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Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct for Youth Sports

General Statement

Everyone involved in youth sports programs at any level must show respect for all people, property at all times. The following specific codes of conducts are meant to provide detailed expectations of behavior. Participating in youth sports programs is contingent upon following the code of conduct.

Coaches

- Follow the rules of the contest at all times.
- Accept the decisions of the contest officials and avoid public criticism of game officials/participants.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- The coach must be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence either good or bad, in the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character. The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- The coach shall be acquainted thoroughly with the contest rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as neutral agreements. The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship and citizenship by their spectators, working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs and administrators.
- Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct that will incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

Participants

- Show respect for opponents at all times.
- Accept the decisions of game officials.
- Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.

Spectators

- Cheer in a positive way.
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Refrain from negative comments about officials, coaches/participants.
- Stay off the playing area at all times. Show respect for people, property and players.
- I understand that I and possibly my child will be suspended without warning from the league for any violation of this Code of Conduct.

Officials

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Maintain confidence and poise, by controlling the contest from start to finish.
- Know the rules of the game.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches and/or both teams before the contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
- When watching a game as spectators, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working.