



Vernon Secondary School

“Pride on the Hill”

Parent Code of Conduct

Vernon Secondary School views parents and guardians as integral partners in our Athletics Program. Parents are powerful role models for student-athletes, and your conduct should reflect the values of respect, sportsmanship, and community we expect from all members of VSS Athletics.

By participating in VSS Athletics, parents/guardians agree to the following expectations:

- **Respect officials and volunteers.** Remember that most scorekeepers are students volunteering their time. Mistakes may occur but are rarely intentional; please be patient and respectful.
- **Refrain from coaching from the sidelines.** Sideline coaching can confuse athletes and undermine a coach’s strategy and team direction.
- **Support all coaches.** Our coaches are volunteers giving their time for the benefit of student-athletes. Coaches are at different stages of development. Some are new to the sport, others have many years of experience, but *all are continuing to learn and improve their craft.*
- **Use positive and supportive language.** Negative comments toward players, other teams, visitors, officials, or coaches are not acceptable. Parents are expected to support *all* athletes, not just their own child.
- **Wait 24 hours before contacting a coach with concerns.** Parents must not approach coaches immediately after games or competitions. Please allow a minimum of 24 hours before initiating contact by email to schedule a meeting and to ensure respectful and productive communication. Athletes should be in attendance at meetings unless their absence is agreed upon by coach and parent.
- **Respect coaching decisions.** Team selection, including tryouts, playing time, practice squads, tournaments, and games, is solely at the discretion of the coach. These decisions are made using many factors and with the best interests of the team, school, and individual athlete in mind.
- **Encourage athlete-to-coach communication.** If an athlete has a concern, the athlete is encouraged to speak directly with the coach. If an issue is not resolved, parents may request a meeting with the coach, scheduled in advance. Coaches should not be confronted at athletic venues.
- **Follow the proper communication pathway.** If concerns remain after speaking with the coach, parents may contact the Athletic Director. This step should only occur *after* direct communication with the coach.
- **A breach of any of the above could result in consequences for a parent and/or athlete.**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the VSS Athletics Parent Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____