

# Randolph County School System

## Sportsmanship Initiative

### **Our Goal:**

The Randolph County School System (RCSS) athletic programs will communicate clear expectations for the display of positive sportsmanship through proactive measures that will ensure a positive experience for officials, coaches, student athletes, and spectators.

### **Action Steps:**

- Implement a comprehensive communication program that will utilize direct conversation of expected behaviors with coaches, student athletes, and spectators
- Formulate a system-wide message that will be sent via School Messenger periodically throughout the year to call attention to positive sportsmanship attributes
- Use PeachJar and social media to reinforce our efforts to educate our guests on our system-wide sportsmanship initiative
- Create and display signage in all athletic arenas to clearly communicate the importance of sportsmanship at all RCSS schools
- Implement procedures for enforcing and addressing sportsmanship concerns during RCSS events

## Program Overview

**Prior to the beginning of each school year, school administrators, athletic directors, and coaches will meet to:**

- Review the RCSS sportsmanship initiative school expectations
- Explain the expectation and purpose of reviewing the sportsmanship pledges during individual team meetings (Note: Specific pledges will be used for coaches, student athletes, and parents)
- Require coaches to sign the coach pledge prior to the adjournment of the meeting
- Ensure a plan is in place to communicate the system-wide message addressing sportsmanship prior to the first activity of each sport season and before targeted games as needed through the use of School Messenger (voice and email), PeachJar, and social media platforms
- Ensure the RCSS Spectator Code of Conduct signs are visual at RCSS athletic events
- Ensure the RCSS 3'x5' sportsmanship banners that contain all high school and middle school logos with the RCSS sportsmanship slogan (*Play the Right Way! When We Show Respect, Everyone Wins!*) are displayed

**Prior to each sport season (fall, winter, and spring), the following will be implemented:**

- During the required parent meetings held prior to each sport season, coaches will:
  - Discuss/share sportsmanship expectations and the efforts to enhance positive sportsmanship
  - Explain the individual pledges to ensure understanding by parents and student athletes
  - Ensure parents sign the parent pledge
  - Ensure students sign the student athlete pledge
  - Review the video entitled *The Parent Seat* available at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
- Prior to the first athletic contest for each sport season, school administrators will:
  - Utilize School Messenger to communicate the system-wide message addressing positive sportsmanship expectations at all RCSS events
  - Utilize the email feature with School Messenger to share a link to the video entitled *The Parent Seat* available at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
  - Send a modified version of the system-wide sportsmanship message for select games or contests to remind all stakeholders of the efforts by the school and school system to enhance positive sportsmanship

## Procedures to Address Sportsmanship Concerns

The following measures will be implemented when addressing sportsmanship concerns with:

### ➤ **Student Athlete (Middle School and High School):**

If a student athlete is ejected/disqualified from an event, the penalty will align with the policies of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) which are as follows:

- The student athlete will complete the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) "Sportsmanship" course available at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
- The student athlete will serve the suspension game(s) as prescribed by the NCHSAA
- If the ejection is due to fighting, the coach must complete the NFHS "Teaching and Modeling" course

### ➤ **Adult Spectator:**

- Site supervisors address undesirable behaviors with a warning of removal from the site
- If removal is necessary after the initial warning, the offending adult spectator will:
  - Complete the NFHS "Positive Sport Parenting" course available on <https://nfhslearn.com/courses> and submit a copy of the certificate of completion to the school's principal (Note: This course is free of charge)
  - Serve a two-game suspension from RCSS events
- If a second offense occurs, the adult spectator will be required to meet with the RCSS Superintendent prior to returning to a RCSS campus

### ➤ **Student Spectator:**

- The RCSS Code of Conduct will be followed at all RCSS events
- If removal is necessary, the student spectator will:
  - Complete the NFHS "Sportsmanship" course available at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
  - Serve a game or games of suspension per the discretion of the principal

### ➤ **Coach (Middle School and High School):**

- If a coach is ejected/disqualified from an event, the penalty will align with the policies of the NCHSAA which are as follows:
  - Complete the NFHS "Teaching and Modeling" course available at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
  - Serve the suspension game(s) as prescribed by the NCHSAA
- If a coach displays sideline behavior that administrators deem to be inappropriate, the following will occur:
  - First Offense – Conference with principal and athletic director
  - Second Offense – Documentation letter place in the coach's school file
  - Third Offense – Suspension from practice/games as determined by the principal

## Sportsmanship Telephone Message

Hello parents and students of *(Your school)*. This is \_\_\_\_\_ (principal). *(Your school)* and the Randolph County School System are looking forward to a successful year both academically and athletically. I am calling to share some important information with you regarding our school's athletic programs and positive sportsmanship initiative.

At *(Your school)*, we take good sportsmanship seriously for everyone involved which includes student athletes, parents, coaches, and spectators. Participation in athletic programs is a privilege which comes with obligations as a representative of our school. Please take the time to review the RCSS Spectator Code of Conduct which can be found on our school's website. The RCSS Spectator Code of Conduct also will be visible at RCSS athletic events.

Thank you for supporting this positive sportsmanship initiative and remember: ***When we show respect, everyone wins!***

### **Coach Pledge**

As a coach, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I know that the principles of good sportsmanship are integrity, fairness, and respect. While teaching the skills of the game, I also must teach student athletes how to win and lose graciously, and that athletics are meant to be educational and fun. I know the behavior expected of me by this school and the Randolph County School System. Furthermore, I accept my responsibility to be a role model of positive behavior, integrity, and good sportsmanship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Student Athlete Pledge**

As a student athlete, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I understand the spirit of fair play and will refrain from engaging in all types of disrespectful behavior such as the use of inappropriate language, taunting, trash talking, and unnecessary physical contact. I know the behavior expected of me by my school and the Randolph County School System. Furthermore, I accept my responsibility to be a role model of positive behavior, integrity, and good sportsmanship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Parent Pledge**

As a parent, I acknowledge that I am a role model. I understand that school athletics are an extension of the classroom and offer learning experiences for students. I will show respect for all players, coaches, spectators, and support groups. I will participate in cheers that support, encourage, and uplift the teams involved in the athletic events. Furthermore, I accept my responsibility to be a role model of positive behavior, integrity, and good sportsmanship.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Randolph County School System

## Spectator Code of Conduct

- Spectators are an important part of the contest and help create an environment that fosters healthy competition. However, attendance at Randolph County School System (RCSS) athletic events is a privilege, not a right.
- Spectators shall at all times conform to acceptable standards of good sportsmanship and behavior.
- All spectators' comments and behaviors shall reflect respect for opposing participants, coaches, and game referees/umpires/officials.
- Spectators shall follow all directives from school administrators, event staff, and law enforcement.
- Any spectator interfering with play in any way will be subject to immediate ejection from the site of the contest.
- Spectators will be subject to ejection from the site of the contest for behaviors that are disruptive, unruly, or abusive. This type of behavior includes, but is not limited to, foul language and any verbal or physical harassment of other spectators, especially fans of the opposing team.
- Spectators who witness, or are harassed by, intimidating behavior and/or comments by other spectators are urged to report these occurrences immediately to school administrators, event staff, or law enforcement.
- Physical retaliation, regardless of the actions or comments of other spectators, will not be permitted and will be subject to immediate ejection from the site of the contest as well as a possible ban from attendance at future RCSS events.
- A spectator's behavior reflects on the team that he/she supports. Let others see that you are a fan of a first-class program.
- Enjoy and have a passion for the game, but remember ... IT'S ONLY A GAME.

**When We Show Respect, Everyone Wins!**