

Watauga Jr. Athletic League

Parent / Coach Code of Conduct

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."

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child/athlete 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 learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
4. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child/athlete 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.
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.
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/athlete to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
9. I will teach my child/athlete that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that he/she will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
10. I will praise my child/athlete for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
11. I will never ridicule my child/athlete or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
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.
13. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront officials/coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches/league commissioner at an agreed upon time and place.
14. I will demand a sports environment for my child/athlete that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

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:

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

Parent/Guardian/Coach signature _____ Date _____