



BURKE COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SPORT PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF ETHICS

Children's sports are supposed to be fun for the children. Unfortunately, too many adults don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect, and too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults. The emotional elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. Therefore, the following is for parents to abide by at every Recreation activity, and by doing so, help reinforce what sports are all about, fun for everyone. Failure of sport parent/guardian to sign this document may result in their child/children not being allowed to participate in any Recreation Department activity. For the purpose of the document, the use of "child" also means "children."

1. I will encourage my child to participate in sports or recreational activities.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will attempt to learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I will strive to 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 other sporting event.
6. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent, such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures or trash-talking.
7. I will not encourage any behavior or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance, and will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard.
11. I will not ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a game or competition.
12. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning, and de-emphasize games and competitions in the lower age groups.
13. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
14. I will respect the officials and their authority during games, and will not question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field but will take time to speak with the official(s) at an agreed upon time and place.
15. 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.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs and alcohol, and will refrain from possessing or using such at all Recreation activities, on Recreation property and/or in Recreation facilities.
17. I will not smoke, vape, or use tobacco products, to include but not limited to, snuff and chewing tobacco, at all Recreation activities, on Recreation property, and/or in Recreation facilities.

I agree to abide by this Code of Ethics and understand that if I fail to do so, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to, (a) verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization, (b) a written reprimand; (c) suspension of seven (7) days plus your child's the next scheduled game; (d) suspension for up to twelve (12) months from the day of infraction plus \$100 fine; (e) temporary or permanent restrictions from Recreation property, facilities and/or activities; plus \$200 fine and/or (f) jeopardize a team's participation in Recreation programs plus \$200 fine. If circumstances warrant, the Recreation Director or the Recreation Staff may initiate criminal charges through the proper law enforcement agencies. Such action will initially be determined by the Recreation Director or Assistant Director.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE DATE

PRINTED NAME

PHONE

SPORT

NAME(S) OF CHILD/CHILDREN PARTICIPATING