

San Marin High School Athletic Parent “Code of Conduct”

Athletic competition at San Marin High School is not only fun, but part of the school’s sound education program. Students learn the fundamentals of sports, teamwork, and the spirit of sportsmanship. The life lessons through sports will give our student athletes positive character traits that will last throughout their lives.

Parents are the first line of support for their student athlete. Your attendance and your praise will ultimately earn not only your child’s respect, but allow them to continue to learn and improve without fear of making a mistake.

As parents, you are very closely connected to the athletic program. Because of the connection, it is imperative that you behave in an appropriate manner in the stands. In addition to the positive behavior in the stands, this support of your child’s growth is encouraged in the community as well as in your home.

Athletics are competitive and have high aspirations; different issues can arise during the season. Regardless of what these issues or situations may be, as a parent we ask that you encourage your child, cheer for your child, and stay positive. The rules of the game, officials, and opponents are all uncontrollable factors and must be respected. This can be extremely difficult. By role modeling respect for the game, your student athlete will also honor and respect the rules, officials, and opponents. The strength you give your child will strengthen them to honor the team on and off the court, the field, or the pool. Ultimately living up to a strong belief in self, regardless of the surrounding situations.

During a particular season, issues may need to be explored. Have your child communicate with the coach. You can also communicate and help positively as much as possible. Remember, this helping person (coach) is spending 15 or more hours per week helping your child grow as a person. When that team finishes its season, San Marin High School hopes each player walks away with the understanding that yes, the games were important, but the competition, teamwork, and life’s lessons mean more to their development than do scoreboards or statistics.

Finally, in the stands it is important to help other parents and fans behave in an appropriate manner. Before anyone gets clearly out of control, we strongly encourage parents to intervene with other parents when behavior is becoming inappropriate. We all have a responsibility to maintain a positive sporting environment and this includes coming to all sporting events sober.

*Information prepared with permission from North Coast Section’s “Pursuing Victory with Honor” and PCA (Positive Coaching Alliance.)

Parents please now read the Positive Coaching Alliance Parent Pledge (on the following page), and sign as a San Marin Parent honoring in your words and actions during the upcoming season.

Thank you,
San Marin High School Administration.

San Marin High School Parent Pledge

Please read, initial each item, sign and return to the coach or athletic director.

1. I pledge to get my child to practice and games on time. I understand that it can be embarrassing for my child to be late and that I may be putting him/her at risk by not providing adequate time for warm up. I will be on time to pick up my child from all games and practices. This shows respect for the coach, and it tells my child that he or she is my top priority. _____
2. I pledge to use positive encouragement to fill my child's Emotional Tank because athletes do their best when their "Emotional Tank" is full. I understand that fewer than 1% of youth sports participants receive college scholarships and that the top three reasons kids play sports are a) to have fun, b) to make friends, and c) to learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the players, and I will keep sports in the proper perspective. _____
3. I pledge to reinforce the ELM Tree Mastery with my child (E for Effort, L for Learning and M for bouncing back from Mistakes). Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes, stop them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that children are born with different abilities and that the true measure is not how my child compares to others, but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self. _____
4. I pledge to "Honor the Game." I understand the importance of setting a good example for my child. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and officials. I understand that the officials make mistakes. If the official makes a "bad" call against my team, I will Honor the Game and be silent! _____
5. I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions to my child. I understand that this is the coach's job. I understand that games are chaotic times for children trying to deal with fast-paced action and respond to opponents, teammates and coaches. I will limit my comments during the game to encouraging my child and other players for both teams. _____
6. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my child's coach in my child's presence. I understand that this plants a negative seed in my child's head that can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience. _____
7. I pledge to come to games and practices sober. Students and other parents know when fans have had too much to drink, and it embarrasses everyone present, particularly the students of parents who have had too much to drink and behave poorly. _____

I will honor the San Marin Parent Pledge in my words and actions. Infractions of the pledge will result in parents having to leave events and being banned for one or more events in the season of sport.

Parent's Signature

Print Child's Name