

NHAA Code of Conduct for Coaches

In accordance with the information documented in the NHAA Managers Handbook, as a coach within the NHAA, I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of my personal desire to win.

Expected behavior:

- Using appropriate language and tones when interacting with players, game officials, parents and spectators
- Include all players in team activities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, body type, national origin, ancestry, stability, ability, or any other legal protected classification
- Treatment of all players, game officials, parents and spectators with dignity and respect
- Play all players according to the equal participation rules established by the league and the spirit of those rules
- Encourage participation in other sports and activities to promote all aspects of their development
- Allow reasonable absences from practices

I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.

Expected behavior:

- Recognize the differences of each child and treat each player as an individual while demonstrating concern for their individual needs and well-being
- Encourage all players, regardless of skill level, to be included as a member of the team and to remain involved in sports
- Recognize that some physical tasks, drills and demands are not appropriate for all youth
- Recognize that youth may vary greatly with physical, social and the emotional maturation and consider these factors when setting up competition and when interacting with youth

I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.

Expected behavior:

- Maintain a high level of awareness of potentially unsafe conditions
- Protect players from sexual molestation, assault, physical or emotional abuse
- Correct or avoid unsafe practice or playing conditions
- Use appropriate safety equipment necessary to protect all players
- See that the players are provided with adequate adult supervision while under the care of the coach

I will review and practice the basic principles needed to treat injuries of my players.

Expected behavior:

- Maintain basic first aid supplies at all practice and game situations
- Recognize and administer proper first aid to an injured player
- Demonstrate concern for an injured player, notify parents and cooperate with medical authorities
- Protect the players' well-being by removing them from activity when injured and not returning them to activity if they are compromised by injury

I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.

Expected behavior:

- Establish practice plans that are interesting, varied, productive and aimed at improving all players' skills and individual abilities
- Devote appropriate time to the individual improvement of each player
- Conduct practices of reasonable length and intensity appropriate for the age and condition of the players with attention to weather conditions, such as heat and humidity.

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I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.

Expected Behavior:

- Teach and demonstrate that it is our basic moral code to treat others as we would like to be treated
- Abide by and support the rules of the game as well as the spirit of the rules
- Provide an environment conducive of fair and equitable competition
- Use the influential position used to coach as an opportunity to promote, teach and expect sportsmanship and fair play

I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all times while interacting with my team.

Expected Behavior:

- Be alcohol and drug free at all team activities and in the presence of players
- Refrain from the use of any type of tobacco products at all team activities and in the presence of youth players
- Refrain from providing any type of alcohol, drug or tobacco products to any youth player
- Encourage parents to refrain from the public use of tobacco products or alcohol at team activities

I will be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach and I will teach these rules to my players

Expected Behavior:

- Become knowledgeable, understanding and supportive of all applicable game rules, league rules, regulations and policies
- Teach and require compliance of these rules among players

I will use these coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach

Expected Behavior:

- Teach techniques that reduce the risk of injury to both the coaches' own players and their opponents
- Discourage illegal contact or intentionally dangerous play and administer swift and equitable discipline to players involved in such activity

I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for the children and not adults.

Expected Behavior:

- Maintain a positive, helpful and supportive attitude
- Exercise your authority/influence to control the behavior of the fans and spectators
- Exhibit gracious acceptance of defeat or victory
- Accept and adhere to all league rules and policies related to the participation of adults and youth
- Fulfill the expected role of a youth coach to adopt a "child first" philosophy
- Allow and encourage the players to listen, learn and play hard within the rules
- Place the emphasis on fun and participation

I will not post any derogatory remarks or commentary about the league, coaches, parents, players, staff, officials or city officials on any social media or distribute any derogatory remarks or commentary in the form of a mass email to a team, group of coaches, parents, or any third party, nor will I encourage others to do so.

Coach Name (Printed): _____ League: _____

Coach Signature: _____ Date: _____

TAKE NOTE: BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, YOU ARE ACCEPTING THAT THIS MAY BE USED AS YOUR FIRST WARNING OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. ANY AND ALL COMPLAINTS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND/OR SUSPENSION.