



HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION
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www.hartfordrecreation.org

Parent Code of Conduct

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

Expected Responsibilities:

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- 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 (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 sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as boozing and taunting, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- 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 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.
- 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 understand and agree that my failure to follow the Code of Conduct may result in my removal from games or restricted access to sporting events.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

We have committed ourselves to programs that all participants can be proud to be a part of while participating. We enthusiastically participate in discussion of ways to address and resolve the issues and challenges. When a person (such as a player or parent) has a question, concern, or complaint regarding an athletic situation, we have found the following line of communication very effective in resolving issues:

- **START WITH THE SOURCE.** Talk directly with the coach, in private face to face, away from the practice site or game area. A telephone call may be necessary to arrange an appointment.
- If necessary, **TALK NEXT WITH THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON OR SPORT DIRECTOR.**
- If necessary, **TALK NEXT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR.**
- If necessary, **TALK NEXT WITH THE INTERLOCAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**
- All complaints must be heard by the lowest possible level before intervention by the next higher authority can occur.
- When stating your concern, be prepared with the facts insofar as you understand, or can ascertain them. Think through your expectations for the outcome resulting from voicing your concern. That is, be clear and realistic about what you would like to happen as a result of your meeting.
- As you talk with the coach, or other authority, repeat back what he or she has said to be sure that you understand the important points. Stay calm and friendly as you talk and listen.