



**CITY OF EAST LANSING
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR YOUTH SPORTS**

Department of Parks and Recreation League Objective

The City of East Lansing youth sports program shall provide instruction, recreation, and low-key competition. The emphasis will be on maximum participation by each youth. The primary focus is on individual development, team play, group cooperation and sportsmanship.

General Statement

Everyone involved in youth sports at any level must show respect for all people and property. The following *Code of Conduct* is meant to provide expectations of behavior. Participating in youth sports programs is contingent upon following the Code of Conduct. Any conduct deemed detrimental to the game can lead to being suspended/removed from the contest without warning from the league.

Coaches

- Follow the rules of the contest at all times.
- Accept the decisions of the officials and avoid public criticism of game officials/participants.
- Avoid offensive language and gestures.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Be aware that you have a tremendous influence either good or bad, in the teaching of the athlete. Never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideal of character. Strive to set a positive example at all times.
- Actively use your influence to promote positive sportsmanship.
- Do not indulge in inappropriate conduct that will entice players or spectators against officials. Public criticism of officials or players is inappropriate.
- Remember the game is about the players, not the coaches.
- Before and after contests, coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone of the event.

Participants

- Show respect for coaches, teammates, opponents and officials at all times
- Accept the decisions of the game officials
- Avoid offensive language and gestures
- Do not officiate- play the game.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
- Be a TEAM Player
- Do not taunt, showboat or excessively celebrate
- Show respect for public property and equipment
- Show good sportsmanship- shake hands at the end of the contest win or lose

Spectators

- Cheer in a positive manner
- Work cooperatively with contest officials and supervisors in keeping order.
- You are a role model for the kids- they follow your behavior. If you lose your temper they see that- you can respectfully address a situation after the game.
- Remember the game is about the players, not the adults.
- Refrain from negative comments about officials/coaches/participants.
- Show respect for people, players and property.
- **Stay off the playing area at all times.**

Officials

- Accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- Maintain confidence and poise. Control the contest from start to finish.
- Know the rules of the game thoroughly.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before the contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants/coaches when enforcing rules.
- When watching a game, give the officials the same respect you expect to receive when working a contest.

By establishing roles and expectations, we can better understand each other, and create a positive experience for all involved. Each one of us has a role; players play, coaches do the coaching, referees/officials ref and parents please cheer positively for everyone. While these roles can be challenging at times, we will **ALL** be better participants if we remember our roles and are respectful and positive at all times.

Questions or comments can be addressed to the Site Supervisor or by contacting Tim Lane, Recreation Coordinator at tlane@cityofeastlansing.com.