



# RIVERBEND ACADEMY

## PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Riverbend Academy Athletics exists to further the school's mission and point our athletes towards Christ honoring participation through sports. Our Athletics Mission Statement is as follows:

Our athletes will seek to glorify God through the pursuit of athletic training and interscholastic competition, and our Athletics Program will always point our student athletes towards Christ in all things. The reflection of Christ will be exemplified at every level of Riverbend Academy's Athletics Program, to include the athletic department staff, coaches, student athletes, and parents.

As parents, we are expected to be a role model and example for our children and their teammates. Your signature below affirms the core principles referenced in the Riverbend Academy Athlete Affirmation which includes the following principles: Commitment to Christ, Discipline/Hard Work, Excellence in Athletics and in Godliness, and in Finishing Well. It further demonstrates your support for the below core principles that require Christ honoring conduct from parents and other family members in attendance at Riverbend Academy sporting events. Core principles are as follows:

### Core Principles

#### Gladly Submit to Authority

**(Romans 13:1)** *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*

**(James 1:19)** *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.*

- We will show respect for our coaches and officials at all times, and graciously submit to those authorities. We will not openly question or criticize coaching decisions, gameplans, strategy, substitutions, or player positions and playing time. We may not always agree with coaching decisions or the calls made by officials during competition, but we recognize that voicing our displeasure from the sidelines does not honor Christ and damages our witness to those around us. We will not argue calls made by officials, as we recognize that disputes of calls are up to the coaches to resolve in a Christ-like manner. We will not participate in any gossip with respect to coaches or players, and will seek God honoring discussions as they relate to the Athletics programs and our players and coaches.

#### Our Speech will be Positive and Encouraging

**(Colossians 4:6)** *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

**(Ephesians 4:29)** *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*

- We will give positive encouragement to our athletes who are competing, and we will not attempt to coach from the sidelines or criticize play. We will seek to speak and support our athletes, our coaches, and the officials in encouraging and uplifting ways. We will commit to pray for the team and its coaches, that we will be Christ honoring witnesses both on and off the field of play.
- We will not be involved in negative cheering against rival teams, and will treat opposing teams with dignity and respect. We recognize that even in the heat of battle it is okay to compliment outstanding play, even when the opposing team is the one who performs it.

### **Be Humble in Victory or Defeat**

**(Philippians 2:3-4)** *Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

**(Proverbs 11:2)** *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.*

**(Proverbs 27:17)** *Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*

- We will seek to maintain Christ-honoring behavior, respect the opposing team and enjoy competition with a good attitude. We will seek to win with grace and modesty, and lose with dignity, trusting God's sovereignty. We will encourage fair play in our athletes and discourage any attempts to gain an unfair advantage. We will encourage our child and their teammates to pursue athletic excellence, but not at the expense of treating an opponent poorly. We will encourage our athletes to be humble in their play, encouraging of their teammates, and to leave a positive impression on opposing teams whether that is through victory or defeat.
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### **Be a Light in the Darkness through Athletic Competition**

**(Matthew 16:26)** *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?*

**(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)** *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.*

- We commit to never let the intensity of athletic competition compromise our witness or testimony. We know that the Bible teaches us to pursue excellence and hard work even in athletics. While we will make no apologies for a desire to "run the race" in a way that leads towards victory, we agree that our mindset will be to encourage our players to compete to the fullest in a way that honors Christ and not ourselves. We will encourage our athletes, no matter their role on the team, to be supportive of their teammates, and to never quit on their team. We will encourage them to work hard before the Lord.

## Resolving Differences/Accountability

**(Titus 3:1-2)** *Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.*

- We will commit to resolving differences of opinion with coaches in a Biblical way. We will seek out a coach privately to discuss any concern and we will seek to resolve any differences in a loving, Christ honoring way. If we cannot resolve the differences at the coach level, we will prayerfully seek out the Athletic Director. If the differences still cannot be resolved, we may prayerfully seek to voice concerns to the Headmaster. We will not seek to stir discontent amongst other parents or players in the meantime. {For more details see the grievance policy (section 3.8) in the Riverbend Academy Student Handbook}.
- We will ensure that our behavior does not become a distraction or disruption on the sidelines during games or following completed games. We fully recognize that by demonstrating improper behavior in front of other parents, coaches, and players, we are undermining our witness and not displaying proper sportsmanship. We understand that if such behavior is noted, we may be asked to refrain from attending Riverbend Academy games in the future, which will be determined by the Headmaster. Egregious behavior by athletes or parents will also be referred to the Athletic Director and/or Headmaster for action.

*By signing below, I covenant to participate as a parent of a Riverbend Academy or homeschool athlete in full agreement and practice of the above statements and principles along with requiring and encouraging my child to do so as well. I understand that my failure to abide by these core principles may result in being barred from game attendance and/or my student athlete being barred from participation.*

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Father's signature

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Mother's signature

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Father's printed name

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Mother's printed name

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Date