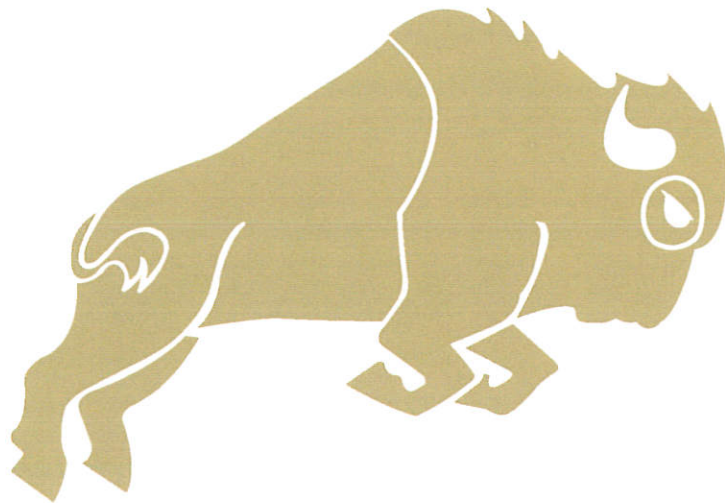


Pursuing Victory with Honor



BUFFALO

**Code of Conduct
For Student-Athletes**

The Villages® Charter School

BUFFALO CODE OF CONDUCT

Part I of this document is The Athletic Code of Conduct. It applies to all student-athletes of interscholastic competition age. Participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege, not a right. Failure to comply with the six (6) core values as determined in this Code of Conduct Part I or the requirements of Part II may result in loss of playing and participation privileges.

Athletic competition of interscholastic age student-athletes should be fun and should also be a significant part of a sound educational program, embodying high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while developing good character and other important life skills. Essential elements of character building are intrinsic in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: Responsibility, Respect, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Fairness and Caring (the "Six Pillars of Character"). The highest potential of sports is achieved when learning from the T.E.A.M. concept (Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model these values) and by committing to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Good-faith efforts to honor the works and spirit of this Code will improve the quality of our programs and the well-being of all teammates.

PART I ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

(I) RESPONSIBILITY

Importance of Education - The primary responsibility of a student-athlete is academic achievement. Be a student first and commit to earning your diploma and receiving the best education you can. Be honest with yourself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level. Remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their institution honorably. Not achieving passing grades will result in your suspension from the team until the deficiency is resolved.

Role Modeling - Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right, and that you are expected to represent your school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.

Self-Control - Exercise self-control. Don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.



Healthy Lifestyle - Safeguard your health. Don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances, including alcohol, tobacco, drugs and nutritional supplements, or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight. Be informed about the health risks involved in the use of recreational and performance-enhancing drugs, tobacco and alcohol, as well as in eating disorders.

Integrity of the Game - Protect the integrity of the game. Don't gamble or associate or deal with professional gamblers.

Sexual conduct - Sexual or romantic contact of any sort between student-athletes and adults involved with any athletic program is improper and strictly forbidden. Report any misconduct to the proper authorities.

(II) **RESPECT**

Respect for sports requires that you conduct yourself in the following manner:

1. **Respect** - Treat all people, including the teacher-coach, with respect at all times. Demonstrate an appropriate demeanor that reflects self-control and an unwavering commitment to fair play.
2. **Class** - Live and play with class and great sportsmanship. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Help fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre-game and post-game rituals.
3. **Disrespectful Conduct** - Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, and offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
4. **Respect for Officials** - Treat game officials with respect. Don't complain about or argue with calls or decisions during or after an athletic event. Help youth sports organizations fill their need for qualified officials as a way to promote greater understanding and respect for the referee's role.

(III) **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Trustworthiness - Be worthy of trust in all that you do.

Integrity - Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor. Do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.



Honesty - Live and compete honorably. Don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct. Plagiarism or cheating is not acceptable.

Reliability - Fulfill commitments; do what you say you will do. Be on time to practices and games.

Loyalty - Be loyal to your school and team. Put the team above personal glory.

(IV) **CITIZENSHIP**

Playing by the Rules - Have a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules. Demonstrate and demand integrity.

Spirit of Rules - Honor, observe and enforce the spirit and the letter of rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship. Do not engage in or allow any conduct designed to evade the rules governing fair competition.

(V) **FAIRNESS**

Fairness and Openness - Live up to high standards of fair play, be open-minded, always be willing to listen and learn.

(VI) **CARING**

Concern for others - Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to yourself or others.

Teammates - Help promote the well being of teammates through positive counseling and encouragement or by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous conduct to coaches.

PART II **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Quitting a Sport - No player will be allowed to quit one sport and play another until the sport season he or she quits is completed UNLESS they quit prior to the first contest.

Lettering in a Sport - For each sport, the head coach will determine if their players will letter based on **95%** of attendance for practice and contests.



RULES

If you have any questions regarding your ability to participate you should contact your school's Athletic Director. There are a number of laws, regulations and rules that affect interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular sports and activities. The following are some but not all of those rules:

(a) A student not currently suspended from interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities, or suspended or expelled from school, pursuant to a district school board's suspension or expulsion powers provided in law, including § 1006.07, § 1006.08, and § 1006.09, F.S., is eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities.

(b) A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets the criteria in § 1006.15(3)(h), Florida Statutes.

(c) A student's eligibility to participate in any interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation pursuant to § 1006.20(2)(b), Florida Statute.

(d) Non-Traditional Students. Students who participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities for, but are not enrolled in, a public school pursuant to § 1006.15(3)(c)-(e) and (8), F.S. (i.e. non-traditional students, reference Bylaw 1.4.31), are subject to the district, charter or private school board's code of student conduct for the limited purpose of establishing and maintaining the student's eligibility to participate at the school.

(e) A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one of the following criteria:

- i. Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.
- ii. Children who have been relocated due to foster care placement in a different school zone.
- iii. Children who move due to court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or serious illness or death of a custodial parent.
- iv. Authorized for "Good Cause".



For the purpose of this rule, “Good Cause” includes, but is not limited to:

- a. A change of employment by a qualifying parent; or
- b. A change in family composition or residency; or
- c. Any change of circumstance if the grant of Good Cause because of that circumstance results in a positive impact on the student.

Consequences for violating rules - The principal, athletic director, and head coach will determine any discipline matters for each team or athlete.

FACTORS FOR PARTICIPATION

The following is a non-exclusive list of elements and factors which may be considered to determine a student’s ability to participate in interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities.

- School attendance policy
- Alcohol/drug related behavior
- School/classroom discipline issues
- Social Media issues
- Bullying
- Poor Sportsmanship
- Violation of Dress Code Policy
- Four Year Limit of Eligibility
- Reaching the age of 19 prior to September 1st
- Failure to Provide Physical Evaluation (EL2) and Consent and Release from Liability Certificate (EL3)
- Any other school policy which would remove, prevent or limit a student from participating in extracurricular activities



I have read and understand the requirements of the Buffalo Code of Conduct. I acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from a team if I violate any of its provisions.

Student-Athlete (Print Name)

Student-Athlete (Signature)

Parent/Guardian (Print Name)

Parent/Guardian (Signature)

Date

Date

Sport

