

## Coach's Sportsmanship Agreement

*A coach is the most important element of the league. You are in direct contact with the young athletes who choose to participate in this league. Below is a list of expectations that the Pierce County Recreation Department has of you and your assistants.*

1. A coach will always keep the welfare of the players health foremost and remove any injured player from a game or practice.
2. A coach will always strive to set the example for his players on and off the field.
3. A coach will not be under the influence of any alcohol or drugs while actively coaching.
4. A coach will not berate any player, especially in front of other coaches, teammates, parents and fans.
5. A coach will not berate or criticize game officials and will accept their decisions as fair.
6. A coach will not run up the score on weaker opponents.
7. A coach will not entice fans or spectators into actions unbecoming to the sports at which they are coaching.
8. A coach will ENCOURAGE scholastics on and off the field.
9. A coach will follow the rules and regulations of the league.
10. A coach will not trade players with other coach's without first discussing with the Recreation Director.
- 11. A coach will not add players to their team once the Draft is over. The only exception is the Special Provision paragraph in the Athletic Policies and Procedures.**

### **Qualities and Skills PCRD looks for in a Volunteer Youth Sports Coach**

- **Integrity** – A good coach should respect and understand the need for rules. He/she should never attempt to circumvent the rules in any way.
- **Enthusiasm** – Adding emotion to effort. A good coach must show enthusiasm in order to encourage and excite his/her players.
- **Patience** – A good coach should not push children beyond their limits in terms of practice. Create an environment of learning a fun, not one of stress and negativity.
- **Sportsmanship** – *You are the example*. All the kids on your team and their parents are watching how you react to a bad call or treat the other team's coaches, players, and fans. Show them that you win and lose with class and respect.
- **Perspective** – Understand that there are far more important things in life than losing a game in youth sports. Everyone should want to do well and everyone should want to win, but losing a game is not the end of the world. A youth sports coach's success is measured by the respect he/she gains from players, parents, and officials – not wins and losses.
- **Positive Attitude** – A coach should encourage his/her players. Avoid negative remarks towards players and officials. Creating a positive environment during games and practices will be more enjoyable for all involved.
- **Preparation** – Have an organized plan for practices. Be familiar with the rules of the game and policies of the league.
- **Communication** – Be accessible to parents. Keep them in the loop with plans and schedules. Setting up an email distribution list with all the parents on your roster is a great way to keep good lines of communication.
- **Concern for Safety** – A coach should always consider the safety and welfare of his/her players above anything else. If there is a safety concern you need assistance with contact your league coordinator immediately.

## **Coach Selection Process:**

- **Selection Process:**
  - All Coaches will be selected by the Pierce County Recreation Director and Staff
  - PCRD Director has the right to remove a coach from his/her duties, if they violate the Sportsmanship Agreement or the Code of Conduct.
  - If you are not listed as a team coach, you will not be permitted on the athletic field to give any instruction or coaching assistance.
  - Coaches will **NOT** be allowed to band together to coach one team, in order to potentially load up a team with more talented players.
- **Background Checks:**
  - All Coaches (including assistants) must go through the County issued background check in order to coach.
    - If you have not done this or did not pass you will be asked to leave the field immediately until the completion of a background check is done.
- **Team Coaching Staff Limits:**
  - Football – 4 max
  - Soccer – 3 max
  - Basketball – 2 max
  - Baseball – 3 max
- **Certifications:**
  - All head coaches **MUST** be certified by one of the following organizations prior to the start of games.
    - Football – (NYSICA, ACEP, GHSA, USA Football) Preferred
    - Soccer – (NYSICA, ACEP, GHSA, GYSA, US Youth Soccer) Preferred

## Code of Conduct Policy:

The following list will not be allowed/tolerated by Coaches at any Recreation events:

1. Use of profanity or displays of anger that draws attention to yourself and away from the game/practice.
2. Use of tobacco in any form on the competition area or on the bench by participants, coaches, officials, regardless of local rules.
3. Use of alcohol on the practice or game fields by any participants, coaches, officials or parents.
4. Yelling, waving arms, laughing or name-calling in an attempt to distract or hinder the performance of a participant(s) during competition.
5. Booing or heckling an official's decisions.
6. Criticizing Officials in any way or displays of temper in response to an official's call/decision.
7. Antagonizing opponents, coaches or parents.
8. Refusing to shake hands or give recognition at the completion of games/practices.
9. Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants.
10. Yelling, chanting or gestures that are disrespectful, or derogatory to any other parent, coach, referee or staff.
- 11. Coaches will not allow or ask any Middle School participant to play/practice in any Recreation Department sport during their primary schools regular practice, season or Playoff period. Violation of this will result in Disciplinary Action #5.**
- 12. A coach will not intentionally have his team miss games that are scheduled out of town because either he does not want to travel or dislikes the other coach or team. (If this happens, the incident will be reviewed by the Rec. Director and his staff and if it warrants discipline the appropriate level will be applied to the coach and or team.) Refer to #6 below for minimum Action.**

### Disciplinary Actions:

1. Language unbecoming to the recreation department, sports league, or event. **(Suspension: 1 Game)**
2. Touching or Striking a coach or official **(Suspension: Remainder of Season) (Indefinite Expulsion)**
3. Unsportsmanlike conduct at an athletic event/program **(Suspension: 1 Game)**
4. Damage to Recreation Property **(Suspension: 2 Games)**
5. Failure to follow the Code of Conduct Policies **(Removal from Premises) (Suspension: 1 Game)**
6. Teams acting in this manner will, not only Forfeit the scheduled game but the game will count as one of their scheduled games and will not be made-up.

**\*\* In the event that you must serve a suspension, any offense after the 1<sup>st</sup> suspension will be punished by an indefinite suspension. The decision to reinstate a coach will be left up to the Pierce County Recreation Director. \*\***

**\*\* I have read & understand that if I deviate from this Agreement or the Code of Conduct that I will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department Conduct Policies.**

**Coach's Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Coach's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Position:  Head Coach  Assistant Coach**