

Feinstein Middle School of Coventry

Athlete's Participation Pledge

Feinstein Coventry public schools believe that it is the function of the Athletic department to provide a sports program which develops physical fitness, character, sports understanding, school spirit, sportsmanship and a spirit of competitiveness in each girl and boy. All parents and students are expected to understand the content and implications of School Committee Policy 5131.9 (Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) and Rhode Island Hazing Law 11-21-1 as they apply to participation on a school sponsored athletic team.

All athletes are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for self, respect for teammates, respect for opponents and their fans, respect for coaching staff and respect for officials. Athletes are representatives of Feinstein Middle School and participation in school sponsored athletics is an honor and a privilege.

Harassment, intimidation and bullying will not be tolerated in the Coventry schools. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying harm the school community. They disrupt a school's ability to educate students, threaten public safety, and may inflict physical or psychological harm on the victims. In the context of School Committee Policy 5131.9, "at school" refers to "any location inside a school, on school property, immediately adjacent to school property, on a school bus or other school vehicle, at school bus stops, while students are walking to or from school, or at any school sponsored activity or event, whether or not held on school property.

Furthermore, "Bullying occurs when a student, while at school, intentionally assaults, batters, threatens, harasses, stalks, menaces, intimidates, extorts, humiliates, or taunts another student. Bullying also occurs when a student or a group of students organize a campaign of shunning against another student or when a student or group of students maliciously spread rumors about another student."

Failure to abide by this important policy will result in one or more of the following:

- Loss of opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletic teams
- In house suspension
- Out of school suspension for up to ten school days
- Referral to school resource officer

Finally, "Students who observe an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying or who have reasonable grounds to believe that bullying is taking place are **obligated** to report it to school authorities. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action."

PLEASE SEE REVERSE

The Rhode Island Hazing Law 11-21-1 states that hazing “shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include, but not be limited to , whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forcible consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of the student or any other person, or which subjects the student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.”

In most cases, incidents of hazing will be handled by the school. Violators of this law will result in one or more of the following:

- O. Loss of opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletic teams
- O. In house suspension
- O. Out of school suspension for up to ten school days
- O. Referral to school resource officer

Obviously, conducting oneself appropriately is not only important to ensure a productive and fun athletic experience, it is **mandatory!**

Athlete’s Pledge:

I have reviewed the information included in this document with my coach and with my parent(s) or guardians. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with this athletic agreement.

Athlete’s Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent’s (or Guardian’s) Pledge:

I have reviewed the discussed the information included in this document with my child. I agree to encourage my child to conduct himself/herself in accordance with this athletic agreement and I am aware of the consequences if my child fails to conduct himself/herself appropriately as a member of an athletic team at Feinstein Middle School.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

This pledge must be signed and returned to Feinstein Middle School in order to participate in tryouts, practice, or an athletic event.