.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF WARNING BY PARENTS

I hereby acknowledge that I have been properly advised, cautioned and warned by the proper administrative and coaching personnel of the Indiana Area School District, that by allowing my son or daughter to participate in the sport, I am exposing my son or daughter to the risk of serious injury, including but not limited to, the risk of sprains, fractures and ligament and /or cartilage damage which could result in a temporary or permanent, partial or complete, impairment in the use of my limbs; brain damage; paralysis; or even death. Having been so cautioned and warned, it is still my desire to allow my son or daughter to participate in the above sport, and should I allow my son or daughter to choose to participate in the above sport, I hereby further acknowledge that I do so with full knowledge and understanding of the risk of serious injury to which I am exposing my son or daughter to by participating in the above sport.

II. Definition of Athletic Extracurricular Activity

Extracurricular activities are the programs that are sponsored or approved by the School Board and are conducted in part or whole outside of the regular school day, that are marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing, and execution; and are equally available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate. These activities include all interscholastic athletic teams sponsored by the school district.

III. Extracurricular Participation Guidelines

All members of the extracurricular activities are expected to abide by the following guidelines.

To be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition, athletes, cheerleaders, dance team, managers, band or other activity groups, students must arrive at school prior to 9:00 AM. No athlete shall practice or participate on any athletic team on days they are absent from school past 9:00 AM unless permission is given in writing from the Principal's office. Examples include, but are not limited to a doctor's excuse, a death/funeral, or an unavoidable family emergency, impassable roads or religious obligation.

1. All members of extracurricular activities are responsible for representing the Indiana Area School District, both on and off of the school grounds. Any member involved in behavior that breaks the code of conduct is subject to a review by the chain of command through coach > Athletic Director > Principal > Superintendent > School Board
2. Anyone participating in an extracurricular activity must abide by all rules set forth in the Indiana Area School District Student Handbook. Excessive suspensions and/or detentions may result in removal from the team or activity. If a student receives a ten (10) day suspension, they will be suspended for a minimum of ten (10) school days from participating in extracurricular activities.
3. No forms of hazing, harassment, sexual harassment or bullying as outlined in the Indiana Area Secondary Schools Student / Parent Handbook will be tolerated.
4. Each athlete's academic eligibility will be monitored on a weekly basis. Grades will be checked every Wednesday. If an athlete has failing grades in two or more classes at one time, they have until Friday of the same week to increase the grades to passing. If the grades are not up, the athlete will be placed on athletic/academic suspension and the athlete will be unable to participate in practice or competition. The athlete will remain on athletic/academic suspension until they are no longer failing two courses. The length of athletic/academic suspension is from Sunday of that week until the following Saturday. Final approval to participate in practices and/or games will be made by the Athletic Director with notification to the head coach and parent/guardian.
5. All athletes will ride to and from all away events on school approved transportation unless the coach receives the travel release form from the student athlete's parent/guardian or the parent signs the form in a face to face meeting. No student athlete will be released to anyone except their parent or guardian.
6. Any participant of an extracurricular activity who is suspended (in-school or out of school) is not able to participate in meetings, practices, or competitions during that suspension. These days will be considered as unexcused absence from practice/game time.

7. Coaches and advisors will develop specific team rules which will be provided in writing before competitions begin. These team rules are specific to the team and are subject to overruling by the Athletic Director.
8. The use and/or possession of controlled substances/drug paraphernalia not prescribed by a doctor are absolutely forbidden. If this student behavior occurs during school hours, on school property, at any school sponsored event, on school provided transportation or doorstep to doorstep the student athlete will also be suspended from competition immediately until a review is completed (student handbook page 17).

IV. Parental Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to help you make a commitment to yourself, your athlete and everyone else you meet during your child's athletic experience. Take the time to read each of these statements and truly make a commitment to adhering to them.

