

**Atascadero High School  
Athletic Department**

## **Code of Ethics for Parents**

Parents will:

1. Give consistent encouragement and support to their children regardless of the degree of success, the level of skill, or time on the field.
2. Stress the importance of respect for coaches through discussions with their children, and highlight the critical nature of contributing to the **team** and its' success.
3. Attend school meetings at the outset of each sport seasons to meet coaches and school officials and learn **first-hand** about the expectations for participation in interscholastic sports.
4. Serve as role models at sporting events while promoting sportsmanship and fair play.
5. Ensure a balance in student-athletes lives, encouraging participation in multiple sports and activities with high priority placed on academics.

Parents will:

1. Leave coaching to coaches and do not criticize coaching strategies or team performance. Parents must avoid putting pressure on their children about playing time and performance.
2. Refrain from disrespect toward coaches, officials, or opposing teams.
3. Refrain from attitudes that stress the playing time or position played by their child over the success of the team.
4. Refrain from over involvement that includes sideline coaching, interventions, and conversations with their child during contests or practices.

### **Guidelines for communicating with Coaches**

#### **Three step procedure for communicating with a Coach:**

1. When appropriate talk with your child about your question. What is the child's point of view? Can your child solve the problem by him/herself?
2. Set up a meeting with the coach if you still have questions. This is an informational meeting where you may ask questions, listen, and have a discussion. Remember coaches make decisions based on the good of the team, based on professional observations of practice, ability, attitude, and chemistry.
3. If questions remain, set up a meeting with Athletic Director, Coach, Parent, and Athlete.

#### **Issues that are not to be discussed:**

1. Playing time of the athlete, game strategies, or other student athletes.

### **Guidelines for All Meetings:**

1. The meetings must be in a professional manner with regard to both language and conduct.
2. Everyone will get an opportunity to speak. Everyone must listen.
3. Emotional control by all parties is imperative.
4. Meetings are by appointment only and must not occur on Sunday, during practice or game times.

## **Parent Grievance Procedure**

The grievance procedure is intended to be a process whereby concerns of alleged mistreatment of student-athlete can be addressed professionally and in a timely manner.

### **Legitimate grievance:**

1. Failure to provide due process in disciplinary action.
2. Failure to provide an equitable opportunity to compete for position/team.
3. Mistreatment of athletes (verbal and/or physical).
4. Any violation of an adopted code/policy.

### **Non-legitimate grievances "Out of bounds" for discussion:**

1. Playing time.
2. Position of athlete.
3. Game strategy.
4. Win/loss record.
5. Other athletes, coaches.

It is the intent that problems be resolved before coming to a formal grievance procedure.

1. The parent shall make an appointment with the coach in question to discuss the grievance. The appointment is to be made outside of school, practice, or game time. Do not make contact during class time, scheduled practice or game.
2. If necessary, student athlete in question shall be present.
3. If the grievance cannot be resolved in the initial meeting the following may be necessary:
  - a. Meeting with the coach, Athletic Director and involved parties.
  - b. Meeting with the coach, Athletic Director, Principal, and involved parties.