

South Sound YMCA - Parents' Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics:

- I will treat each athlete, opposing coach, official, parent, and administrator with dignity, based on the YMCA Character Development values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.
- I will uphold the authority of officials who are assigned to the contests in which my child is participating, and I will assist them in every way to conduct fair and impartial competitive contests.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

Failure to adhere to the above stated code of ethics could result in suspension.

Tips for Becoming a Good Youth Sports Parent

- Always treat others (coaches, parents, officials and players) the same way you would want your child to be treated. Set the example by showing respect, dignity, and sportsmanship at all times. Make only positive, encouraging comments.
- Be responsible; Get your kids to practices and games on time. Make sure they have their uniform and sneakers and that they have had something to eat and drink. Let the coach know if your child will be missing a game or practice.
- Focus on fun and participation rather than winning and losing.
- Motivate through confidence by trying to identify a positive from every game and practice. Making mistakes is part of the learning process so don't criticize and try to avoid too much post-game analysis.
- Act your age; youth sports are for kids. If you find yourself becoming too emotionally involved, take a step back and relax. Remember that your childhood is over. Give the young players a chance to enjoy theirs.
- Be seen, not heard; nothing is better for a young player than having parents watch them play. However, nothing is worse for a player than to have a parent boo, taunt, or scream at officials, players or coaches.
- Respect the officials. Even if you don't agree with a call, accept it and move on. It's not your job to officiate the game.
- If you must talk to the coach, do it in private after the game or practice. Better yet, wait until the next day when the heat of the moment has passed. Never create a scene in front of the team.
- Get interested in your child's sport and learn the rules.
- Refrain from tobacco or alcohol use at all youth sports events.
- Participate in team activities and volunteer to help.