

National Alliance for Youth Sports **Parents' Code of Ethics**

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics:

I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game or practice.

I (and my guests) will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

I (and my guests) will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

I (and my guests) will remember that the game is for youth - not adults.

I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

I will help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.

I will read the National Standards For Youth Sports and do what I can to help all youth sports organizations implement and enforce them.

Additional Ethics

If an issue should develop on the field between coaches, referees, youth, and parents, this issue should be presented to NFWB Grievance Director in a calm and professional manner or prepare a clear and factual written statement to facilitate resolution and or initiate an investigation. If written, it is to be submitted to him within two working days.

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 will not force my child to participate in sports.

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.

I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

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.

I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.

I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.

I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.

I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.

I will remember that:

- Children have more need of example than criticism
- A child is easily affected by outside influences (Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it)
- Be kind to your child's coaches and officials. The coaches are volunteers, giving of 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 plays by both your team and members of the opposing team.
- Do not openly question an official's judgment and honesty. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship,
- Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.