

Coaches Code of Conduct

We believe that youth sport should be an activity that emphasizes participation in developmentally appropriate physical activity providing opportunities for the development of sportsmanship and a healthy lifestyle. We also believe that the highest potential of youth sport is achieved when coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M.) these values and beliefs while remaining committed to the ideal of creating a healthy sport experience for children. Finally, we believe that sincere and good faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of these values and beliefs will improve the quality of our programs and the well-being of your players.

It is suggested that you consider including the following critical information in your own coaches code of conduct. We would encourage that the code of conduct be a condition of coaches' participation/employment, signed at the commencement of the season, and referred to on a regular basis throughout the season. We believe it to be vitally important that youth sport coaches understand and commit to the following guidelines:

General Information

- Equally include youth and distribute playing time during practice or competition.
- Develop respect for the abilities of all team members and recognize variations in the stages of physical, mental, and skill development.
- Ensure that your players' youth sport experience is based on fun, learning, and enjoyment rather than on outcomes, such as winning.
- Check your equipment and facilities to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for the age and ability of your youth athletes.
- Develop practices that include many repetitions for all children with little time spent standing in lines.
- Abide by the rules of the organization at all times.
- Maintain a thorough knowledge of the current game and competition rules. Commit to teaching those rules to your players.
- Refrain from profanity, disrespectful conduct, and the use of tobacco or alcohol in the presence of youth.
- Be a positive role model.
- Strive to increase coaching competence by attending all coaches meeting and clinics.
- Have safety and health considerations a higher priority than the desire to win.
- Demonstrate concern for youth as individuals and encourage them to seek your advice.

Sportsmanship

- Treat all people with respect at all times and require the same behavior of your youth athletes.
- Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity.
- Discourage taunting, trash talking, boastful celebrations, and other actions that demean individuals or the sport.



- Do not complain about or argue with officials' calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
- Treat the parents of youth athletes with respect. Be clear about your expectations, goals, and policies while maintaining open lines of communication.
- Use positive coaching methods to create an enjoyable experience, increase children's self-esteem, and foster a love and appreciation for the sport.
- Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct demeaning of others.
- Maintain an appropriate relationship with players and parents. Respect the coach-player and coach-parent boundaries. Sexual or romantic contact with either of these parties is strongly discouraged.
- Remember that the game is for the children, not adults.
- Assure that your players understand that participation in youth sport is a privilege, not a right. In addition, players are expected to represent their organization, team, and teammates with honor both on and off of the field.
- Promote sportsmanship; do not cheat. Resist temptations to gain a competitive advantage through strategies and techniques that violate rules or the spirit of the game.

Healthy Lifestyle

- Enthusiastically encourage and advocate participation in physical activity for all children.
- Emphasize the overall benefits of physical activity involvement.
- Be a positive role model by Teaching, Enforcing, Advocating, and Modeling (T.E.A.M.) appropriate behaviors to promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Communicate effectively with youth and parents about the healthy lifestyles issues that they face.
- Educate children about the dangers of unhealthy and illegal substances. Prohibit the use of unhealthy or illegal substances including alcohol, tobacco, and recreational or performance-enhancing drugs.
- Be aware of the issues that your players might be facing. Guide your players in making an informed decision about healthy lifestyle issues.
- Use the T.E.A.M. approach to safeguard your players' healthy and discourage the use of illegal or unhealthy substances.
- Consistently strive to create a healthy sport experience for your players.

