



Core Value Script

Included is a script for each of the five Champions of Character® core values. One or more student-athletes can deliver the core value messages and we recommend involving your leaders to the presentation.

Tips for the presentation: Student-athletes are free to improvise and add to the fun of the presentation. When you get to the value you best identify with, let the team know. Provide personal and team applications/expectations for each value as well.

BEGIN

"The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Champions of Character program is designed to instill an understanding of character values in sport and provide practical tools for student-athletes, coaches, and athletic administrators to use in modeling exemplary character traits. The NAIA developed the Champions of Character program in response to the growing problem of deteriorating standards of integrity in sports and society. At a time when all of sport has experienced increasingly inappropriate behavior by athletes, coaches, and fans, NAIA Champions of Character raises the standards for positive student-athlete development in athletics and academics. The NAIA Champions of Character program has established five core values that stretch well beyond the playing field. The NAIA identifies those core values as: integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership. These character values help student-athletes and those associated with their development, make good choices in all aspects of their life and reflect the true spirit of competition.

The NAIA urges every team to become strongly involved with its own Champions of Character program and the programs of its institution and conference, in fostering a positive atmosphere, an attitude of sportsmanship and a safe experience for all at its athletic events. But what exactly is Champions of Character? Champions of Character is the delivery of the five core values message that is then put into application whether you are a player, coach, fan, or official. Let's get started...

INTEGRITY

Who here can tell me what INTEGRITY is? *(Take a few answers.)* Great answers!

When we say INTEGRITY we mean: knowing and doing what is right. In other words, who you are on the inside helps you make decisions about your actions on the outside. I like to think of it as, "What do you do when no one else is looking?"

INTEGRITY is about you! Uno, One, Me Oh My.

There are many ways we can show INTEGRITY. For instance, I can show integrity by completing my workout at 100% when I have to work out separate from the team. An example in the classroom would be not getting the test questions from the class that took the same test the day before.

Can you think of ways you can show your INTEGRITY on and off the field of competition? *(Examples: Being truthful and consistent, being honest in your school work, playing by the rules, never letting your emotions stand in the way of your performance.)* Those are all great examples.

Let's recap. INTEGRITY is knowing and doing what is right. So if you have INTEGRITY it will help you make good decisions and choices. It's doing the right thing when everyone is looking and staying consistent and doing the same action when no one is looking.



RESPECT

Who can tell me what RESPECT means? *(Take a few answers.)* Thanks and those are all good answers!

What's the golden rule? *(Have everyone say it at the same time.)*

Guess what? You already know how the NAIA defines RESPECT.

RESPECT means treating others in a way you would want to be treated. RESPECT is important because without it you can't have a good relationship with others or build a great team.

RESPECT is the one-on-one relationship. That relationship can be between your teammate, opponent, coach/teacher, etc.

There are many ways to show RESPECT. For instance, I show RESPECT to my teacher/coach by taking correction and being eager to learn.

I show RESPECT to my teammates by coming prepared to play my best each practice and game. I leave any distractions or baggage I may have at the door and focus 100% on my team.

Can you think of ways you show RESPECT to your teacher, coach, classmates or teammates? *(Listen for examples.)*

Good examples.

Don't forget the golden rule - it's important to have RESPECT and treat others in a way you would want treated.



RESPONSIBILITY

So, we've talked about Integrity, Respect, and the third core value is RESPONSIBILITY.

Who can tell me what that means? *(Take a few answers.)* Thanks and great answers!

We say RESPONSIBILITY is embracing the opportunity to contribute. It means that I know I own my duty to my team and I want them to be able to count on me to do my job. I try to do my duty and be responsible to my team by *[give examples i.e. keeping up with school work, working hard at practice]*. I know if I don't do my job I'm not being a very good teammate and I'm letting the team down.

RESPONSIBILITY is your relationship and duty to all the various groups/teams you are a part of.

We are all part of many teams. There's your team at home, your class or school team and your athletic team. Can you tell me how you show your RESPONSIBILITY to one of those teams? *(Take a few examples.)*

Those are all great examples.

So remember RESPONSIBILITY is embracing the opportunity to contribute and it's important to fulfill your responsibilities at home, at school or with your team.



SPORTSMANSHIP

Core Values are Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, and 4th, SPORTSMANSHIP.

Who can tell me what SPORTSMANSHIP means? *(Take a few answers.)* Thanks and great answers!

SPORTSMANSHIP is bringing your best to any competition. It means reacting correctly even when others do not to situations inside and outside of sports.

The NAIA looks at SPORTSMANSHIP as your relationship to your opponent.

For instance, on a hot day, how do you react when someone cuts in front of you in line for a drink? *(Take a few answers.)*

If you were demonstrating good SPORTSMANSHIP, how could you react?

I can show good SPORTSMANSHIP by *[give examples i.e. congratulating the winner when I lose]*.

What are some other ways that you can show good SPORTSMANSHIP at home, in the classroom and with your team? *(Listen for answers.)*
Great answers!

So remember SPORTSMANSHIP is bringing your best to any competition.



SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Finally, the last core value; we have Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship, and SERVANT LEADERSHIP. To some this can be the most difficult of the core values to embrace.

Why do you think that is? Maybe it's because the focus is not on you. Who can tell me what SERVANT LEADERSHIP means? *(Take a few answers.)* Thanks and those are all great answers!

We define SERVANT-LEADERSHIP as serving the common good. It is doing the best you can to help others. Others could be your family, classmates, school, athletic team or your community. Anyone can be a good servant-leader and you don't have to be a captain, or be in charge.

For instance, I serve my team by *[give examples i.e. setting a good example, helping clean up after practice]*.

What are some ways you can be a good servant leader at home, at school or with your team? *(Listen for examples.)* Great answers!

So remember all of you can show SERVANT LEADERSHIP, serve the common good, help others and do your best for your family, school or team.



CONCLUSION

Today you've heard about the five Champions of Character core values. Throughout your NAIA career they will become engrained. The NAIA wants to teach student-athletes how they apply the five core values of Champions of Character to everyday life both on and off the field.

Let's review the five core values:

INTEGRITY is the positive internal traits that guide behavior. If you have integrity on the inside you'll make good choices on the outside. It's what you do when no one else is looking.

The golden rule - RESPECT is treating others the way you would want to be treated. You can't build a good relationship or good team without respect.

RESPONSIBILITY is the social force that binds me to the team. Remember you are part of many teams who are counting on you so it's important for you to do your duty to the team.

SPORTSMANSHIP is following the rules, spirit and etiquette of the competition or event. We can demonstrate good sportsmanship in many ways inside and outside of sports.

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP is serving the greater good. It is helping others and doing the best you can for your family, class, school or team.

Now that you have learned what the five core values are and how they are defined it is important to model the values on and off the field. So you can say proudly, "I am a Champion of Character."