

# PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

## Responsibilities and Expectations

In order for a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, officials, staff, spectators and especially parents.

Parents and spectators have the following responsibilities and expectations when participating in Covington Community Sports programs:

1. 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.
2. 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 don't agree with a coach, you are expected to tell that coach, but make certain it is done at the right time and place, in a non-argumentative manner and not in front of the children. Parents are also expected to bring their children to games and practice on time. Parents are **REQUIRED** to attend practices for ages 3-8. Parents are not required to attend practices for ages 9 and up, however **PARENTAL CONSENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT** must be on file with the coach and parents are required to pick their child up from practice on time. It is highly encouraged for parents to stay and participate in order to maintain control of the group and to assist the coach as needed.
3. Parents/ Spectators have a responsibility to the league: Staff cannot be at all games and practices of all teams. Therefore, in order to maintain the positive nature of these programs, it is essential for parents/spectators to report any abusive behavior or any other situation that needs to be addressed to staff. This is the only way that these programs can achieve their intended goals.
4. Parents/ Spectators have a responsibility to other parents: Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from a child's performance. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent/spectator 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 it affects.
5. Parents/ Spectators have a responsibility to themselves: It is your responsibility to watch 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 is being created before your very eyes.

## Parent/ Spectator Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics Pledge:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
3. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

4. I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
5. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
6. I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
7. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
8. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed, or ability.
9. I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.
10. I will read the program handbook and do what I can to help implement and enforce the rules and standards contained in it.

### **Corrective Action Policy**

Parents who do not follow the Code of Ethics will be subject to the Corrective Action Policy. It is the philosophy of Covington Community Sports that parents should not spoil the athlete's experience of participating in youth sports. Furthermore, CCS will never punish a child for the actions of his or her parent(s). The following guidelines have been established for addressing problem parents. For violations of the Code of Ethics or Responsibilities and Expectations, the following steps will be followed:

#### ***Step 1: Verbal Warning***

Staff and/or Coach will discuss undesirable conduct with parents and stress that this behavior will not be tolerated. If Coach completes this discussion, they will document the conversation and give to staff.

#### ***Step 2: Written Warning***

Staff, Coach or Official will notify the CCS Review Board of continued breach of Code of Ethics and the Board will meet with the parent to discuss actions and what the proper behavior is. Furthermore, there will be a formal letter of reprimand given to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to parent being banned from the athletic facility for a period of one game.

#### ***Step 3: Game Suspension***

The CCS Review Board will ban the parent from attending the next scheduled game and another letter will be given to parent(s) stating that the next offense will lead to parent being banned from all future games. The Board will inform the Program staff and Coach of the game suspension.

#### ***Step 4: Season Suspension***

The parent(s) will be banned from attending all league games after a 4th offense. The parent(s) will then have to make a formal request to be re-instated into the program. The parent(s) will then have to meet with the CCS Review Board 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 the program.

These guidelines are not absolute in dealing with behavioral problems. Severe situations could merit harsher sanctions against the parent(s) including but not limited to arrest and prosecution.