

Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Athletic Department

MISSION: The mission of the Athletic Department is to inspire, educate, empower, and prepare its participants for high school programs while providing a positive lifelong experience that promotes the development, both socially and physically, of young athletes.

Our philosophy:

We believe athletics teach students many invaluable, intangible traits--necessities for productivity in our society--such as, but not limited to, self-discipline, personal commitment, loyalty, sportsmanship, teamwork, the value of preparation, and a hard work ethic.

We believe participation in athletics enhances student academic performance and school attendance. We believe athletic activities have a positive effect upon the participant's self-image, mental alertness, social competence, and ethical awareness.

We believe that the spirit of competition and the will to excel--necessary elements associated with athletic activities--are valuable to the development of a healthy mind and a productive citizen.

We believe in teaching the skills and fundamentals of the game; that athletes are here to learn how to play, then how to win as best we can. Student athletes are highly visible persons and representatives of our school. Public opinion is formed about the school and the individual by their attitude, appearance and behavior. Our students must behave accordingly.

As a member of the South Carolina High School League, Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School Athletics will operate under the governances and follow all league rules that have been established by the South Carolina High School League and Greenville County Schools.

ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT, RULES and REGULATIONS

Participants must be role models and must set a positive example for all. It is our job as coaches, administrators, parents, and the community to instill, build, teach, and demand these lasting qualities in our student athletes.

Participation in athletics is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. An athlete must earn this privilege through desire, discipline, and commitment. School officials may deprive a student of the privilege of participation when they determine that the student's continued participation is not consistent with the high standards of conduct expected of all participants. In particular, whenever a student violates this code of conduct for athletic activities, the student is subject to losing the privilege of participation and/or removal from the team.

Student Athletes are expected to:

- ❖ Exhibit high standards of conduct including high levels of respect, integrity, and responsibility, which are essential precepts of Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School's Athletic Program, at all times.
- ❖ Show respect for the judgment and integrity of coaches and officials, and accepting their decisions in a sportsmanlike manner.
- ❖ Participate fully to the best of their abilities regardless of any discouragement.
- ❖ Follow all school and athletic department rules.
- ❖ Behave modestly when successful and be gracious in defeat.

VIOLATIONS OF ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

CONDUCT - Conduct in class should follow closely the expectations of the teacher, the schoolwide discipline expectations, and should exemplify honesty, integrity, and respect.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT - Examples of unacceptable conduct include, but are not limited to, class/school disruption, not following school/classroom rules, theft, vandalism, disrespect, hazing, harassment, violation of alcohol and tobacco restrictions, violation of the illegal substances restrictions, or violations of law.

- ❖ Discipline referrals that are acquired in the semester prior to tryouts for a particular sport will be reviewed by the Athletic Director and/or administration to determine if a student will be eligible to participate in that sport.

Punishment for Unacceptable Conduct: Generally: When a coach, teacher, or principal determines that a participant has engaged in unacceptable conduct, the athletic director shall meet with the administration to determine the penalty. The penalty shall range from a minimum of suspension for one game during the season to a maximum of dismissal from a team or program or permanent denial of participation.

Suspension (from the team) means that the student is not allowed to dress out, travel with, or participate in a game. It also includes suspension from practice.

Dismissal (from the team) means that the student is no longer a part of the team or program. If dismissed, the participant's uniform and equipment will be taken up and his/her name will be removed from the team or program roster. **Re-instatement into the athletic program will be considered for the following school year.** The principal, after consultation with the Director of Athletics, must approve any re-instatement.

- ❖ If a student receives two discipline referrals resulting in ISS or greater, while participating on a sports team, that student may be dismissed from the team.
- ❖ Coaches, along with the Athletic Director and Principal, may choose to dismiss a player from the team as result of violations of conduct, school and/or team rules.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) – During the period that any participant is serving an out-of-school suspension, the student will not be allowed to participate in practice or games. The participants may return to participation in any activity only after being

readmitted to school and attending school for one day. **Second offenses that result in OSS during a season may result in dismissal from the team.**

Attendance Rule – A student shall not participate in a contest or practice on the day he/she has been absent from school without just reason. Just reason shall be anything beyond the control of the student (ex: school field trip, doctor/dental appointments, bereavement, religious holiday, etc.). However, confirmation notes will be required. A student athlete and/or a parent should contact the coach **BEFORE** a missed practice.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Seventh and eighth grade students are allowed to play on high school athletic teams according to the rules of the South Carolina High School League. Students below the seventh grade may not participate in interscholastic athletics.

Students who turn 15 before July 1st prior to the current school year beginning will not be eligible to play middle school sports.

Student Athletes must meet all requirements of eligibility in order to tryout or participate on any athletic team. Contact the school's Athletic Director for eligibility requirements.

Coaches Rules:

Coaches may establish additional rules and regulations for their programs with the approval of the Athletic Director and administration. The coach will give all participants written copies of any additional rules and explain the additional rules to all participants and their parents at the start of the season.

Transportation:

Bus transportation will be provided to and from athletic events. If a student wishes to ride home with their parents a Travel Release Form must be turned in ONE DAY prior to the event to be approved and signed by the Athletic Director or a school administrator.

For the safety of all parties and out of respect for the coaches and other school staff, all student athletes must be picked up immediately after all practices and games. Students who are not picked up in a timely manner and/or demonstrate a pattern of being picked up late may be subject to dismissal from the team.

Athletic Insurance:

Greenville County Schools provides an “excess” insurance policy for purchase by student-athletes. This is a requirement for all athletes. There are no exceptions. Currently this policy is a once per year **\$32.00** for middle school athletes which must be paid for at the school.

Injuries:

All injuries that occur during practice or a game MUST be reported to the coach/athletic trainer immediately. If the injury requires medical treatment it will be NECESSARY to complete an injury report claim form.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT:

Spectator Expectations:

Respect decisions made by contest and school officials.

Refrain from taunting, booing, heckling, and the use of inappropriate language.

Recognize and acknowledge outstanding performance on both teams.

Respect athletes, coaches, officials, and fans.

Let the coaches do the coaching for all teams. **Playing time will not be discussed with a coach after a game.** An appropriate time can be set up to speak with coaches and the Athletic Director about playing time or other concerns. Support the program: volunteer to assist the team outside of coaching. Be your child's best fan: encourage them unconditionally and acknowledge their effort and support of teammates, following coach's instructions, etc. Support and root for all team members; foster team unity. Support the integrity and authority of the coach, whether you agree with them or not. It is important that athletes respect the differences between the coach and their parent's views and wishes. Understand and display appropriate game behavior – make positive remarks, watch, do not berate coaches or officials. Monitor eating and sleeping habits of your student athlete. Help your child keep his or her priorities straight – maintain balance with schoolwork, family responsibilities and free time. Keep sports in its proper perspective – it should be fun for you and your child. Highly skilled students and their parents must be careful to maintain a balanced view. If your child's performance produces strong emotions in you, maintain a calm demeanor. Keep your goals and needs separate from your child's experience. REALITY CHECK- if your child comes off the field or court when their team has lost and has played their best, help them to see it as a "win." Remind your child to focus on "process" and not only on "results." Striving to win, playing well, and playing hard are important life skills.

Thank you for your interest and support of Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Athletics.