



*A commitment to
good sportsmanship
for our children in
youth sports programs*

This pamphlet provides individual **CODES OF CONDUCT** for participants, parents, and coaches that this YMCA observes in all its youth sports activities. Youth sports are a valuable and meaningful tool for developing confidence and character in young people in a fun and active setting.

We have a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** regarding the conduct of coaches, of parents, and of young participants. We expect and demand behavior that is consistent with the YMCA's stated goals... **to build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.**

YMCA of the Coastal Bend

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YOUTH SUPER SPORTS™
We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

COACH'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I will provide a playing environment for my players that is safe from physical and emotional harm.

I will treat each player as an individual, keeping in mind the wide range of physical and emotional development within the same age group.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of any personal or parental desires to win.

I will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship in my on- and off- field activities.

I will abide by the YMCA's code of conduct:

- I will not subject any child to neglect or to mental, verbal, physical, or sexual abuse
- I will not leave any child unsupervised
- I will not be alone with any child where we cannot be observed by others
- I will not transport any children in my vehicle
- I will not give any child gifts or special favors
- I will treat all children equally without respect to gender, race, religion, culture, or ability
- I will be a positive role model by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact, and maturity
- I will utilize positive guidance techniques
- I will refrain from profanity, inappropriate jokes, and sharing of intimate details of my personnel life

I will not hold extra or special practices.

I will use coaching techniques that are appropriate for all the ages and skill levels present.

I will seek and encourage parental participation at practices, games, and any other activities.

I will respectfully control the behavior of players and parents by asking them to leave the field or sidelines should they become unruly or create an atmosphere that is not appropriate for the development of good sportsmanship.

Parents are strongly encouraged to serve as assistant coaches. Parents can assist the coaches with various needs that may arise such as helping with practices.

The pamphlet contains two separate codes of conduct – one for participants and one for parents. It is important for you and your child to make the appropriate commitment. It is also good for parents to know what is expected of their children and what they can expect of their coaches. **Any behavior by a coach that is inconsistent with the commitment listed indicates potential problems that should be discussed with YMCA Senior Staff.** This form will be kept on file in the Youth Department Office. Your child will NOT be able to participate in this YMCA program without a completed form.

All of the codes of conduct are part of the application and authorization to participate in the youth sports program. **Participation in the program indicates that parents and participants agree to abide by their respective codes of conduct, and that violation of their codes is adequate grounds for removal from the program without a refund.** In order to provide an atmosphere where our youth can develop into the citizens we want them to be requires three elements – the coach, the parents, and the player. All must be equal partners.

Sandy Putnam, Director of Sports
361-882-1741

**Coaches, parents, refs, and players
need to know this pledge.**

PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

I will place an emphasis on the fun of participation and keep the emotional and physical well being of all the children ahead of my personal desire to win.

I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game.

I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands; physical acts; or using profane language and gestures.

I will support and assist this experience however I can... by being a respectful fan, by assisting with the practices, by providing transportation, etc.

I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.

I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.

I will support coaches and officials by working with my child in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.

I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs and I will refrain from their use at all sporting events and practices.

I will require my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect without regard to gender, race, religion, culture, or ability.

I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.

I will remember that youth sports are for the kids and not for the adults and will do my very best to make this experience fun for all of the children and parents involved.

I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

I will monitor the actions of our coach or coaches and will bring any behavior that is inconsistent with the Coach's Code of Conduct to the attention of someone in authority at the YMCA.

I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I will pick up my child promptly after games and practices so the coach is not left in a compromising position with my child.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by this code, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- ▶ Verbal Warning by Official, Head Coach, and/or Staff Member.
- ▶ Written Warning
- ▶ Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by YMCA and other involved organizations.
- ▶ Game forfeit through the official or coach.
- ▶ Parental season suspension.

Print Parent's name

Parent's signature

Date Signed

YOUTH-SPORT PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT

I will not intentionally hurt or be mean to any player, coach, or referee.

I will pay attention to my coach and give her/him the respect s/he deserves. I will not misbehave or be disruptive during practices or games so that I do not ruin the experience of other children.

I will not argue with referees and will leave any disputes regarding officiating to game officials and my coach.

I will follow the rules for safety that my coach and the YMCA have established.

I will seek and willingly receive instruction both in the skills of the sport and in proper sporting behavior and good sportsmanship.

I will encourage my parents to set an example of good sportsmanship for my fellow teammates, the other parents, and myself.

I will commit to follow the following pledge:

*Win or lose,
I pledge to do my best,
to be a team player,
to respect my opponents,
teammates, and officials,
and to improve myself
in Spirit, Mind, and Body*

Print Youth's name

Youth's signature

Date signed