



# PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT & CODE OF CONDUCT

## for Athletes and Parents/Guardians

page 1 of 3

### Team Values

Our WJ Crew Team values are simple:

- **Personal Dedication**
- **Mutual Support**
- **Shared Achievement**

These values are key to all the responsibilities and obligations that each athlete has to him or herself, the team, coaches, competitors, and all those they come into contact with while practicing their sport.

This agreement outlines the specific expectations and procedures that follow from these values. Each athlete and one parent/guardian must read, sign and date, and return this agreement as part of a complete Sportsengine registration, to affirm that they understand and commit to all the terms in this agreement and code. **Coaches will not allow an athlete to practice, race or otherwise participate with WJ Crew until the attached signed acknowledgment form has been returned.** This Code of Conduct seeks to foster the health, safety and welfare of all participants and establishes high expectations and standards for all who participate in and support the Team's activities.

### General Conduct

#### Respect for our Team and Others

**Team members are representatives of Walter Johnson High School and WJ Crew at all times, including but not limited to practices, competitive events, any other team events or functions, and on team trips.** Team members are expected to act responsibly and ethically;

observe all policies; observe all safety and behavioral instructions from the bus drivers when commuting to and from practice; respect property; and act in accordance with the directives of the coaches, chaperones, and any other persons of authority. Team members are expected to exhibit good sporting behavior and maintain a polite and respectful manner to all persons in all situations, in person and online.

Participation is viewed as a privilege. Student Athletes who choose to join the team are expected to lead by example and recognize their role in creating a safe environment that encourages sportsmanship for the team. **Disrespect, abuse or improper behavior involving a teammate, coach, parent, member of another team or member of the WJ community will not be tolerated and may establish the grounds for removal from the team.** All team members are expected to be familiar with the standards of behavior included in this Code of Conduct, and any referenced in A Student's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities in Montgomery County Public Schools ("Student's Guide"), as they may be revised from time to time. Any behavior contrary to ethical, legal, and appropriate conduct standards, as set out in any WJ Crew or MCPS policies or rules, including any countywide disciplinary infraction referenced in the Student's Guide may provide the basis for suspension or removal from the team. This Code of Conduct and the policies above offer general guidance when addressing the conduct of student athletes. It does not enumerate each and every instance for which discipline may be imposed. A Code of Conduct infraction and any consequences imposed, will be determined on a case-by-case basis, reviewing the specific facts and impacts of the situation by The Board of Directors of WJ Crew, in consultation with the WJ Crew coaches.

### Safety

Students and parents must read the WJ Crew Safety Guide on the WJ Crew website and comply with all safety rules and procedures. **Full compliance with all safety rules and procedures is a necessary part of the sport of rowing and is a condition for participation on WJ Crew.**

### Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy

Alcohol and illegal drug use is strictly forbidden for all athletes participating on our team. Substance abuse runs completely contrary to both the wellbeing of our athletes and the spirit of the sport. Coaches are the primary enforcers of this team policy and are responsible for addressing violations directly with the athletes. The coaches have discretion in determining the consequences that violators will face.



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page 2 of 3

### School Residency Policy

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WJ Crew requires that all team members attend Walter Johnson High School.

### Academic Eligibility

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**Students must always strive to be in good academic standing while a member of the team.** Students must attend all their scheduled classes in order to participate in a practice or race on that day. If the principal or designee grants an excused absence in advance for a prescheduled activity, or an unforeseen emergency, the student may participate on that day. **A student may not participate in a practice or race when he/she is serving an in- school or out-of-school suspension.** The student becomes eligible to participate in team activities on the next school day following the suspension. A student may be suspended or removed from the team for excessive unexcused absences from school.

### Inclusion Policy

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WJ Crew follows the official MCPS policy on inclusion, as follows:

1. All students who achieve fundamental eligibility criteria established by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association ("MPSSAA") and Montgomery County Public Schools ("MCPS") may try out for MCPS interscholastic athletic teams.
2. Eligibility criteria are included in the MPSSAA Handbook and the MCPS High School Athletics Handbook.
3. Our team shall provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities.
4. A student may be excluded from trying out for or participating in a sport if it is determined that the student's participation will cause danger (for the student or for other students), creates significant safety concerns (for the student or other students), competitive imbalances, or requires accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature of the sport

### Bladensburg Waterfront Park & Other Practice or Racing Sites

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Team members will obey the rules of the Bladensburg Waterfront Park and any other marinas, clubs and facilities the team visits and will refrain from any conduct disruptive to the facility or other participants/visitors. Team members may not leave the designated practice or race area without express dismissal from the coaching staff and chaperones.

### Parents' Responsibility and Conduct

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**Parents are expected to show respect for team members, coaches, opposing team members and coaches, race officials, and other parents and spectators.** Parents should respect the informed decision-making of the coaches regarding participant qualifications, practice assignments, and boat and seat placement. Parents should conduct themselves appropriately and never use foul or abusive language with anyone in any way connected to the WJ Crew community and its activities. Parents should be familiar with the rules of the competition and are expected to respect the integrity and judgment of race officials at all times. If a parent feels a need to communicate a concern regarding his or her child, a coaching decision or another rowing matter, the parent should contact the Board President or Coaches' Liaison in the first instance, who will help to resolve the matter. On race day, parents should be respectful of the need for athletes and coaches to focus on racing, and for safety reasons stay clear of the boathouse, boat racks, trailer, and dock area.

### Parent and Rower Fundraising and Volunteer Commitment

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**As a club sport, WJ Crew receives no financial support from the school or the county school system.** Thus, the responsibility to run a safe, well-supervised, and competitive program rests with team members and their families. Each team family is expected to participate fully in all of the fundraising events planned for the season. **Volunteerism is the cornerstone of WJ Crew's success.** Without parents, competitive scholastic racing would not exist. A wide range of volunteer jobs is available throughout the year and each family's help is needed. Each team family must commit to at least two volunteer jobs throughout both the fall and spring seasons. In addition, each family is expected to make several contributions of food, supplies and/or services at regattas and team dinners.



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### Participation Agreement and Code of Conduct Acknowledgement

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Please return completed acknowledgement to [chair@walterjohnsoncrew.org](mailto:chair@walterjohnsoncrew.org)

The undersigned parent/guardian and athlete state that:

- We have read the WJ Crew Participation Agreement and Code of Conduct and understand its terms, conditions, and standards.
- We agree to abide by the terms, conditions, and standards of the WJ Crew Participation Agreement and Code of Conduct. We understand that failure to do so could result in removal from the team at the discretion of the Board of Directors of WJ Crew, in consultation with the WJ Crew coaches.
- We understand it is our responsibility to be aware of and adhere to the additional standards, rules, and requirements set forth by WJ Crew as the season(s) progress and as circumstances may dictate.

Student Printed Name

Grade

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Student Signature

Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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