

## THE CODE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

The fundamentals of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP are a critical component of athletic programming and events. Teaching and supporting a Code of Good Sportsmanship throughout the City of Plantation and in every sport will improve the athletic experience for everyone involved. Herein are the responsibilities and the expected conduct at every athletic contest.

### **Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators are responsible for the following:**

1. GAINING AN UNDERSTANDING OF AND APPRECIATION FOR THE RULES OF THE ATHLETIC CONTEST/EVENT.
2. EXERCISING POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIMES.
3. RECOGNIZING AND APPRECIATING THE SKILLS AND PERFORMANCES OF ALL ATHLETES AND/OR COMMUNITIES REGARDLESS OF AFFILIATION.
4. EXHIBITING RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.
5. DISPLAYING RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.
6. RESPECTING PARK RULES AND PARK PROPERTY.
7. DISPLAYING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Understanding Good Sportsmanship and its value within athletics is essential. Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators are responsible for promoting good character development and providing a supportive and healthy learning environment. Everyone involved in athletic programs, activities and events will:

### Core Values of Good Sportsmanship

1. Advocate, model and promote the development of good character to include:
  - RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • TEAMWORK • FAIRNESS • CARING  
ENCOURAGEMENT • COMMITMENT • PERSEVERANCE
2. Promote emotional, physical and moral well-being above desires and pressure to win.
3. Respect Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators.
4. Promote fair play.
5. Model appropriate behavior at all times.
6. Promote a fun learning environment.

## CODE OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

## As a Coach or Volunteer, I have a responsibility to:

1. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong standards of ethics and integrity.
2. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
3. Respect the calls of the game official and teach players to do the same.
4. Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
5. Set a good example by:
  - a. Refraining from arguments in front of players and spectators.
  - b. Making no gestures which indicate an official or opposing coach is doing a poor job.
  - c. Not throwing any object in anger or expressing any other negative emotion with physicality.
  - d. Shaking hands with the officials and the opposing coaches before and after the contest in full view of the public.
6. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat. Remember that children are affected by negativism. Comments should be words to BUILD UP AND NOT TEAR DOWN.
7. Be no party to the use of profanity, obscene language or improper actions.
8. Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff and Volunteers. This will aid in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
9. Teach good sportsmanship and reward those who display it.
10. Treat opponents kindly as if a guest or friend. Show appreciate for hard work and team effort.
11. Never direct remarks at opponents in a negative or taunting manner.
12. Wish opposing players good luck before the game and congratulate them on their efforts at game end.
13. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. The officials are doing their best to manage a fair game. Treat them with respect, even if their call is not agreed upon. Remember, this is an opportunity to model good behavior.
14. Understand the seriousness and responsibilities at hand.
15. Teach the standard of desirable behavior to Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Volunteers and spectators.
16. Use positive comments which encourage players and not antagonize the opponents.
17. Encourage a positive crowd alternative when booing or unacceptable behavior occurs.
18. Give encouragement and respect to injured players such as being quiet or taking a knee, etc.
19. Remember: recreational sports are learning experiences and mistakes are sometimes made. Praise athletes in their attempts.
20. Promote the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
21. Highlight acts of good sportsmanlike behavior and not give undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
22. Refrain from making negative comments toward Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators.
23. Report facts without demonstrating partiality to any team.

## As a Leisure Services Staff, Association Leadership or Game Official, I will:

1. Assume leadership and oversee and govern the event at hand.
2. Establish control and enforce a standard of conduct of Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators.
3. Maintain confidence and poise, controlling the contest from start to finish.
4. Know the rules of the game thoroughly and abide by this Code of Good Sportsmanship.
5. Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
6. Never exhibit negative emotions or publicly argue with players and coaches when enforcing rules.
7. Give the officials the ultimate respect as governor over the game when watching a game as a spectator.
8. Accept the leadership role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
9. Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals of the Code of Good Sportsmanship.
10. Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each event.
11. Provide and share resources to support and teach good sportsmanship.
12. Serve as a positive role model and expect the same from Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators.
13. Enforce the penalties for unacceptable behavior.

## As a Parent, Player or Spectator, I will:

1. Applaud during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
2. Recognize and applaud the efforts of all players, even if unsuccessful.
3. Refrain from making negative comments toward Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators.
4. Accept game calls and other decisions of officials.
5. Shake hands or give other positive encouragement to opposing participants and coaches at end of athletic contest, regardless of outcome.
6. Treat competition as a game or contest, not a conflict.
7. Recognize outstanding performance and coaching.
8. Understand that admission to an event is meant to provide player support and does not imply a right to verbally assault others. This is an opportunity to model good behavior.
9. Expect positive cheering and good sportsmanlike conduct from Coaches, Players, Parents, Officials, Program staff, Volunteers and Spectators.
10. Applaud at end of contest for the performances of all participants.
11. Show concern for an injured player.
12. Respect staff and volunteers and express appreciation for dedicating time and service to the community.

## **Guidelines for Unacceptable Behavior**

**You ARE responsible for your own actions!**

**Sometimes, the competitive nature in people gets the best of them. Be reminded of these consequences each time a competitive arena is entered.**

**ANY NEGATIVE CHEERING/YELLING MAY RESULT IN A WARNING AND/OR REMOVAL FROM THE SITE.**

**Using this Sportsmanship Code as a guide, Recreation Staff, Association Leadership and Game Officials are empowered with the authority to make the determination if a behavior is questionable or unacceptable.**

### **The following describes UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR:**

1. Verbal threats and physical altercations.
2. Touching or striking a Coach, Player, Parent, Official, Program staff, Volunteer or Spectator. Physical altercations by anyone is considered misconduct.
3. Laughing, name-calling, yelling, waving arms or acting in an otherwise distracting manner during opponent's free-throw attempt, serve, at-bat, start, etc.
4. Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
5. Booming or heckling an official's decision.
6. Criticizing officials in any way or displays of temper in response to an official's call.
7. Yelling intended to antagonize opponents.
8. Refusing to shake hands before or after an athletic contest.
9. Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
10. Cursing, use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
11. Pulling team off the field/court as a means to stop the game.
12. Use of artificial noisemakers within hearing range of an athletic contest.
13. Property damage.

## **Minimum Penalties for Unacceptable Behavior**

1. Language unbecoming to the sports program or association including but not limited to: Threats, Profanity, Cursing, etc. (Suspension: 1 game).
2. Touching or striking a Coach, Player, Parent, Official, Program staff, Volunteer or Spectator (Suspension: remainder of the season).
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct or other unacceptable behavior at an athletic event/program (Suspension: 1 game).
4. Damage to park property (Suspension: indefinite).
5. In the event of an incident which requires investigation, further Suspension may be imposed for the duration of the investigation process.
6. The governing program leadership may choose to further impose a Probationary Period after an incident has occurred.
7. Repeated offense (Suspension for remainder of season).

### **NOTE:**

- Anyone ejected or removed from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended immediately from the current and next game and must leave the park immediately.
- Anyone ejected within an athletic contest featuring heats or matches will be suspended from remaining heats/matches of the specific Event ejected from.
- A forfeited (not played) game shall not be counted as the suspended game for service of penalty