



City of Denton Parks and Recreation

Athletics Division – Youth Sports

Code of Conduct

DPARD Youth Sports League Goals

The City of Denton Parks and Recreation Department's Athletics Division has set five goals to be accomplished during a child's season in our youth sports league. The first and foremost goal is to foster enjoyment in a safe and inclusive environment. We also aim to promote teamwork, encourage physical activity, build communication skills, and to develop sport-specific skills.

General Statement

Everyone involved in youth sports at any level must show respect for all people and property. The following *Code of Conduct* is meant to provide expectations of behavior. Participating in youth sports programs is contingent upon following the Code of Conduct.

Coaches

- Follow the rules of the game at all times.
- Accept the decisions of the officials and avoid public criticism of game officials/participants.
- Avoid offensive language and gestures.
- Be aware that you have a tremendous influence either good or bad, in the teaching of the athlete. Never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideal of character.
- Actively use your influence to promote positive sportsmanship.
- Do not indulge in inappropriate conduct that will entice players or spectators against officials.
- Coaches will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the physical or mental health and well-being of the athletes.
- Each team's coach is held responsible for the conduct of their fans/spectators/team participants.
- Remember the game is about the players, not the scores.
- Before and after contests, coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

Participants

- Show respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials at all times
- Accept the decisions of the game officials.
- Avoid offensive language and gestures.
- Be a TEAM Player
- Refrain from derogatory or demeaning chants/cheers towards opposing teams/players/coaches.
- Show respect for public property and equipment.
- Show good sportsmanship- shake hands at the end of the game win or lose.

Spectators

- Cheer in a positive manner
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- Remember the game is about the players, not the adults.
- Refrain from negative comments/chants/cheers about officials/coaches/participants.
- Show respect for people, players, and property.
- Parents/Guardians, remember that all coaches are volunteers! Respect the fact that they are willing to give so much of their time to your child.
- Spectators or players are not permitted to approach the score table or referee at any time. Only the head or assistant coach has the authority to speak with the score table or referee if there is a question regarding the awarding of a point.
- Spectators will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the physical or mental health and well-being of the athletes.
- Stay off the playing area at all times.

Officials and Staff

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Maintain confidence and poise. Control the game from start to finish.
- Know the rules of the game thoroughly.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the game.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants/coaches when enforcing rules.

Disciplinary Action

If spectators, players, and/or coaches fail to abide by the code of conduct, they will be subject to disciplinary action as decided by the Denton Parks and Recreation Department. Officials, Facility Management and DPARD staff have the authority to remove a player, coach, or spectator from a game due to unsportsmanlike conduct.

Disciplinary action could include, but is not limited to; verbal warnings, written warnings, required training, ejections, game forfeits and suspensions for various lengths. Suspensions are recorded in DPARD files and can be carried over to future seasons. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from any league activity is suspended for a minimum of one (1) game from all DPARD league activities. The suspension could be longer depending on the severity of the infraction and is determined by DPARD Athletics Administration. Suspensions are not eligible for appeal. Ejected individuals may be required to leave the facility immediately depending on the severity of the incident. The use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol during DPARD activities are strictly prohibited by City ordinance. Spectators, coaches, and players seen using these will be removed from the building with possible further disciplinary action.

By establishing roles and expectations, we can better understand each other and create a positive experience for all involved. Each one of us has a role: players play, coaches do the coaching, referees/officials ref, and spectators cheer positively for everyone. While these roles can be challenging at times, we will **ALL** be better participants if we remember our roles and are respectful and positive at all times.

Questions or comments can be addressed to the Site Supervisor or by contacting the Athletics Administration:

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