

SPORT PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Youth sports are supposed to be fun – for those who participate. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on young athletes. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults. That is why the **Hinsdale Recreation Department** is dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth in sports, in conjunction with the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."¹

I therefore agree:

1. I will remember that student athletes participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.^{6,9}
2. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.⁹
3. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.^{7,3}
4. 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.¹⁰
5. 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.^{3,6,7,8}
6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.^{5,2}
8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.^{6,9}
9. 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.²
10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.²
11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.^{2,5}
12. 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.⁹
13. 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.^{4,7}
14. 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.⁶
15. 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.⁴

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:⁹

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or other recreation department official
- 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

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Hinsdale Recreation Department- FALL 2013

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support Hinsdale Recreation Department's Code of Conduct. Please return to child's coach.

Signature

Date

References

The Sport Parent Code of Conduct has been compiled from the following national organizations and local youth sports league Parent Codes of Conduct:

1. Arizona Sports Summit Accord
2. Character Counts
3. Heartland Soccer Club
4. Kidsports
5. Mt. Laurel Soccer Club
6. National Alliance for Youth Sports
7. National High School Athletic Coaches Association
8. Pop Warner
9. Rosemont Area Athletic Association
10. USA Hockey