



HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION
PO BOX 332, HARTFORD, MI 49057
www.hartfordrecreation.org

Coaches Code of Conduct

I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.

Expected Behavior:

- Using appropriate language in appropriate tones when interacting with players, league officials, game officials, parents and spectators.
- Include all players in team activities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, body type, national origin, disability, ability, or any other legal protected classification.
- Treat all players, league officials, game officials, parents and spectators with dignity and respect.
- Play all players according to the equal participation rules established by the league and the spirit of those rules.
- Encourage youth to participate in other sports and activities to promote all aspects of their development.
- Allow reasonable absences from practices.

I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.

Expected Behavior:

- Recognize the differences of each child and treat each player as an individual while demonstrating concern for their individual needs and well-being.
- Encourage all players, regardless of skill level, to be included as a member of the team and to remain involved in sports.
- Recognize that some physical tasks, drills and demands are not appropriate for all youth.
- Recognize that youth may vary greatly in physical, social and emotional maturation and consider these factors when setting up competitions and when interacting with youth.

I will do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.

Expected Behavior:

- Maintain a high level of awareness of potentially unsafe conditions.
- Protect players from sexual molestation, assault, physical or emotional abuse.
- Correct or avoid unsafe practice or playing conditions.
- Use appropriate safety equipment necessary to protect all players.
- See that the players are provided with adequate adult supervision while under the care of the coach.

I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.

Expected Behavior:

- Establish practice plans that are interesting, varied, and productive and aimed at improving all players' skills and individual abilities.
- Devote appropriate time to the individual improvement of each player.
- Conduct practices of reasonable length and intensity appropriate for the age and condition of the players.

I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.

Expected Behavior:

- Adopt the position, teach and demonstrate that it is our basic moral code to treat others as we would like to be treated.
- Abide by and support the rules of the game as well as the spirit of the rules.
- Provide an environment conducive to fair and equitable competition.
- Use the influential position of youth coach as an opportunity to promote, teach and expect sportsmanship and fair play.

I will provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.

Expected Behavior:

- Refrain from the use of any type of tobacco products at all team activities and in the presence of your players.
- Encourage parents to refrain from the public use of tobacco products or alcohol at team activities.

I will remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

Expected Behavior:

- Maintain a positive, helpful and supportive attitude.
- Exercise your authority / influence to control the behavior of the fans and spectators.
- Exhibit gracious acceptance of defeat or victory.
- Accept and adhere to all league rules and policies related to the participation of adults and youth.
- Fulfill the expected role of a youth coach to adopt a “children first” philosophy.
- Allow and encourage the players to listen, learn and play hard within the rules.

Understanding the requirements listed above, I understand that failure to follow the Code of Conduct as written may result in my removal as a coach.