

Sierra Foothill Athletic League Code of Conduct (est. 2013)

This Code of Conduct is **intended** to apply to the students who play, the coaches who coach, and the parents/fans who watch athletic competitions of the Sierra Foothill Athletic League schools ("SFAL"). SFAL member schools include:

Alta	Bowman Charter	Colfax
Foresthill	John Adams Academy	Gateway
Western Sierra Collegiate Academy	Maria Montessori Charter Academy	
	Weimar Hills	

Current Sports: Flag Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer and Track.

Philosophy

As a League, we want to:

1. Promote athletics as an educational experience provided to students as an extension of the classroom and an enhancement to a student's social, physical, and educational development;
2. Promote the spirit of sportsmanship, teamwork, and fair play with student-athletes and coaching staff(s) in athletic competition, minimizing the focus on wins and losses as sole factor of success;
3. Encourage coaches, parents, and fans to be positive examples and role models to student-athletes in the spirit of fair play and competition;
4. Coaches, student-athletes, and parents involved in SFAL sports should demonstrate the highest standards of ethics and sportsmanship.

I. Student-Athletes

The development of good character and other important life skills should be at the forefront of student-athlete participation. Playing sports is a privilege.

a. The League expects all of its athletes to:

- 1) Accept accountability for all behavior and its outcomes;
- 2) Honor obligations and promises;
- 3) Exercise self-control;
- 4) Be willing to be fair with others on and off the playing field;
- 5) Take pride in themselves and their accomplishments, but never at the expense of demeaning another person or group;
- 6) Respect the efforts of others;
- 7) Respect authority; and to
- 8) Play by the spirit, not just the letter, of the rules of the game/event.

b. **Attendance:** You must be enrolled and in full-time attendance at a SFAL school to be eligible to play.

- c. **Expectations of Attitude:** Student athletes are expected to be respectful of themselves and of others. They should be punctual, honest, and communicative, able to work as part of a team and conduct themselves in a way that brings honor to their school. Student athletes should follow all school rules and all rules related to their sport and respect the property of their own school of other schools that are visited throughout the schedule of their sport. No wandering around campuses by remaining at the event as expected to support their team and sport.
- d. **Academics:** Most student athlete codes of conduct demand academic excellence. Student athletes are both athlete and student, with an emphasis often placed on academics. Student athletes are to attend all classes unless absences are approved. They must also maintain an acceptable GPA, a 2.0 GPA with no F's. and maintain full-time status as a student. The Principal of your school is responsible for certifying the eligibility of all students representing your school in interscholastic athletics. If you have any questions concerning your athletic eligibility, either present or future, you should see your school Principal.
- e. **Sportsmanship:** Student athletes are expected to be a model of good sportsmanship at all times. Fair play, conforming to guidelines and adhering to the rules and regulations are all built into almost every student athlete code of conduct.

II. **Coaches**

SFAL Coaches are expected to lead by example. Member schools expect all of our coaches to demonstrate:

1. Respect for their players, officials and their peers;
2. Honesty, courtesy and exceptional manners;
3. Empathy for others and respect for differences among people and cultures; and to
4. Accept responsibility for their decisions and actions.

In addition, all SFAL Coaches will:

1. Go through a DOJ background check;
2. Be trained in First Aid / CPR; Concussion Course and Mandated Reporter
3. Be obligated to advise their School Principal if they suspect any student in their activity has been subjected to child abuse. (Mandated Reporter).

III. Parents

As parents, you play a vital role in the success of our League. We encourage your positive support of our League in the community as well as within your homes.

- a. With athletic teams in particular, there can be some highly stressful situations in our league: intense competition, imperfect officiating which can lead to emotional outbursts.
 - i. Knowing this, as coaches we try to remain positive in discussing team issues with your children.
 - ii. We want you to encourage your child, cheer for them, and try to keep things positive. Be a fan not an official or a coach.
- b. Appropriate Behavior
 - i. As parents, you are very closely connected to your child(ren)'s school. Because of this it is imperative that you behave in an appropriate manner when you're a spectator. We ask that you:
 1. Refrain from complaining to referees, coaches, teachers or coordinators during athletic events.
 2. Furthermore, we ask that you avoid shouting commands or criticism in the direction of players during athletic events. Often times, your child will pick up on voices / instructions which might contradict instructions given by coaches. This is an unfair situation for players to be in since they want to please both parties. This should also apply to practices in which most coaches don't allow parents/fans/or people outside of the team in closed practice situations due to possible distractions (stated above). In the case of an emergency or an excused pick up of a child a practice may be interrupted.
 3. If, at any moment, a particular fan or parent becomes overly vocal or obnoxious in the stands during an athletic event, our coaches have been instructed to take out any player connected to that particular spectator. In this situation, the only person who suffers is the player. We hold our coaches and players to a high standard, and we expect the same of our parents. If necessary, the parent of fan in question may be asked to leave the venue. If incompliant with that request, law enforcement will be called.
 4. Respect your own campus and other schools campuses/property and remain at the event that you are there to watch. Do not let your student athlete(s) or children wander around another school's campus or your own campus. Children must have proper supervision of an adult while at the athletic events.

