Mt. Pulaski C.U.D. #23
Student-Athlete Parent Expectations, Sportsmanship Policy, and Athletics Media Use Policy

How I Can Help My Child’s Athletic Experience
1. Allow your child to perform and progress at a level consistent with their ability. Athletes mature at different ages and some are more gifted than others.

2. Teach your child to enjoy the thrill of competition and that improving skills and attitude are important.

3. Don’t relive your athletic life through your child! This creates added pressure that your child does not need. This is your child’s experience, let them enjoy it.

4. Don’t compete with the coach. Keep in mind that they are balancing the development of your child with the growth and progress of an entire athletic team. Often coaches have many considerations that are not obvious to parents.

6. Remember, young athletes tend to exaggerate when being praised and/or criticized. Temper your reaction until you investigate.

7. An athlete's self-confidence and self-image will be improved by support at home. Comparison to others is discouraged. Encourage the athlete to do their best regardless of family or friends who may have been outstanding players.

8. Insist on positive behavior in school and a high level of performance in the classroom. Numerous studies indicate extracurricular involvement helps enhance academic performance.

The job of an athlete parent is tough and takes a lot of effort to do it well. However, it is worth the effort when you hear your child say, “My parents really helped. I am lucky in this respect.”

I Am Ready For The Game
1. Cheer for our team and players. Opponents and referees deserve respect. Realize that players and officials will make mistakes. Your support is needed when things aren’t going well.

2. Concentrate on what is best for the team. Preoccupation with statistics can be very distracting.

3. Attempting to communicate with coaches, players, or officials during a game only creates tension and is completely unacceptable. Be a respectful spectator.

4. Conduct that draws unwanted attention to oneself usually leads to embarrassment for your child. Please keep their well-being in mind at all times. Don’t jeopardize losing the opportunity to watch your child participate.
How Do I Communicate The Right Way

Coaches have the authority over who becomes a participant of the team and when the participant plays or is removed from the team. The coaching staff determines coaching strategy. Acceptance of a position on the team includes acceptance of this policy. It is a privilege, not a right, to be a member of an athletic team.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
1. Situations involving your child.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Your child's attitude, work ethic, and eligibility.
4. Concerns about your child's behavior

Issues that are not appropriate to discuss with coaches or AD:
1. Playing time of any student-athlete
2. Team strategy, practice organization, or play calling.
3. Other student-athletes

Procedures to follow if there is a concern to discuss with a coach:
1. Your child should speak to the coach about an issue, before you intervene. This will help our student-athletes grow into young adults.
2. Contact the coach to set up an appointment. Give the coach a brief summary of what you want to discuss. This enables the coach to prepare to give you the best possible answers to your question(s). If the coach cannot be reached, contact the athletic director. The athletic director will assist you in arranging a meeting. Coaches will not talk to you unless you have arranged an appointment.
3. If a meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution, call to schedule an appointment with the athletic director to discuss the situation.

The 24-Hour Rule will be utilized for any in-season communication with the coaching staff. Contact with the coaching staff will not be allowed until 24 hours after an athletic event. The only exception to this rule is reporting an injury, illness or emergency situation.

SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

The Mt. Pulaski School District recognizes the importance of emphasizing GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP in all aspects of school related activities. With this in mind, the following are fundamentals of good sportsmanship in all activities that the district urges fans, spectators, participants, staff members, and parents to follow:

1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game.
2. Exercise positive behavior at all times.
3. Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation.
4. Exhibit respect for the opponents and officials at all times.
5. Openly display pride in your actions at every opportunity.
Unacceptable behavior shall include, but not be limited to, the following types of conduct. Such conduct will result in removal from the activity:

1. Insubordination to referees, coaches, or other school personnel supervising the activity.
2. Fighting, intimidation of, or attempt to intimidate, or taunting of referees, coaches, players, participants, or spectators.
3. Throwing debris or littering the playing field or facility.
4. Verbal abuse or use of profane or obscene words or gestures during a game or activity.
5. Disruptive behavior or conduct.

Mt. Pulaski School District #23 will not tolerate any violations of the above. Good sportsmanship is expected from everyone before, during, or after any interscholastic contest or other school related activity in our schools or any other place our students are competing/participating. Any concerns regarding any part of an athletic or activity program must follow the complaint procedures of that particular school. During or immediately after an event is NOT the proper time to raise questions or concerns about a program.

Violations of any of the above "FUNDAMENTALS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP" guidelines will result in the following consequences:

1. Immediate removal from the contest or activity.
2. Upon investigation by the administration of the schools involved violator(s) may be suspended from activities for a period up to one year depending upon the severity of the infraction.
3. Any suspension will be honored at all Mt. Pulaski School activities. That is, an individual suspended from one school will not be allowed to attend activities at any other school during suspension period.

ATHLETICS MEDIA USE POLICY
In an attempt to highlight the athletic achievements within our school district, Mt. Pulaski CUD #23 will utilize social media and news outlets to recognize the accomplishments of its teams and student athletes throughout the school year. Signing below acknowledges that you have given Mt. Pulaski CUD #23 permission to include your child’s picture and name for both individual and team recognition on all forms of social media and news outlets approved by the school media policy and/or the Mt. Pulaski CUD #23 Board of Education. In the instance that a parent does not want their child to receive recognition through social media and news outlets, a signed parental letter declining usage must be submitted to the technology director.

Please read the paragraph and sign it and return it to the coach by the end of the first week of practice. Failure to sign this document will exclude the athlete from participation in practices and athletic events until it has been signed. Please keep the expectations and policy handout. Only return the signed part of the form.
As a parent I have read the Student-Athlete Parent Expectations, Sportsmanship Policy, and Athletics Media Use Policy. I understand the ways I can help my child have the best athletic experiences possible, as well as the procedure for communicating with my child’s coach and will adhere to guidelines set forth for doing so. Furthermore, I understand the importance of Good Sportsmanship and agree to the school’s policies outlined in this document.

Parent Name(print): __________________________________________

Parent Signature: __________________________________________

(Student-Athlete Parent Expectations Document- May 2018)