

Deerfield Parks and Recreation

Guidelines for Parents, Family and Friends

Deerfield Parks and Rec believes that participation in team sports can be important to the physical, social and emotional development of the youth of our community. In addition to the clear benefit of exercise, they can

- Learn that hard work leads to skill.
- Learn to work well with others of various abilities.
- Learn to be honest and fair and to treat others with respect.
- Learn to be tenacious, to continue to work hard even when it might seem easier to quit
- Learn to win and to lose gracefully

Though all players and all teams should always compete to the best of their ability, these five goals are more important than the final score of any game.

Please

- Help your child be a reliable member of his/her team with regular, timely attendance.
- Encourage and cheer for fair play and hard effort by all players.
- Your child has a coach. They are all volunteers and it isn't an easy responsibility. Let the coaches do their job.
- Let the officials call the game. Like the coaches they are all volunteers doing their best.
- Help out if you are able – lining fields, selling refreshments, cleaning up after games.
- Refrain from using any illegal substances or tobacco products, or imbibing alcohol in the presence of my players or on school or town property.
- Report any conduct that adversely affects the positive, kid-friendly environment of the Parks and Rec Youth Sports Program to the Director or a Parks and Rec board member.

Finally we'll repeat the best advice we've heard for greeting your child after a game – three short sentences:

1. "Good game."
2. "I love you."
3. "What do you want to eat?"

As parents we ask you to agree that your child will not intentionally endanger other players (attacking with kicks, punches, tackles or bites) and acknowledge that the privilege of participation in Parks and Rec sports programs may be revoked if this policy is not honored at all times.

Deerfield Parks and Recreation

Youth Coach Code of Conduct

Thank you for volunteering to coach. It is a big commitment and an even bigger responsibility.

Deerfield Parks and Rec believes that participation in team sports can be important to the physical, social and emotional development of the youth of our community. In addition to the clear benefit of exercise, they can:

- Learn that hard work leads to skill.
- Learn to work well with others of various abilities.
- Learn to be honest and fair and to treat others with respect.
- Learn to be tenacious, to continue to work hard even when it might seem easier to quit.
- Learn to win and to lose gracefully.

Though all players and all teams should always compete to the best of their ability, these five goals are more important than the final score of any game.

Coaches will:

- Focus on what the players are learning from you at each moment of each practice and each game.
- Use positive methods – make the experience joyful and energetic, challenging and fun
- Treat officials with respect and dignity and require players to do the same.
- Model grace, dignity and composure regardless of the events or outcome of the game.
- Treat each player as an individual, recognizing the large range of emotional and physical development for children in the same age group.
- Give each player a similar number of minutes in each game with the exception of appropriate and effective disciplinary benching.
- Teach the principles of fair play and sportsmanship and model those principles at all times.
- Learn the rules of the game and teach those rules to your players.
- Encourage safe play at all times and report any unsafe playing conditions.
- Refrain from using any illegal substances or tobacco products, or imbibing alcohol in the presence of players or on school or town property.
- Before and after each game meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coaches and the officials. This helps set the best tone for the competition.
- Never pressure a child to play a sport and never recruit players to a specific team.
- Report any conduct that violates this code or adversely affects the positive, kid-friendly environment of the Parks and Rec Youth Sports Program.

We ask you to agree to abide by the Coaches' Code of Conduct, and understand that the Parks and Recreation Department can, and will if necessary, suspend any coaching privileges that are in violation of this code.