

## **B7.01 - FAIRPLAY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS AND PARENTS**

**Last Updated: January 29, 2017**

A safe environment is one that encourages fair play, dignity and respect. Having a code of conduct for everyone involved - the organization, the parents and the children themselves - goes a long way to making it safer. It's a coach's responsibility to lay the ground rules and set the standards.

Players have the right to protection and support. They also have a responsibility (according to their age and experience) to do their part to build protective and support environments. Talk to your players about their role within their code of conduct - not just once, but throughout the season. Perhaps you could focus on one section at each practice. Point out examples of when the code is not being respected, and remember to emphasize when it is!

Parents, as every coach knows, are key to the success of a team and a season. Work with parents in helping them understand the part they play in promoting a safe and healthy sporting atmosphere. Their being involved is the first step.

Here are some suggested codes of conduct that will go a long way to promoting an atmosphere of respect and responsibility and encouraging safe sport.

### **Coaches Code**

#### **As a coach I will:**

Respect others, in victory and defeat by:

- Treating players, parents, opponents, coaches and other officials fairly, regardless of gender, ethnic background, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
- Directing all comments at the performance rather than the person.
- Never criticizing other coaches.

#### **Put the health and wellbeing of my athletes first by:**

- Co-operating with the parents or legal guardians of my athletes, involving them in their child's development.
- Conducting practices and games in ways that are mindful of the academic pressures placed on my student athletes and promote their academic success.
- Ensuring that the activity being undertaken is suitable to the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the athletes.
- Co-operating with registered medical practitioners in the overall management of my athletes' medical and psychological health.

#### **Be a good role model by:**

- Displaying high personal standards.
- Abstaining from and not tolerating use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products in conjunction with sport and discourage their use and that of other banned performance enhancing drugs by athletes at all times.
- Not using profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language.

#### **Stand on guard against abuse and promote a safe environment by:**

- Reporting any suspicion of sexual abuse (and other situations when a child may be in need of protection, such as neglect) to the authorities and advising the board of executive.
- Refraining from verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse.
- Educating athletes about their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.

## **Player's Code**

### **As a player I will:**

- Play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- Respect my fellow players, my coaches, the officials, my opponents and the game.
- Do my best to be a true team player.
- Remember that winning isn't everything, that having fun, improving my skills and making friends and doing my best are just as important.
- Acknowledge all good plays or performances, both those of my team and my opponents
- Participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- Control my temper- fighting and mouthing off spoil the game for everyone.
- Remember that my coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

## **Parent's Code**

### **As a parent I will:**

- Remember that my child plays sport for their enjoyment, not for mine.
- Encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel severely defeated by the outcome of a game or event.
- Make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- Never ridicule or yell at my child, or another child, for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
- Never force my child to participate in sports.
- Never question the official's judgement or honesty in public - I will take concerns to the proper officials.
- Respect and show appreciation for the trained volunteer coaches and other team leaders who give their time and energy to provide sport activities that help my child grow and develop.