

STUDENT ATHLETICS

We believe that school sports experiences contribute greatly to achieving our mission of providing students with opportunities to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, and personal qualities that will enable them to live productive lives as learners, workers and citizens. We believe school athletic experiences help shape the values and ethics of each player, and that these experiences encourage teamwork, help develop character and citizenship, and encourage an active lifestyle. Lastly, we believe that student athletic programs promote a positive work ethic and one's personal commitment.

As the ICS Vision states, "Education happens beyond the walls of the classroom and the school: therefore ICS encourages and promotes learning in a multitude of settings." This includes the playing field of sports for all students who choose to participate in our athletic program.

The following core practices have been established in order for students to experience the very best of interscholastic athletics here at Islesboro Central School. At the center of these core practices is good sportsmanship, which extends to all student athletes, as well as to coaches, support staff, opponents, officials and spectators.

STUDENT-ATHLETE: A student who recognizes the essential nature of teamwork, communication and commitment.

Each student-athlete will support these core practices by:

- a. Placing academics first and foremost in the overall school experience, understanding that sports participation is a privilege and not an excuse from classroom obligations.
- b. Modeling positive behavior at all times.
- c. Appreciating the value of competition without conflict, handling success with grace and failure with dignity.
- d. Demonstrating respect for all those involved.

PARENT/GUARDIAN: A person who accepts the responsibility of being a role model and who supports our program, the coaches and the student-athletes.

Each parent/guardian will support these core practices by:

- a. Placing academics first and foremost in the overall school experience, understanding that sports participation is a privilege and not an excuse from classroom obligations.
- b. Modeling positive behavior at school events and in the community.
- c. Demonstrating that learning is a lifelong endeavor.
- d. Appreciating the value of competition without conflict, handling success with grace and failure with dignity.
- e. Demonstrating respect for all those involved.

COACH: A person who is an educator and role model, who understands the contribution of positive sports experiences to the skills, character and potential well-being of student athletes and who desires to grow professionally.

Each coach will provide support for these core practices by:

- a. Making practices meaningful, positive learning opportunities.
- b. Providing praise, encouragement and constructive criticism to groups and individually and in private when necessary.
- c. Modeling and expecting respect and good sportsmanship at all times and for all teams.
- d. Demonstrating that learning is a lifelong endeavor.
- e. Handling success with grace and failure with dignity while replacing a “win-at-all-costs” attitude with the spirit of excellence.
- f. Maintaining regular communications with student athletes, parents, and AD regarding program expectations, schedules, needed resources, team meetings, etc.
- g. Collaborating with the AD and school administration in developing schedules, program guidelines, criteria for earning a sports letter, etc.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: A person who maintains the integrity of interscholastic athletics. This person is responsible for maintaining, modeling and evaluating the attainment of the core practices of all participants at all times.

The Athletic Director will support these core practices by:

- a. Upholding the policies, rules and guidelines endorsed by the school board, enforced by the school and supported by the community.
- b. Placing academics first and foremost in the overall school experience, understanding that sports participation is a privilege and not an excuse from classroom obligations.
- c. Modeling positive behavior at all times on the field, and in the community.
- d. Appreciating the value of competition without conflict, handling success with grace and failure with dignity.
- e. Demonstrating respect for all involved.
- f. Stressing the importance and commitment to lifetime habits of fitness and good nutrition.
- g. Creating and facilitating meetings, with coaches’ involvement, on a regular basis in order to build relationships with coaches, student-athletes, parents and athletic administration.
- h. Creating a unified athletic program, which encourages athletes from different sports teams to support each other both on and off the playing fields.

Legal References:

First Reading: June 13, 2012

Adopted: July 9, 2012