

**POP WARNER LITTLE SCHOLARS
SPORT PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

PARTICIPANTS NAME: _____

On September 23, 2000, more than 30 heads of Massachusetts' chapters of national sports and medical associations, educational organizations, and professional associations met at Children's Hospital in Boston to participate in a consensus meeting to develop a sport parent code of conduct for the state. The meeting was convened by the Massachusetts Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports and the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation, Inc.

PREAMBLE

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and 6 core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."¹

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports. 2,9
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults. 6,9
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others. 9
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league. 7,3
5. 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, practice or other sporting event. 10
6. 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; or using profane language or gestures. 3,6,7,8
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. 6,2
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability. 6,9
10. 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. 2
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time. 2
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition. 2,5
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups. 10
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win. 9
15. 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. 4,7
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events. 6
17. 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. 4

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:⁹

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension

2010 POP WARNER BYLAW ADDITION REGARDING ADULT BEHAVIOR:

1. At any Pop Warner event, practice or competition, any adult who: a) verbally abuses; b) attempts to intimidate; c) is flagrantly rude, or d) cannot control their language or actions with an official, coach, or Pop Warner volunteer will be asked to leave the Pop Warner event. He/She will receive a written warning regarding their behavior. His/Her child(ren) will be immediately removed from the Pop Warner event.
2. Any adult that commits a second similar offense will be banned from Pop Warner events for the remainder of the season and their child(ren) removed from Pop Warner for the remainder of the season. The Association will refund registration monies pro-rated based on the percentage of the season remaining.
3. Any adult who physically assaults an official, coach, or Pop Warner volunteer will be banned from Pop Warner and their child(ren) removed from the Pop Warner program for one year from the date of the offense. The child(ren) may not participate in another Pop Warner Association during the sanction period. After one year, the parent may apply for reinstatement of his/her child(ren). If the adult commits a second offense, he/she will be permanently banned from Pop Warner and the child(ren) permanently removed from Pop Warner. (The term physical assault includes, but is not limited to, hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking or striking in any way with any part of the body or any physical implement).

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE SIGNED: _____

REFERENCES

The Sport Parent Code of Conduct has been compiled from the following national organizations and local youth sports league Parent Codes of Conduct:

1. Arizona Sports Summit Accord
2. Character Counts
3. Heartland Soccer Club
4. Kidsports
5. Mt. Laurel Soccer Club
6. National Alliance for Youth Sports
7. National High School Athletic Coaches Association
8. Pop Warner
9. Rosemont Area Athletic Association
10. USA Hockey

Additional recommended resources for conduct and sportsmanship for coaches and athletes include: Arizona Sport Summit Accord, United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Coaches Code of Ethics, and the Character Counts Coalition.