



Clinton Recreation and Parks Youth Sports Code of Conduct for Coaches and Parents

Expectations:

- Everyone involved in Clinton Recreation and Parks (CRPD) youth sports (coaches, players, umpires/referees, staff, other spectators, etc.) will be treated with respect and dignity. This includes recreation events on City of Clinton property or any other location where a City of Clinton team is playing.
- Use only appropriate language during all CRPD practices and games. Inappropriate language (swearing, derogatory comments, unsportsmanlike comments, etc.) will not be tolerated! We want to provide the youth with a positive environment where they can learn and have fun. And that starts with you.
- **Remember, youth sports are for kids. Not the adults.**

Athletics can be exciting and enjoyable for all. The feelings of being excited and having fun are closely tied to individual and team character. The following are examples of good character concepts:

- **Respect Yourself:** You need to believe in yourself and see yourself as an important part of the team. You may not be the best at everything but use your strength to make the team better as a whole.
- **Respect the Opponents:** You need your opponents, or the game won't take place. So, you need to show respect for your opponents by treating them as needed partners, not as enemies. When competing against a strong opponent, you usually play a better game.
- **Respect the Coaches:** The coaches are volunteering their time to our community to help each player he or she coaches. These coaches are needed to have a quality athletic program. Show respect to all, as they are here to do their best and be servant leaders.
- **Cooperation with Officials:** Rules are in place for a reason while also providing you with a structured game. You need to respect the officials as they are here to help and provide you with the opportunity to play.
- **Building the Team:** Everyone has different abilities and skills. Therefore, if you are listening to each other, sharing ideas, and helping each other increase strength, then you will be more likely to achieve your goals. You win as a team, and you lose as a team. More importantly, win with humility and lose with humility.
- **Learning to Win and Lose:** Every game has a winner and a loser. We all want to be competitive and win each game, but we must learn to deal with losing/failure to grow character as a team, fundamentally get better as a team, and ultimately be successful as a team. If you have the "winning is everything" mentality, this could lead to ignoring the positive reason why you join any athletic sport in the first place. The best competitors learn from their loss and strategically apply it to the future and build character.

Zero Tolerance Policy:

- We understand that athletics are competitive by nature; however, as a department we've taken a proactive, zero tolerance stance towards unsportsmanlike acts or conduct deemed inappropriate at any CRPD athletic event or any other location where a City of Clinton team is playing.

Below are in no way a complete list of unsportsmanlike conduct examples, but rather actual consequences for actions deemed inappropriate.

- The following actions would result in ONE game suspension:
 1. Acting in an unsportsmanlike or inappropriate manner before, during, or after a scheduled game or practice.
 2. Any player, coach, or spectator who refuses to abide by any officials' decision.
 3. No player or coach shall be guilty of objectionable demonstrations of ball throwing, stomping, kicking, etc. due to an official's decision.
- The following actions would result in MULTIPLE game or LEAGUE season suspension:
 1. If a player, coach, or spectator is removed from a game or facility by an official or gym supervisor for unsportsmanlike conduct (profanity, disruptive behavior, etc.).
 2. If a spectator walks onto the court or field of play during a game showing unsportsmanlike conduct. Exception: A parent/guardian spectator may walk onto the court or field of play in the event of a visible injury to their child.
 3. Using obscene or inappropriate language which includes flagrant gestures.
- The following actions would result in YEAR or INDEFINITE suspension:
 1. Any player, coach, or spectator that pushes, strikes, shoves, or threatens an official/referee, gym/field supervisor, staff member, opposing player or coach, or fan with bodily harm before, during, or after a game.
 2. If a player, coach, or spectator is involved in a fight or other physical altercation before, during, or after a department sponsored practice or game.
 3. Being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol while attending any CRPD sponsored game, practice, or event.

Ejected coaches or spectators must leave the facility. Games will not restart until he/she has left the facility. Anyone who does not leave the field/facility will cause their team to forfeit the game and law enforcement to be called. Ejected players must remain seated on the bench during the game. Exception: A player may leave with a parent or guardian.

Any time a player or coach is suspended twice during the season, he or she will be dismissed for the remainder of the season. If the ejection occurs in the last game of the season, then the offender is placed on indefinite suspension.

A coach, player, parent, or spectator who is suspended cannot be present at any practice(s) or game(s) with any team that he is affiliated with during that time, regardless of division.

****Indefinite suspension is at the discretion of Clinton Recreation and Parks staff.****

PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS

- I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parent's Code of Ethics Pledge.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child plays in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- 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.
- I will remember that the game is for youth, not for adults.
- I will make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability. I will set the example by doing the same.
- I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with the coaching or providing transportation.
- I understand by signing the Parents Code of Ethics that I, along with all other family members who attend my child's event, are governed under these guidelines. If I, or my family members, fail to comply with these guidelines, I understand that this action may result in me, or my family members, being asked to leave an event and/or being suspended from future Clinton Recreation and Parks programs, activities, events and facilities.

To ensure the safety for all our participants:

- **Only coaches, eligible players and game officials are allowed on the court/field of play during any game.**
- **Families and fans on the sidelines observing are not allowed to enter the court/field of play at any time.**
- **Violators of these rules are subject to suspension.**

PRINT CHILDS NAME: _____

PRINT PARENTS NAME: _____

PARENTS SIGNATURE: _____