

Mansfield Township Recreation Parent Code of Conduct

Children's sports are supposed to be fun - for the children. Unfortunately, many parents, fans, and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults.

That is why the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation (NYSSF), a non-profit educational organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth in sports, convened a consensus meeting with representatives from more than thirty sports, medical, educational, and professional organizations to create the following Code of Conduct for parents and spectators to abide by at every game. Parents, fans, and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about... **BEING FUN FOR EVERYONE.**

As a Parent/Guardian, I agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
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 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 other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning.
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.

I, as parent/guardian, assume all risks and responsibilities for my child/myself while participating in the Recreation Program. As parent/guardian of the registered child, a minor, I herewith authorize treatment by a qualified and licensed medical doctor in the event of a medical emergency which, in the opinion of the attending physician, may endanger his or her life, cause disfigurement, physical impairment, or undue discomfort if delayed. This authority is granted only after a reasonable effort has been made to reach me.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the forementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization.
- Written warning.
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved.
- Game forfeit through the official or coach.
- Parental season suspension.

Remember... be kind to your child's coach and to the officials. The coach is a volunteer - giving of personal time to provide a recreational activity for your child. The coach is providing a valuable community service, often without reward other than personal satisfaction. Without them your child could not participate.

All coaches are subject to mandatory criminal background checks.