

## **Willard LEARNS Sports Student-Athlete Contract**

The following are the regulations and expectations of the Berkeley LEARNS Middle School Athletic Programs, and of the Willard LEARNS After School Sports Program.

### **Student Behavior**

I will follow the rules of the school Student Handbook, and I will treat all members of the school community respectfully. I understand that playing time is subject to this requirement, and that suspension from school may be grounds for suspension from games or dismissal from the sports team.

### **Athlete Sportsmanship**

I will not use foul language or inappropriate gestures on or off the playing field/court. I won't address any official unless I am a captain. I shall be respectful of officials, coaches, players, event personnel, and fans at all times. I shall also be careful in the use of any facility so as to cause no damage. I understand this is the appropriate conduct for student-athletes, and I shall govern myself accordingly. Failure to follow to any of the above mentioned rules may end my participation in the athletic program and risk suspension from school.

### **Attendance Policy**

All athletes are expected to attend **all practices** and games unless they are ill. If an athlete is ill or injured but able to attend school, they are expected to attend and observe practice sessions and games. If a student-athlete does not attend school, they are not permitted to attend practice sessions or games. Players must arrive on time with required equipment (shoes, practice clothes or uniform) and be ready to practice or play.

### **Cell Phones & Electronics**

Cell phones and other electronics are distractions and should be silenced or turned off during "Team Time" and as such will not be permitted during practices, games or team meetings. To avoid penalties, please confirm your plans with family members before the school day begins.

### **Playing Time**

Understand that this is a competitive environment, and *there is no guarantee of minimum playing time*. In the interest of fairness and commitment to the learning experience of each player, consideration will be given to all players for an opportunity to play during the season. The coaches will make decisions on player selections, game lineup, player position and amount of playing time. Players must be positive in fulfilling their assigned role for the team at any moment, which may include not playing, coming off the bench, or playing a different position.

# Berkeley LEARNS

## Parent Contract

### Parent Sportsmanship

Parents are fans, and must demonstrate consistent good sportsmanship. Only coaches can talk to officials, either in person or from afar. Keep all comments from the stands and sidelines positive and supportive of all participants. Poor sportsmanship from parents is unacceptable, and playing time of athletes may be reduced or halted if parents conduct themselves in an inappropriate manner. Personal parent-to-player or parent-to-coach contact during game time is prohibited. Conduct and communication must reflect the understanding that **our school's reputation is built on sportsmanship, and the presentation set forth by each parent and fan.** In short, don't spoil it for future Willard teams and athletes.

### Parent Expectations

- I will not force my child to participate in sports. The choice to tryout and participate must be the child's.
- I will never ridicule or embarrass my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for the kids, not adults.
- I will make transportation arrangements with my child before game days, and pick my child up promptly following all practices and games.

### Sideline Coaching

Because a team will perform best when following one voice and one set of instructions, no sideline or bleacher coaching will be allowed. Shouting instructions to players or coaches during games creates unwanted distractions from the learning process. Your vocal support and positive encouragement are welcome after a good play, but "Run" or "Drive" or "Shoot" are interpreted as instructions and as such are problematic. Berkeley LEARNS Middle School Athletic Program insists the team coaches be the only voice at all games and practices. **Only assigned coaches may sit with the team during Game Time; please respect the space necessary for the coach and team to carry out their responsibilities.**

## **Team Development**

Success for LEARNS Program teams will be measured in many ways. At times, coaches will instruct players to do things that parents and fans may not understand or agree with. Team and player development will often be prioritized over winning. Parents must respect the larger goals of the program as implemented by our volunteer coaches.

## **Playing Time (“PT”)**

There is NO guarantee of minimum PT. In the interest of fairness and commitment to the learning process of each player, consideration will be given to all players for an opportunity to play during the season. The coaches will make decisions on player selections, game lineup, position and amount of PT. Parents and players must remain positive in fulfilling the role that our student-athletes are asked to perform, which may include not playing, coming off the bench, or playing a different position.

## **“Team Time” & Visiting**

At Willard, Team Time begins when the school day ends. **Our teams are expected to start & finish Team Time together without interruption.**

“Team Time” includes the ALL of the following pieces & processes:

- Dressing for games
- Eating snack
- Traveling (as needed)
- Warming up
- Playing / competing during a game / match / contest
- Debriefing during Halftime
- Debriefing after games

Student-athletes will be expected to be physically and mentally present for the entire Team Time (post-game meeting included), and will be released by their coaches upon completion of the above listed activities. Please respect the entire process, and encourage your child to be a productive part of it from start to finish.

## **Cell Phones & Electronics**

Cell phones & electronics distract student-athletes from the team experience, and as such will not be permitted during practices, games or team meetings. To avoid penalties, please confirm your plans with parents/guardians before the school day begins and ensure phones are silenced or turned off during Team Time.

## **Student Behavior**

Student-athletes must follow the rules of the school Student Handbook, and treat all members of the school community respectfully. I understand that playing time is subject to this requirement, and that suspension from school may be grounds for suspension from games or dismissal from the sports team.

## **Attendance Policy**

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## **Registration and Fees**

Each player must have all required forms completed (including but not limited to the LEARNS After School Program registration packet) and on file in the ASP (After School Program) office. Fees for the season are equivalent to regular ASP monthly fees. Fees have a top tier rate but are subject to a sliding scale based on family income. Students will not be turned away from participation for lack of funds or payment; please contact the ASP Coordinator for more information.

## **Uniforms**

Like Library books, our uniforms are provided on loan for the duration of the season. Uniforms must be washed in cold and hang-dried, and must not be worn at any time outside of the appropriate Team Time window, unless being worn home from a game. Uniforms are the responsibility of the student-athlete and their family or guardian(s), and must be returned at the end of the season in the condition they were received in. Any uniforms that need replacing due to loss, damage or theft are the financial responsibility of the parent/guardian.