

North Allegheny Rowing Association

Parent/Guardian Guidelines and Responsibilities

The mission of the North Allegheny Rowing Association is to promote a competitive rowing program for the school district's high school students that embodies the essential elements of sportsmanship and ethics through the principles of respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship, and encourage character building and personal growth through winning and losing with dignity and self control.

I. Parent Guidelines

The information below is provided as a guide for North Allegheny Rowing Association (NARA) parents for your productive involvement with and contribution to the success of the NARA and your rower(s). Given the mission of this organization, you are asked to review and agree to the following:

A. General Matters

1. I will remember that rowers participate to enjoy the sport and that the experience is for the student athletes, not the adults.
2. I will emphasize skill development, practices and healthy competition, and that doing one's best is more important than winning.
3. I will demand that my rower treat other athletes, coaches, officials, parents, chaperones, volunteers, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
4. I will keep myself informed of team activities and issues by participating regularly in parent meetings, reading newsletters and information e-mails sent to me for this purpose by the team officers, and by familiarizing myself with information provided on the team website.
5. I acknowledge that volunteering on the part of the parents is vital to the team as a whole and I will volunteer my time to the best of my ability.
6. I will demand a sports environment for my rower that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all team events.
7. I will learn the rules of the sport of rowing and the policies of the NARA.
8. I understand that the use of team addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses is solely for the purpose of disseminating necessary team information. Use of this contact information for any personal matters is prohibited.

B. Practices and Competitions

1. I and my guests will be positive role models for my rower and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect, courtesy, and positive support for my rower and teammates, all other competitors, coaches, chaperones, volunteers, officials and spectators at every practice, regatta or other sporting event. I and my guests will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
2. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my rower to win.
3. I will refrain from coaching my rower or other rowers during practices and competitions unless specifically requested to do so by a coach.
4. I will respect the property and equipment used at all sports facilities, at home or away.
5. I will refrain from criticizing coaches or other association leaders to my rower, as this displays disrespect on my part and encourages disrespect on theirs.

C. Interaction with the Coaching Staff

1. I will immediately inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my rower or the safety of others.

2. I will encourage my rower to speak directly and courteously with the coach if he/she is having difficulties in training or competition, or cannot attend training or a competition. I understand that assuming responsibility for one's own actions – for better or worse - is an important part of maturation, and that ultimately my rower will benefit.
3. I will never question or confront coaches at practices, competitions, or other team events, and will arrange to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
4. If I need to contact my rower's coach regarding clarification of matters such as training schedules, nutrition and health and college recruiting, I will do so via the contact method designated by my rower's coach and at a time that is mutually convenient, anticipating a timely response.

D. Conduct and Conflict Resolution

1. I will expect my rower to abide by the North Allegheny Rowing Association (NARA) Rower Code of Conduct and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
2. If I believe there has been misconduct on the part of one or more rowers, coaches, parents or others, I will abide by the following guidelines for issue resolution:
 - o During team trips, I will report any misconduct immediately to the head chaperone assigned to that trip and the head chaperone will be responsible to investigate the issue and involve coaches and association board members as needed.
 - o During other team activities, I will report any misconduct to the head coach immediately if urgent at that moment or immediately after the activity if not urgent. The preferred method for communication after the fact is via e-mail. The head coach will involve other coaches, board members or parents as needed.
 - o I understand that the process of following up on my allegations is a matter of privacy between the accused party(ies) and the coaches. Unless the matter directly impacts me or my rower, I will not be advised further.
3. I will support the coaches and chaperones when they deem that my rower or other rowers require discipline. I will not interfere in disciplinary matters. However, if I believe that the discipline required of my rower is unreasonable, I will express my concerns via e-mail to the head coach. The head coach and I will arrange a mutually convenient time to further discuss my concerns, if needed.
4. If, and only if, I have followed the processes outlined in 2. and 3. above for issue resolution and have not received a timely or appropriate response on an issue directly impacting me or my rower, I and/or the head coach or association Board may contact the Athletic Director of the North Allegheny School District for final resolution.

II. Summary and Signature

- A. I recognize that membership in this association is a privilege, not a right. By paying my rower's dues and competition fees, I am supporting the club, its coaches and its athletes. However, paying these costs does not entitle me to be involved in decisions about competition schedules, training methodology or placement in boats. These decisions are the sole province of the coaches. If my rower has a question or concern, it is my rower's responsibility to discuss it in a respectful manner directly with his/her coach.
- B. Failure to abide by the guidelines listed in this document may result not only in my own discipline but also in the discipline of my rower. I recognize that my family and/or my guests may also be subject to disciplinary actions. Based upon the severity and/or frequency of offenses, disciplinary actions could include the following: verbal warnings, written warnings, and temporary or permanent suspension from team activities.

I have read the above document, and will adhere to the guidelines therein.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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Date