- I will always keep in mind that it is a privilege, rather than a right, for my child to participate in a sport.
- I will always model good sportsmanship at competitions by the way I treat all athletes, coaches, officials and other fans.
- I will insist that my child always demonstrate good sportsmanship and treat other athletes, coaches and officials with respect.
- I will always teach my child how to win and lose with grace by the way I act in each of those situations.
- I will always teach my child the importance of competing with integrity and will not condone nor help him or her cheat in any manner.
- I will always remember that although I am not an athlete, I am representing my child's team at competitions.
- I will always strive to work with my child's coach(s) and NOT against them.
- I will communicate with the coaching staff in a respectful and professional manner at all times.
- I will always remember that I have had my opportunity in athletics and this experience is about my child.
- I will have a basic understanding of the rules of my child's sport.
- I will keep in mind that college/professional scouts not only attend contests to recruit/scout my child, but also scout the parent/guardian as well. My actions can directly affect my child in both a positive or a negative way.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

The following are some examples of behaviors identified by the school board as unacceptable behaviors at sporting events and will not be tolerated. Unacceptable behaviors are not limited to these examples.

1. Disrespectful or derogatory cheers, chants, songs, or gestures.
2. Criticizing of officials, coaches or athletes in any way including displays of anger over officials' calls.
3. Cheers which antagonize opponents.
4. Blaming losses on officials, coaches, or participants.
5. Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention to you.
6. Destruction of property at either home/away contests

CONSEQUENCES

First Offense:	Written warning with possible individual removal from contest and/or arrest as well as possible temporary ban from all extracurricular activities
Second Offense:	Minimum of one (1) contest ban and up to five (5) contest bans from all extracurricular activities and/or arrest with prohibition from school property. (dependent on length of sport schedule)
Third Offense:	Up to seasonal ban from all extracurricular activities and/or arrest with prohibition from school property.

V. PARENT/COACH COMMUNICATION

Chain of Command

Both parenting and coaching are time consuming undertakings. By establishing open communication and an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your athlete becomes involved in our program, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on them. This begins with clear communication from team coaches.

COMMUNICATION YOU SHOULD EXPECT FROM YOUR ATHLETE'S COACH

1. Philosophy of the coach.
2. Expectations the coach has for your athlete as well as all the players on the team.
3. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
4. Team requirements, i.e. special equipment, off-season conditioning.
5. Procedure should your athlete be injured during participation.
6. Discipline which results in the denial of your athlete's participation.

COMMUNICATION COACHES EXPECT FROM PARENTS

1. Concerns expressed directly to the coach.
2. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
3. Specific concern in regard to a coach's expectations.

As your athletes becomes involved in the programs at Indiana, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there may also may be times when things do not go the way you or the way your athlete wishes. At these times, discussion with the coach is encouraged.

APPROPRIATE CONCERNS TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. The treatment of your athlete, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your athlete improve.
3. Behavior concerns

Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe to be best for all students involved and the team. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your athlete's coach. Other things, such as those listed next, must be left to the discretion of the coach.

ISSUES NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS WITH COACHES

1. Playing time
2. Team strategy
3. Play calling
4. Other athletes

PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW SHOULD YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A COACH

1. Call to set up an appointment with the coach. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic office. They will coordinate the meeting for you.
2. Meet with the Coach
3. Do not confront a coach before, during, or after a contest or practice. The coach has a duty to supervise the team. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature do not promote resolution and often escalate the issue.

THE NEXT STEPS - What can a parent/guardian/student athlete do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call the Athletic Office at (724) 463-3530 and set up an informal meeting with the AD, a Principal, coach and athlete to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the Athletic Director, Principal, parent/guardian, athlete and coach will work to resolve the issue. All situations involving playing time, play calling, team strategy, or other athletes will not be addressed. This meeting may include the Operations Principal and Superintendent.
3. The AD will facilitate the conversation between the parties to help resolve the issue.

Indiana Area School District
Athletic Department
Student-Athlete/Parent-Guardian Contract

Please sign and return this page of the Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct prior to the start of the school year or season your child is participating in. This **must be** on file with the Athletic Department before the student-athlete is allowed to participate in any competitions. New in 2025-26 season, signatures on this page will be counted for each sport/season that is participated in. For instance, if you play soccer in the fall, it will also count towards track & field in the spring. The Athletic Department will keep a rolling spreadsheet that all coaches will have access to. Please indicate the sport(s) you plan to participate in below.

We have read and understand the information in this Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct Manual.

Student-Athlete Name (Print) _____

Student-Athlete Name (Signature) _____

Date _____

Parent-Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent-Guardian Name (Signature) _____

Date _____

Parent-Guardian Name (Print) _____

Parent-Guardian Name (Signature) _____

Date _____

Sport(s) intending to participate in:

Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____

***Two parent/guardian signatures are required with the exception of a deceased parent/guardian**