

FAIR PLAY CODES

What is Fair Play?

Integrity, fairness and respect – these are the principles of fair play. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fuelled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

A fair play coach believes and teaches that sport is an ethical pursuit, one that builds character and shapes attitudes. As a coach, your fair play aims should be to:

- help your athletes develop a positive self image;
- promote respect for the rules, officials and their decisions, and opponents;
- encourage a constructive attitude toward competition;
- develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances;
- provide an equal opportunity for all to learn skills;
- encourage these individuals to continue participation in sport.

YOU are one of the most influential people in a child's life. Your job is not only to teach to hit a ball or block a spike, but also to teach how to win and lose graciously. You must also remind them that sport is meant to be fun. The athletic skills these young people learn from you may only be used for a few years. The attitudes they develop toward themselves and others will last a lifetime.

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PLAYER'S CODE

1. Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.
2. Play by the rules.
3. Never argue with the officials' decisions. Let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
4. Control your temper – no mouthing off, breaking sticks, throwing bats or other equipment.
5. Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
6. Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether your team's or your opponents'.
7. Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
8. Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Don't be a show-off or always try to get the most points or penalties.
9. Co-operate with your coach, team-mates and opponents, for without them you don't have a game.

COACH'S CODE

1. Be reasonable in your demands on the young players' time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
2. Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements that no one should evade or break.
3. Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible.
4. Avoid over-playing the talented players. The just average players need and deserve equal time.
5. Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
6. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
7. The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the children.
8. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents as well as for the judgement of officials and opposing coaches.
9. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
10. Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved, and set a good example.
11. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

PARENT'S CODE

1. Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
2. Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
3. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.
4. Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Turn defeat to victory by helping your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
7. Do not publicly question the officials' judgement and never their honesty.
8. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
9. Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.

TEACHER'S CODE

1. Encourage children to develop basic skills in a variety of sports, and avoid over-specialization in positional play during their formative years.
2. Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship, just as you would in teaching the basic skills.
3. Ensure that efforts for both skill improvement and good sportsmanship are rewarded by praise and reflected in grades.
4. Remember that players are also students so be reasonable in your demands on their energy and enthusiasm.
5. Ensure that skill learning and free play activities have priority over highly structured competitions for very young children.
6. Prepare children for intramural and interschool competitions by first providing instruction in the skills required.
7. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.
8. Help children understand the fundamental philosophical differences between the games they play and professional games shown on television. The professional is an entertainer and a wage earner whose play often reflects these facts.
9. Help children understand the responsibilities and implications of the freedom to choose between fair and unfair play.
10. Make children aware of the physical fitness values of sports and their life-long recreational value.

OFFICIAL'S CODE

1. Modify rules and regulations to match the skill level of the players.
2. Use common sense to ensure that the spirit of the game for children is not lost by over calling the game.
3. Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
4. Compliment both teams on their good plays whenever such praise is deserved.
5. Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.
6. Condemn the deliberate good foul as being unsportsmanlike, thus retaining respect for fair play.
7. Publicly encourage rule changes that will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
8. Make a personal commitment to keep informed on sound officiating principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

ADMINISTRATOR'S CODE

1. Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, sex, age, or handicap.
2. Involve children in the planning, leadership and evaluation of the activity.
3. Do not allow any sport programs to become primarily spectator entertainment.
4. Equipment and facilities must meet safety standards and be appropriate to the maturity level of the children.
5. Rules and length of schedules should take into consideration the age and maturity level of the children.
6. Remember that play is done for its own sake. Downplay the importance of awards.
7. Distribute a code of ethics for good sportsmanship to spectators, coaches, players, officials, parents and news media.
8. Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, physicians and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in sports.
9. Ensure that certified or proven coaches and officials capable of promoting good sportsmanship and good technical skills provide proper supervision.
10. Offer clinics to improve the standards of coaching and officiating, with emphasis on good sportsmanship.

SPECTATOR'S CODE

1. Remember that children play organized sports for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you, and they are NOT miniature pro athletes.
2. Be on your best behaviour. Don't use profane language or harass players, coaches or officials.
3. Applaud good plays by your own team and the visiting team.
4. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no games
5. Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition.
6. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
7. Respect the officials' decisions.
8. Encourage players always to play according to the rules.

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR ATHLETES

1. Right of the opportunity to participate in sports regardless of ability or income level.
2. Right to participate at a level that is consistent with the developmental level.
3. Right to have qualified sensitive leadership.
4. Right to participate in a safe and healthy environment.
5. Right of each participant to share in the leadership and decision making of their sport.
6. Right of child athletes to play as children.
Right of adult athletes to play at the appropriate competition level.
7. Right to proper preparation for participation in the sport.
8. Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success.
9. Right to be treated with dignity by all involved.
10. Right to have fun through sport.

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