



Walton County Parks & Recreation



Parent Code of Conduct

The Walton County Parks & Recreation Department has implemented the following Parent Code of Conduct to emphasize the proper role of parents in supporting their child in athletics.

Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the athletic facility and possibly be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or forfeiting the privilege of attending games all season.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Good Citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character.

I therefore agree:

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the department.
- I, and my guest(s), will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support of all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or team function.
- I, and my guest(s), will not engage in any kind of un-sportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- 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.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will emphasize skill development and practices, and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- 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.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss or confront coaches at the game field. I will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed time and place.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol. I will refrain from the use of these items at all sporting events.
- 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.