



Innovation Montessori Athletic Code of Conduct

Message to Parents/Guardians

This material is presented to you because your child has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics and you have expressed your willingness to permit them to compete. We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal, athletic, and academic growth.

As a parent/guardian of a student-athlete, you also have committed yourselves to certain responsibilities and obligations, which are outlined in this Athletic Code. Your signature on the Athletic Code, along with the signature of your student-athlete, indicates that you understand and accept those responsibilities and obligations, and agree to cooperate with school personnel in enforcing the Athletic Code. Compliance with the Athletic Code is mandatory and essential to the success of the athletic program. Failure to comply with the Athletic Code may lead to disciplinary actions as expressed under the Innovation Montessori Discipline policy. Please note that School administration in collaboration with Athletic coaches have the final say regarding an Innovation Montessori (IM) student's involvement in athletics.

Good sportsmanship is always encouraged and expected from our fans and spectators during athletic events. In addition to attending IM Athletics contests, you are invited and encouraged to help promote the tradition of excellence associated with IM Athletics.

We believe athletics is an integral part of the educational experience, both as a competitor and spectator. We look forward to working with you and to supporting your child as they participate in their chosen sport.

Message to the Athlete

IM believes that athletics is a fantastic way to cultivate skills, values and characteristics that are transferrable to various arenas. Our aim is to support our athletes in becoming dedicated, committed, and hardworking members of their athletic and school community. As an Innovation Montessori athlete, we strive to support our students achieve a high standard of excellence. Once you have become a member of a team, you have made a choice to uphold certain norms and values expected of athletes in your community.

Your participation in athletics is a privilege and should be treated as such. Your conduct is a representation of our community values, and it is expected that you will represent those values in accordance with the athletic code of conduct.

The rules outlined in this handbook are designed and intended as a guide to successful participation. Failure to adhere to guidelines is addressed in this handbook. As a student-athlete, you will be expected to understand and abide by these rules and your team's rules. It is your responsibility to follow them to their fullest.



Mission/Belief Statement

The purpose of IM Athletics is to provide opportunities for all participating students to learn life-long values in a safe environment.

These values include - Cooperation, Sportsmanship, Respect, Adaptability, Critical Thinking and Leadership Skills.

IM's Athletic Department believes:

1. That student-athletes will have opportunities to develop leadership characteristics through athletic competition that carry into the classroom and the future.
2. That student-athletes serve as role models within the school community and are expected to act in a manner that reinforces that role.
3. That self-discipline and sportsmanship are essential to a sound athletic foundation.
4. That participation in athletics is not a right but a privilege; with that privilege comes responsibility.
5. That a strong commitment is an important ingredient to the success of IM Athletics.
6. That athletics should be fun as well as providing learning experiences.
7. Students should not be hindered from participating in sports due to financial reasons. To cover the cost of uniforms and facility fees we ask for contributions. We ask that you reach out if you are unable to make a financial contribution.

Parent/Coach Relations

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your child becomes involved in our programs, you have a right to understand the expectations of your student- athletes. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your student-athlete's program.

Communication You Should expect from your Child's Coach:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child and the team.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, team/individual camps.
4. Protocol should your student-athlete become injured during participation.
5. Team rules, guidelines, and requirements for earning awards.



Communication Coaches Expect from Student-athletes:

1. Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
2. Special concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.
3. Injury or circumstances that may endanger the athlete when participating.

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

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches:

1. The treatment of your student-athlete, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your student-athlete's behavior.

It is difficult to accept your child not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your student-athlete's coach. Other things, such as the following, 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 student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parents. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

STUDENT ATHLETES WILL:

- Be in good standing academically as determined by teachers.
- Abide by the schedules set by the coaches.
- Be fully prepared and on time for practices and games, considering the time for travel to practices and games.
- Not make conflicting appointments during practice or game time.
- Go over the practice and game schedules with their parents.
- Use time in school responsibly (to see teachers and get ahead on work).
- Show case positive behavior.
- Take care of their health – eat healthy meals, do not drink alcohol or abuse substances, get proper rest, hydrate, warm up and cool down appropriately



- Demonstrate proper sportsmanship. This includes refraining from the use of derogatory terms in relation to race, religion, sexual orientation, and/or gender expression
- Refrain from any activity that could be considered as bullying, harassment, hazing, and/or intimidation.
- Be careful and respectful when using the Internet as a means of social networking. -There will be no tolerance for any harmful or disparaging actions on social media toward teammates, coaches, or opposing teams. -This includes negative comments and/or posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, or any other platform for online interaction.
- Be civil and courteous guests at other campuses – theft, vandalism, rude behavior, and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- Keep yourself on the field/court – behave responsibly both in and outside of school.

Consequences

The choices you make can affect your playing time, playing eligibility, and discipline status.

Commitment violations

- At minimum, 2 unexcused late arrivals or 1 unexcused missed practice will result in the athlete missing a start (if they are a starter) or sitting out the first quarter of the next game. Each subsequent unexcused tardy appearance or absence (game or practice) will result in the athlete missing a game. At any point after the 4th tardy appearance or 3rd unexcused absence, the athlete may be suspended from the team indefinitely. Please remember that these are the minimum guidelines that we ask our coaches to follow. An individual coach may have stricter guidelines that he/she will explain to you at the beginning of the season.

Conduct violations

- A coach will limit an athlete's playing or practice time when he/she believes the athlete's health is in jeopardy (i.e., physical illness, injury). Under these circumstances, the athlete will be referred to the appropriate school service (i.e., nurse, counselor, Athletic Trainer), and may not return to the playing field until given proper clearance
- A coach will limit an athlete's playing or practice time if the athlete exhibits poor sportsmanship by way of language/attitude, or if the athlete exhibits any form of harassment, or if the athlete exhibits misconduct through means of social media. The administration will also be involved on a case-by-case basis to determine the athlete's consequences.
- Any drug and alcohol violation, at any time during the athletic season whether in or out of school, will result in a 5-day suspension from the team. Any subsequent infraction of this type will result in dismissal from the team.

Signing this document affirms everyone's commitment to the ideals presented herein. Athlete's

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Coach's Signature: _____ Sport: _____