

Stafford Township Youth Sports Code of Conduct

The primary objective of youth sports programs in Stafford Township is to promote participation by all children regardless of ability. The emphasis shall be on developing the skills of the children through learning and participation. The youth sports programs exist in Stafford Township for the benefit of the children and the focus of all organized leagues shall be on teaching basic skills to the participants and on emphasizing good sportsmanship.

A. Players Code of Conduct:

1. Participate for the fun and enjoyment of the sport.
2. Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, or the most important one.
3. Work hard to improve your skills.
4. Support your teammates and be a team player.
5. Be on time for all practices and games and notify your coach if you cannot be there.
6. Learn the rules and play by them.
7. Respect your coaches, teammates, parents, opponents, and officials. Never argue with the decision of an official or coach.
8. Respect the playing field and the surrounding area.

B. Parents Code of Conduct:

1. Do not force your child to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children should be involved for their enjoyment and help them to make it fun.
2. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Children learn by example, applaud the good play of both teams.
3. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. You may be ejected from the area for this behavior.
4. Emphasize the benefit of skill development and de-emphasize the competition especially in lower age groups.
5. Study and learn the rules of the game and support the officials.
6. Applaud a good effort in victory or defeat.
7. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. Communicate with them and support them. If possible, volunteer your time to help.

C. Coaches Code of Conduct:

1. Be a positive role model to your players. Always display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of the players.
2. Care more about your players than winning the game. Emphasize that winning is the result of good "teamwork" as opposed to individual effort.
3. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Be consistent, fair, honest and just in interacting with your players.
4. Do not yell at players or verbally abuse a player, coach, official or other participant.
5. It is never appropriate under any circumstances to initiate physical contact with any player in anger, frustration or for the purpose of enforcing discipline. Behavior of this type will subject you to criminal charges in addition to any league sanctions which may be imposed.
6. Adjust to the different personal needs and problems of your players.
7. Give all players the opportunity to participate and to improve their skills.

Stafford Township Youth Sports Code of Conduct

8. Organize practices so that they are fun and challenging to the players.
9. Study and learn the rules of the game.
10. Maintain an open line of communication with the parents of all of your players. Work together to develop the goals and objectives of the sport.
11. Coaches are responsible for assisting the game officials in controlling their players and parents during a game.
12. Refrain from “piling it on” when a game is clearly won.
13. Immediately seek medical attention for any serious injuries and report all injuries to the appropriate league officials. Remove any player from participation when the player is experiencing pain or any other medical condition until competent medical advice is available.

All leagues are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct and to make all participants and their parents aware of the Code of Conduct as well. All coaches, athletes, parents, league officials, and spectators are expected to behave in a manner that reflects respect and good sportsmanship at all times. The ultimate decision concerning appropriate behavior in a game situation shall rest with the certified official(s) working the game. If a certified official requests or directs that a player, coach, parent or spectator leave the playing area, the person is to leave immediately. If a confrontation develops at any time, league officials are encouraged to seek the immediate assistance of the Stafford Township Police Department. Any and all participants in any type of physical confrontation or altercation shall forfeit their privilege of participating in or attending any Stafford Township athletic event for one year in addition to any other penalties imposed by the league or any other agency. The following is considered disruptive behavior and shall not be tolerated at any time. Officials shall have the authority to eject any individual who engages in this type of behavior:

- Inappropriate or foul language directed at coaches, players, officials or other fans.
- Excessive berating of officials that includes loud, disapproving expressions directed toward an official.
- Taunting of opposing players, coaches or fans.
- Refusing to leave a restricted area (i.e. behind a backstop, near the team bench area, etc.) when requested to do so by an official.