



SPORT PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

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 principles.

I THEREFORE AGREE THAT:

1. I will not force my child 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 inform the coach of any physical disability/ailment that may affect the safety of my child or others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child 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.
7. 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.
8. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
9. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
10. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
11. 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 or her performance.
12. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard and make my child feel like a winner every time.
13. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
17. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of profanity, drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sporting events.
18. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official team coaches, or I have been asked to provide assistance.
19. If I fail to abide by the *Sport Parent Code of Conduct*, I may be subject to disciplinary action that could include:
 - Verbal warning by an MMAA official (umpire), coach, and/or MMAA Executive member
 - Written warning from the MMAA Executive
 - Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by the MMAA
 - Parental season suspension and forfeit of registration fees



COACH RESPONSIBILITIES & CODE OF CONDUCT

The MMAA greatly appreciates you as a Volunteer Coach and your commitment to the positive development of our youth through recreational softball. In addition to abiding by the **SPORT PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**, as a Coach you have additional responsibilities and obligations.

Coaches must review the **CONCUSSION CODE OF CONDUCT** and **CONCUSSION AWARENESS SHEET**; and they must submit a **Vulnerable Sector Check** (VSC) or sign an annual VSC Declaration Form.

BEFORE THE GAME:

- Have your team players show up on time for pre-game warm-up and practice. Make sure players are properly dressed to play.
- Show your players proper techniques, such as where and how to stand; how to hold and swing a bat; how to throw and catch the ball. Explain the rules of the game and help your players understand the play. If you need assistance, the MMAA is happy to train.
- For Atom, PeeWee and Bantam, have your player line-up ready for the scorekeepers by 6:25 pm.

DURING THE GAME:

- Be a Coach, not just another spectator. Play all your players equally at different positions, considering skill level and safety.
- Try to take the focus off the score (Atom, PeeWee and Bantam).
- Find something positive to say to your players and be encouraging. Negative comments towards the players, the other team's players or coaches, or the umpires, will not be tolerated.
- Ensure that your players respect each other, the players / coaches on the opposing team, and the umpires.
- Do not put yourself in an awkward position with the players.
- Refrain from making any calls in advance of the umpires. Respect the umpires' calls and discuss any concerns with them between innings.
- Ensure that the players do not deliberately abuse the equipment or cause damage in the dugout.
- Check the recorded score occasionally between innings with the other team to ensure no discrepancies.

AFTER THE GAME:

- Have your team line up and shake hands with the opposing team.
- Take a few moments to discuss the game with the players in the dugout, identifying positive aspects of the game and areas that need improvement.
- Make sure the players take their belongings home – hats, gloves, water bottles, etc. If a player leaves an item behind, keep it with you until the next game.
- Put away equipment and supplies, and properly close and lock the equipment lockers.
- Make sure the dugouts are clean and the garbage pails are emptied.
- A coach from each team must sign the GAME SHEET for all Divisions except T-Ball. This is how umpires get paid, and this is where the Official Game Score is agreed to and recorded.
- Contact the MMAA Executive if there are equipment needs or issues, field maintenance requirements, or issues with players, Coaches or spectators.