



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

To the Parents/Guardians of Argyle Student-Athletes

Argyle is very proud to have one of the most successful interscholastic athletic programs in the province, both from the point of view of full participation in a wide range of athletic competitions, and from the point of view of fielding consistently competitive teams. The people who make this possible are of course the athletes and parents, but also the **volunteer** coaches and sponsors, without whom there would be no program.

While B.C. School Sports has a Code of Conduct for coaches, players, and spectators, there is no set guideline for parents/guardians. In response to discussions on this topic at the Argyle Athletic Council (AAC), Argyle Secondary School has decided to clarify in writing the expectations that we have for parents in this athletic partnership in order to continue our strong athletic tradition.

Competition

Interscholastic athletics at the secondary school level are by nature: competitive. Scores, wins and losses, and league standings are kept, and champions are declared. The nature of competition at this level means that the coach will make decisions about membership on teams (not everyone trying out for a team will necessarily be selected), assigning roles to competitors, and playing time.

Participation

While coaches will make every effort to give all players playing time, they will make judgements related to opponent matchups, game situation, needs of the team, playoffs, etc. As a result, not everyone gets the same amount of playing time, and in fact there may be games where certain players do not play at all. This is accepted practice and part of the team concept at this level of competition. Parents and players need to recognize this from the outset. This is not a house league or developmental league in the same sense as community, elementary aged sport where balanced playing time, and rotation of positions is the norm.

Conduct in the stands

In school sports, your role is to encourage and support your child and the team in a POSITIVE manner. The officials are there to officiate the games, and the coaches are in place if they feel something should be done about the officiating or score keeping. Please do not speak negatively to players on the other team, the officials/scorekeepers, or the opposing coach. Please encourage student-athletes to show respect to league officials and others involved in competition. If they have a concern, please have them communicate with their coaches. *We need get back to having an enjoyable time while participating in and spectating athletics.*

Concerns / Complaints

If parents have a *CONCERN* about coaches' behaviour, or another aspect of an athletic team or the athletics program, School District 44 Policy 406 applies. The relevant sections of this policy state:

Complaints, questions or expressions of concern shall be dealt with in a manner which reflects mutual respect and fair process, and administrative procedures for dealing with such situations should assure that:

- *Complaints dealt with through the process outlined below*
- *Complaints are investigated and resolved expeditiously*
- *Complaints are dealt with in a courteous and constructive manner*
- *Personnel against whom complaints are made have an opportunity to respond*
- *Where action or investigation is desired by the complainant, or where it seems appropriate, the normal channel shall be from complainant to coach, to the coach's immediate supervisor.*

What this means is that if you have a concern regarding your son or daughter's participation in varsity athletics, the recommended action is to contact the coach directly and express the concern. It is not appropriate or likely to produce a positive outcome if a concern is pursued in the "heat of the moment" at a game or practice site, or if the coach is otherwise engaged at the time. The recommended course of action is to arrange a conversation at a mutually agreeable site and time. All of the aforementioned done in a respectful and courteous manner. If the parties cannot resolve the matter, it should then go through the appropriate communication pathway described fully in the Athletics Handbook. First to a program coordinator (if there is one), next to the Athletic Director of the school, next to the Administrator responsible for Athletics, and finally to the Principal.