

## Mountain Lakes Recreation Department Code of Conduct

### As a Recreation program youth sports coach, I will:

- Consider it an honor and a privilege to coach the young people of our community, and understand that it is my job to help the kids learn, improve in, and enjoy the sport in which they are engaged.
- Keep in mind at all times that I am a youth sports coach and that the experience is for the children not for the adults.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- Use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable for my players, increase their self-esteem and foster in them a true sense of enjoyment of the sport in which they are engaged.
- Do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players
- Never use demeaning language, sarcasm, “the cold shoulder”, or other emotionally manipulative tactics with the children in my charge
- Be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and teach these rules to my players.
- Never cheat or engage in any form of unethical behavior that violates league rules.
- Treat officials with respect and dignity, and instruct my players and my players’ parents to do the same.
- Treat opposing coaches and opposing players with respect and dignity and encourage my players and my players’ parents to do the same.
- Model grace, dignity and composure regardless of the outcome of the game.
- Teach the principles of fair play and sportsmanship to my players and model these principles for them at all times.
- Observe all player participation rules (if any) and strive to make each player feel that he/she is a valuable member of the team.
- Consider the safety of the kids at all times, and always encourage safe play.
- Refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual.
- Refrain from using any illegal substances or tobacco products, or imbibing alcohol while acting as a coach.
- Report any conduct that violates this code or adversely affects the positive, kid-friendly environment of the Mountain Lakes Recreation Sports Program.
- Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- Maintain control of my emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.

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### As a Recreation Sports program participant, I will:

- Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- Attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- Do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- Treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- Do my very best in school.
- Remember that sports participation is an opportunity to learn and have fun.

### As a Recreation Sports program parent, I will:

- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- Insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.
- Support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- Demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- Remember that the game is for youth - not for adults.
- Do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- Help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.
- Ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

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### Process for reporting and resolving violations of the code of conduct.

1. A person observing unacceptable behavior that is inconsistent with the tenets set forth in the above code of conduct should report the observed incident or behavior in writing to the league board.
2. As soon as possible, the board must investigate the issue by seeking validation from other parties. In addition, a board member will observe the coach in question to make an assessment.
3. If the original complaint is validated, the coach/player/parent in question must be warned to conform to the code of conduct, and advised that a second violation will result in his or her removal from the program. However, if the transgression is deemed egregious by the board, or in the case of multiple code violations, the board may skip the warning and remove the offending person immediately from the program.
4. A second validated infraction of the relevant code of conduct after a warning will result in removal of the coach/player/parent from the program.