

## FLA Athletics Code of Conduct for parents

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of student athletes.

Through your encouragement and good example, you can help all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. At FLA, young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat - all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

- **Support Your STUDENT ATHLETE**

Support your son/daughter by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team. This is very important for them as well as for the rest of the team and the coaching staff.

Help your son/daughter work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your son/daughter that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory - that way your son/daughter will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game!

- **Always Be Positive**

Parents serve as role models for their children. Be aware of this fact and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your son/daughter's team as well as good plays by the opposing team.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports.

- **Remember: Your son/daughter Wants To Have Fun**

Remember that your son/daughter is the one playing the sport, not you. It's very important to let student athletes establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them.

Don't put too heavy a burden on your son/daughter to win games. Surveys reveal that 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winning team.

- **Reinforce Positive Behavior**

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your son/daughter achieve their goals and overcome their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your son/daughter does make one, remember it's all part of learning, so encourage your son/daughter's efforts and point out the good things your son/daughter accomplished.

- **Don't Be A Sideline Coach Or Referee**

FLA coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your son/daughter experience a positive one. They need your support, too.

That means refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. In an organization like FLA Athletics there's always an opportunity to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!

- **Check and respond to emails promptly.** Create your own account at [flapanthers.org](http://flapanthers.org) to receive updates and notifications about games, practices, etc.

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Parent Name

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Signature

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Date