

# **ALBEMARLE ROWING CODE OF ETHICS**

## **Introduction**

The student athletes of Albemarle Rowing Team present this code of ethics to outline our expectations for our community's participation in athletics. We envision an athletic community in which there is mutual respect among parents, athletes, coaches, fans and administrators. In this community, all involved in athletics model behaviors for the community to watch and learn positive examples from. Coaches have a rare and valuable influence on athletes in the community; likewise, athletes are valued as community leaders and role models. The special trust required for coaching must have its own checks and balances due to coaches' power and influence. To be an athlete of Albemarle Rowing Team is a privilege and a role that is taken seriously. Athletes must display the highest ethical standards; therefore, this ethics code was written by student athletes for the benefit of all players on our team: parents, coaches, fans, administrators, and student-athletes alike. This code does not circumvent policies of the VHSL, VASRA or the Albemarle County School Board.

## **Code of Ethics for Athletes and Captains**

- Athletes will understand that participation in an extracurricular activity is contingent upon following the code of conduct for athletics (i.e. the training rule).
- Athletes will respect officials, players, and coaches on their team and other teams.
- Athletes will maintain good character and sportsmanship, remembering that they are representing AHS Crew on and off the water, and will take their position as role models in the school and community seriously at all times.
- Athletes will respect the authority of their coaches.
- Athletes, as teammates, will be aware of rower to rower relationships, helping to solve problems when they affect team dynamics and maintaining good leadership.
- Athletes will be aware of their ability to hold their teammates accountable for abiding by the training rules and the Albemarle Rowing Team Code of Ethics.

## **Code of Ethics for Parents and Fans**

- Parents will respect and understand the boundaries in their relationships with the coaching staff and not perform special favors that benefit their child.
- While attending an official athletic contest, parents and fans will maintain appropriate behavior regardless of the outcome of the athletic contest.
- Parents and fans will refrain from demeaning language at an athletic event.
- Parents and fans will not coach from the stands.
- Parents and fans will honor that AHS and regatta and practice venues are drug, alcohol, and tobacco free zones.
- Parents and fans will not make offensive posters or gestures about either team at a regatta.
- Parents and fans will respect the decisions of the race officials.
- Parents and fans will understand that attending an Albemarle High School athletic event is a privilege.

## **Code of Ethics for Coaching Staff**

- Coaches will in no way jeopardize the well-being of any athlete.
- Coaches will not allow relationships of special interest to influence their professional judgments (i.e. placement in a specific boat). Relationships that are nepotistic or associate team with a club team will be avoided.
- Coaches will honor and emphasize the importance of the student athlete training rules (i.e. regulations on drugs and alcohol) and will not turn them into “don’t ask, don’t tell” policies.
- Coaches will initiate honesty, encourage open communications, and be good role models.
- Coaches will uphold confidentiality when necessary.
- Ethical standards for all athletes will be consistent, as well as the punishments for not meeting those standards.
- Coaches will commit to the improvement of all athletes on a team, not only the varsity rowers.
- Coaches will communicate to all team members about opportunities for skill development (e.g. clinics and summer programs) and opportunities to represent the school and community.
- Coaches will be aware of their authority and demand respect from their athletes.
- Coaches will treat officials and opposing teams honorably and respectfully.
- Coaches will be aware of disputes between rowers and work to solve them when team dynamics are affected.
- Coaches will represent their rowers in a fair fashion to the media.
- Coaches will display good sportsmanship on and off the water at all times, and teach student athletes to display good sportsmanship.
- Coaches will be respectful to athletes, officials, parents and administrators.
- Coaches will hold student athletes on their team accountable for abiding by this code of ethics.

Coaches, Athletes, Team Captains, Parents and Fans will abide by and respect VHSL & VASRA rules. Administrators will support and exemplify these behaviors and standards and will follow the rules of the VHSL and VASRA.