



## *THE 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 “six pillars of character.”

I therefore agree:

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 the safety of 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.
6. 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.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. 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.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team or have been asked to provide assistance.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- 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
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension and possible forfeit of registration fee(s)



## ***COACH RESPONSIBILITIES & CODE OF CONDUCT***

### **BEFORE THE GAME:**

- Have your team show up on time for pre-game warm-up and practice. Make sure the players are properly dressed to play.
- Show your players proper techniques, such as how to stand, hold the bat, throw and catch, and help them understand the play. Explain the rules to your players.
- Have your line-up ready for the scorekeepers by 6:25 pm (Atom & PeeWee). Start the game on time (6:30 pm)

### **DURING THE GAME:**

- Be a coach, not just a spectator
- Play all of your players equally, considering skill level and safety. Let players try different positions if they want
- Take the focus off of the score (Atom & PeeWee)
- No negative comments towards your players; the other team's players or coaches; or the umpires
- Always find something good to say and be encouraging
- Do not put yourself in an awkward position with children
- Ensure players respect each other – teasing will not be tolerated
- Refrain from making any calls ahead of the umpires. Respect the umpire's calls and discuss any concerns with them between innings. Remember that the umpires are "in charge" of the game
- Make sure the players do not abuse the equipment or deliberately damage it. Some of it is expensive
- No swearing
- No smoking

### **AFTER THE GAME:**

- Have your team line up and shake hands
- Take a few minutes to have a pep talk and discuss the positive aspects of the game and the areas that need improvement
- Make sure the dug-outs are clean and garbage is collected
- Make sure the kids take their belongings – gloves, hats, jackets, water bottles
- Put away equipment and supplies, and properly close and lock the equipment lockers
- Sign the game sheet (3-Pitch, Atom & PeeWee) – this is how the umpires get paid
- Let an MMAA representative know of any equipment needs or issues; or field maintenance requirements