



Sport Parent/Coach/Spectator Code of Conduct

It is expected that youth sports activities are supposed to be fun! Especially for children. Unfortunately, some parents, fans and coaches have a difficult time expressing their views and controlling their emotions. This usually results in an undesirable situation for all involved! Most of all the children. Parents, coaches and fans that comply with this simple code will reinforce what youth sports are really all about! **HAVING FUN.**

Parents and Spectators are expected to comply with the following:

1. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
2. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.

13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.

14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.

15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

18. I will ensure to the utmost of my ability that reliable, on time transportation is provided for my child to and from practices and games.

Failure to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines can/will result in disciplinary action.

Inappropriate behavior by a parent/coach/spectator will result in the following: 1st Incident: The parent/coach/spectator will receive one verbal warning with a written confirmation by the sports board. If the spectator is a minor, parents will be notified. 2nd Incident: The parent/coach/spectator will be suspended or expelled from the event or facility.

If a parent/coach/spectator physically strikes or takes any other action that poses a threat of bodily harm to himself or others, the individual will be immediately suspended or expelled from the facility & recreation activities with no review. Any violation of common law will result in local law enforcement authorities being notified and legal action will be pursued. The severity of the incident or incidents will dictate the severity of the consequences. Inappropriate behavior is defined as use of inappropriate language; threatening or causing bodily harm to others; harassment (in any manner) of officials, coaches, players, spectators, program coordinators, Recreation Department Staff, etc.; defacing and/or damaging Town property, equipment, supplies or facilities.