

# Pursue Victory With Honor With the Six Pillars of Character

True sportsmen and sportswomen live by the "Six Pillars of Character," universal values that define a good person: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.*

**Trustworthiness** Demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity • Enforce the spirit and letter of rules • Don't compromise education and character-development goals • Don't engage in or tolerate dishonesty, cheating or dishonorable conduct

**Respect** Treat the traditions of the sport and other participants with respect • Don't engage in or tolerate disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents or officials, profane or belligerent "trash talking," taunting or unseemly celebrations • Win with grace and lose with dignity

**Responsibility** Be a positive role model on and off the field and require the same of your athletes • Further the mental, social and moral development of athletes and teach life skills that enhance personal success and social responsibility • Maintain competence in: 1) character building, 2) first aid and safety, and 3) coaching principles, rules and strategies

**Fairness** Adhere to high standards of fair play • Treat players fairly according to their abilities • Never take unfair advantage • Be open-minded

**Caring** Assure that the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of a team or person involved in sport is always placed above desires and pressures to win

**Citizenship** Promote sportsmanship and avoid gamesmanship by honoring the rules and goals of the sport • Establish codes of conduct for coaches, athletes, parents and spectators • Safeguard the health of athletes and the integrity of the sport by prohibiting the use of alcohol and tobacco • Demand compliance with all laws and regulations, including those relating to gambling and drug use

## An Effective Character-Development Program Is:

- **Purposeful.** Articulate clear and explicit objectives, and design all program elements to influence values and behavior.
- **Pervasive.** The Six Pillars of Character should permeate all aspects of organizational activity and all direct contacts with student-athletes.
- **Repetitive.** Convey messages about the meaning and importance of the Six Pillars repeatedly and conspicuously, using common language and definitions.
- **Consistent.** Be sure attitudes, words and actions are consistent with the Six Pillars, regardless of how inconvenient or costly it may be.
- **Creative.** The program must go beyond moralizing, and should employ an array of lively teaching strategies to engage the imagination.
- **Concrete.** Show the Six Pillars at work in concrete, realistic and relevant situations.



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