

CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches

Every coach is obliged to conduct him or herself along the following guidelines:

I. Present and Promote the Ideals of Sportsmanship, Ethical Conduct and Fair Play

- Be a living example of sportsmanship—coaches are the primary influence on the players
- Make participation fun and be a leader who cares about children and fair play
- Maintain a positive attitude and treat all players with the same respect of skill level
- Teach players to respect the officials and their teammates
- Winning is desirable, but winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game
- Remember, the game is supposed to benefit the players, not the adults

II. Establish and Maintain a Positive Relationship with Officials

- Respect the official's judgment. Do not question decision by word or action. Set a good example for your players.
- It is never acceptable to yell at any official.
- Demonstrate dignity and self-control towards officials and their decisions.
- Immediately discipline any player who intimidates an official or displays unsportsmanlike behavior toward an official (or anyone else).
- Do not attempt to humiliate an official or opponent (verbally assault an official, another coach or team).
- Assume responsibility for parents' behaviors towards officials and opponents at games. Discuss behavior with parents.

III. The Coach's Personal Behavior

a)

- The use of profanity, tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol in the presence of any player is prohibited.
- Actively discourage players' use of profanity, tobacco, illegal drugs and alcohol
- Be an example—display self-discipline
- Communicate—stress the positive, listen to all sides
- Follow your team during the post-game handshake

b)

Be Aware of Appropriate Physical Gestures

Please make sure you are aware that what may seem like an innocent touch or gesture may also be perceived as inappropriate or sexual harassment.

Examples of not appropriate behavior:

Kissing
Stroking hair
Petting
Hugs
Spanking

Examples of appropriate behavior:

Shaking hands
Pat on the back
Restraining for safety reason
Hi 5
arm around the shoulder

Try to avoid any contact that may jeopardize your relationship with a player or his or her parents.

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Players

Every player is expected to show sportsmanlike behavior

I. Toward Officials:

- Respect all decisions made by officials (do not argue, comment or question any decision made by an umpire)
- Treat the umpire in the same manner you would like to be treated. Ask yourself, “What if I was the umpire?”
- Take responsibility for setting a good example for your teammates and spectators.

II. Toward Teammates and Coaches:

- Show your willingness to work as part of a team
- Encourage teammates
- Show respect to all teammates regardless of skill
- Come prepared for the game physically and mentally
- Be on time and be courteous—without your teammates, there would be no team

III. Toward Opponents:

- Show respect for your opponents
- Always shake hands at the end of each game
- Uncomplimentary remarks to or concerning opponents should never be made
- Opponents are necessary friends—without them, there would be no games

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Parents

Parents should remember that:

- Children have more need of example than criticism
- Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it. A child is easily affected by outside influences
- Be supportive of the coach. In most cases, the coach is a volunteer giving up personal time and money to provide a recreational activity for your child
- The opponents are necessary friends—without them, your child could not participate
- Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team
- Do not openly question an official’s judgment or honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship
- Parents are to remain in the benched area unless otherwise asked by the coach to help
- Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat in victory by working towards improvement