PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

To The Parents/Guardians of our Student Athletes

Our schools are proud to have some 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 consistently competitive teams. There is a strong tradition of broad participation and excellence in our schools. 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. **No coach at the school, staff or community, receive any form of financial compensation for the time they put in to run and organize these teams.**

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 with the Parent Advisory Council, the administration and the Athletic Council of Carson Graham Secondary and Balmoral Junior Secondary school we have decided to clarify in writing the expectations that we have for parents in this athletic partnership, in a document to be provide to all parents, signed by them, and returned to the school prior to competition. This is that document.

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 match-ups, game situation, playoffs etc. which will mean that 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 Pee Wee soccer, for instance, where balanced playing time, and rotation of positions is the norm.

Complaints

It is not appropriate for parents to question coaches' methods or decisions, whether concerning the teaching of skills, competition tactics, or substitution practises. However, if a parent has a complaint about a coach's conduct, or questions about the management of the team, normal 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 are handled as near the source as possible*
- *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, you need to contact the coach directly, and arrange a meeting in a mutually agreeable place at a mutually agreeable site, or by telephone or email, in a respectful and courteous manner. If the matter cannot be resolved by the parties, it may then go to the Athletic Director of the school, the Athletic Council of the school, or the administration, as deemed appropriate by the parties. It is not appropriate or likely to produce a positive outcome if a concern is pursued at a game or practise site, or by walking in unannounced to coaches' teaching areas, or stopping them in the halls, for an impromptu discussion.

Parental Agreement

I have read the information above, understand the position of the school, and agree to abide by these policies and procedures. I understand that failure to comply may result in removal or suspension of my son or daughter's privilege to participate.

By registering my son or daughter, I confirm that I have read and understand the expected parent's code of conduct of Carson Graham's athletic program.