

Pooler Recreation Parent and Spectator Code of Ethics

Parent and Spectator Code of Ethics

In order for a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, officials, league administrator, and especially parents. Parents have the following responsibilities and expectations when participating in Pooler Recreation programs:

Parents have a responsibility to their children: To make sure that your child gets the most out of his or her playing experience, parents should show their unwavering support, including positive reinforcement of your child's performance and effort. This is absolutely essential, especially at an early age, to ensure their healthy development. Parents should also be positive role models, including, but not limited to, showing proper sportsmanship at all times and refraining from negativity of any kind.

Parents have a responsibility to the coaches: Coaches volunteer their personal time to spend it with your child. They need you to be supportive of their decisions and not undermine their efforts. If you wish to address an issue with a coach, do so in a respectful manner. Make certain it is done at the right time and place and not in front of the children. Parents are expected to be respectful of the coaches and staff's time by being punctual for game and practice start and end times. It is highly recommended for parents to stay and support their children and assist the coach if requested.

Parents have a responsibility for safety and security of the league: In order to maintain the safety and security of all league participants, it is essential for parents to report abusive behavior or dangerous situations that need to be addressed to the league administrator. This is the only way that these programs can achieve their intended goals.

Parents have a responsibility to other parents: Personal gain should not be derived from your child's performance. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent should ever feel embarrassed or disappointed by their team or child's performance. Good plays should always be cheered, and disappointments should always be consoled, no matter whose team is affected.

Parents have a responsibility to themselves: It is your responsibility to enjoy watching your child and other children participate and learn. The joy and pride associated with watching children participate in sports should be experienced to the fullest, because a lifetime of memories are being created before your very eyes.

- Parents and spectators should remember that the Recreation Programs are for the children to learn fundamentals, techniques, sportsmanship, teamwork, and have fun.
- Parents should also remember you are out to support the children in the programs, not to draw attention to yourself. Do not be rude, arrogant, overbearing, and/or undignified.
- Do not let the 'Win at All Cost' attitude get you. Through sports a child can experience attitudes, which lead to a happy, productive, and well-adjusted life. By creating a healthy situation on the team, all children can be winners regardless of their won-lost record.
- Children learn much from what parents and spectators say and do. Do not be sorry later for what you do now.
- No parent or spectator should use tobacco products, drugs, or alcoholic beverages during, or around any youth activity (practices or games).
- Any parent having knowledge of his or her son or daughter playing a league under false age or identification will be suspended indefinitely from any athletic event.
- Any parent or spectator acting in an unsportsmanlike manner or in any manner that could prove detrimental to leagues, players, officials, coaches, or another spectator, will be subject to disciplinary action by the Recreation Department. Disciplinary action may consist of a verbal warning to indefinite suspension from Pooler Park(s) and/or criminal charges. Examples are listed below:

- **Abusive or threatening language.**
- **Touching or striking a coach, player, or official.**
- **Unsportsmanlike conduct at an athletic event.**
- **Ejection from game or activity.**
- **Damage to Recreation Property.**
- (Any action deemed detrimental by Pooler Recreation Staff)

Parents and spectators should remember coaches are volunteers and are giving their time to help boys and girls learn the game(s). We encourage you to root for your children, not against others.

Corrective Action Policy

Parents who do not follow the Code of Ethics will be subject to this Corrective Action Policy. It is the philosophy of Pooler Recreation that parents should not spoil the experience of participation in youth sports for the children. Furthermore, the department will never punish a child for the actions of his or her parent(s). Pooler Recreation reserves the right to take whatever remedial measure it believes is appropriate under the circumstance. In doing so, it may use the following verbal warnings, written warning, and game or season suspensions as a mean of correcting the problem. In determining an appropriate sanction, Pooler Recreation will consider the severity of the conduct at issue and the frequency of similar inappropriate conduct by the parent.

Actions will range from the following, but in no particular order:

- **Verbal Warning:** Pooler Recreation Staff member will discuss undesirable conduct with parents and stress that this behavior will not be tolerated.
- **Written Warning:** Pooler Recreation Staff member will notify the Athletic Director of continue breach of Code of Ethics and the Athletic Director will bring parent in for a meeting to discuss actions. Furthermore, there will be a formal letter of reprimand given to parent(s) stating that the next offense could led to the parent's being banned from the sporting event venue for a period of one or more game(s)
- **Game Suspension:** Pooler Recreation Staff member will ban the parent from attending the next scheduled contest. Another letter will be give to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to the parents being banned from the minimum of that sport's season up to an additional season.
- **Season Suspension:** The parent(s) will be banned from attending a minimum of the remainder of that sports season to a maximum of the next season for the sport in which the incident took place. The parent(s) will then have to make a formal request to be re-instated into this league. The parent(s) will then have to meet with the Athletic Director prior to the start of the season to determine if the parent(s) is capable of behaving within the spirit and letter of the guidelines of this program.