



# Code of Conduct

## To Everyone...

- Profanity will not be tolerated on or off the playing field.
- Smoking is not allowed on the playing field before, during or following the game.
- Illegal drug use and consumption of alcohol are prohibited at all times. Their use will be reported to police and parents.
- Abuse of players, coaches, umpires and volunteers by anyone including spectators is not tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly.
- Any player violating the conduct rules will be released from the team without a refund of fees.
- Anyone violating any rules can and will be asked to leave the game field by the umpire.
- Repeat violations of the rules will be brought to the attention of the Executive for action and could result in a permanent ban from attending any league event.

## To the Player...

It isn't whether you win or lose, but how you play the game!

- Play for the "fun of it", not to please your parents, coaches or friends.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official's decision. Let the coach ask any necessary questions.
- Control your temper - no "mouthing off", throwing bats or other equipment.
- Work equally hard for yourself and for your team - your team's performance will benefit and so will yours.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether your team's or the opponent's.
- Treat all players the way you would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Do not be a show-off and do not put down anyone else.
- Cooperate with the coach, your team mates, opponents and the umpires, for without them you don't have a game.

## To the Coach...

The successful coach invests more in the well-being and interests of the players than in their win-loss record. The children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it.

- Be reasonable in your demands on the young player's time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
- Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity whenever possible.
- Avoid over-playing the talented players. The "just-average" players need and deserve equal time. It is how they will develop skills.
- Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of the players.
- The scheduling and length of practice times and competitions should take into consideration the maturity level of the children.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Remember that children need a coach they can respect.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved, and set a good example.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

## **To the Parents...**

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Where does a child learn to be a "good sport"? At home. By the time a child joins a team, a sense of sportsmanship (or lack thereof) is already well established.

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- Remember children are involved in sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage your children to always play by the rules.
- Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the results of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
- Turn defeat into victory by helping your child to work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Do not publicly question the official's judgment and never their honesty or integrity.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches and umpires. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.

## **To the Spectator...**

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Fans don't play fair when they mistake children at play for professional entertainers.

- Remember that children play organized sports for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you, and they are not miniature pro athletes.
- Be on your best behaviour.
- Applaud good plays by your own team and the visiting team.
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition.
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
- Respect the official's decisions.
- Encourage players always to play according to the rules.

<http://www.fastballstalbert.com>

## **To the Administrator/Volunteer...**

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The administrator is the key figure in making sure that the spirit of the game is "Friendship first; competition second."

- Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in sports are made available to all children, regardless of ability, sex, age or handicap.
- Involve children in the planning, leadership and evaluation of the activity.
- Do not allow any sport programs to become primarily spectator entertainment.
- Equipment and facilities must meet safety standards and be appropriate to the maturity level of the children.
- Rules and length of schedules should take into consideration the age and maturity level of the children.
- Remember that play is done for its own sake. Downplay the importance of awards.
- Distribute a code of ethics for good sportsmanship to spectators, coaches, players, officials, and parents.
- Ensure that parents, coaches, and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in sports.
- Ensure that proper supervision is provided by certified or proven coaches and officials capable of promoting good sportsmanship and good technical skills.
- Offer clinics to improve the standards of coaching and officiating, with emphasis on good sportsmanship.

## **To the Umpire/Official...**

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Sportsmanship and fair play are not a set of rules; they are a code for living.

- Use common sense to ensure that the "spirit of the game" for children is not lost by overcalling the game.
- Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
- Compliment both teams on their good plays whenever such praise is deserved.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous in calling all infractions.

*Updated Apr 2008*