

## SPORTSMANSHIP

### ***Let the Coach Coach***

You are not one of the coaches, so avoid giving your child instructions during the game. It can be confusing for a child to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions during a game. If you have an idea for a tactic, go to the coach and offer it to her/him. Then let her/him decide whether (s)he is going to use it or not. If (s)he decides not to use it let it be. Getting to decide those things is one of the privileges (s)he has earned by making the commitment to coach.

### ***Observe "Cooling Off" Period***

Wait to talk to the coach about something you are upset about for at least 24 hours after a game. Emotions, both yours and the coach's, are often so high after a game that it's much more productive if you discipline yourself to wait until a day goes by before contacting the sport coordinator or coach about a problem. This will also give you time to think about what your goals are and what you want to say.

Respect decisions made by contest officials. Do not at any time attempt to engage officials in discussion either during or after games. Any issues with game officiating shall be documented and provided to the sport coordinator for resolution.

Make no derogatory comments or suggestions to players, coaches or parents of the opposing team, officials or league administrators.

Participants and their parents will be responsible for informing the Sport Coordinator, if necessary, of any potential problems or other concerns prior to the selection of the teams. If a parent has an issue with his or her child's playing for a specific coach, this issue must be explained in writing before the first game is played. The Athletic Director and the Sport Coordinator will evaluate the issue and will make a final determination if the issue is valid.

### **Responsibility:**

The Sport Coordinator is responsible for assisting the Athletic Director and the Assistant Athletic Director in the management of her/his sport. The Individual Sport Coordinators are for Boys' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball, and Soccer Leagues. The Sport Coordinator is also responsible for:

- Recruiting coaches in the sport they coordinate.
- Coordinating the tryout for the individual sport.
- Attending board meetings.
- Acting as a liaison between parents, coaches and the Athletic Director and Assistant Director.
- Gathering and making recommendations for local tournaments and leagues.
- Communicating practice and game schedules to each team coach for their sport.

### ***Team Parent***

**The responsibilities of the team parent are to:**

Assist the coach in coordinating team activities. Reminding or Calling parents for Game days, practices and snacks.

### **Reminder:**

Parents shall attend a preseason parent meeting held by the coach. The meeting is mandatory and at that time the coach will review the Parent Pledge. All parents are required to read and sign the pledge before their child may participate in the Athletic Program.

### ***Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct:***

1. Participating teams and their coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.
2. Any spectator/parent who displays poor sportsmanship may be removed from the facility by an official, team coach, a league official or the host gym manager in charge.
3. Any spectator/parent who interferes with the conduct of a St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish School's activity may, at the discretion of the Athletic Board, be barred from attendance at subsequent St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish School athletic events.

# Parent Code of Conduct

## *Preamble*

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:*

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
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 learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will 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 sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors 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.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. 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.

# Parent Pledge

Please read, initial each item, sign, and return to the Coach or Athletic Director.

1. I pledge to get my child to practice and games on time. I understand that it can be embarrassing for my child to be late and that I may be putting her/him at risk by not providing adequate time for warm up. I will be on time to pick up my child from all games and practices. This shows respect for the Coach, and it tells my child that (s)he is my top priority. \_\_\_\_\_

2. I pledge to use positive encouragement toward my child.

3. I understand that the game is for the players, and I will keep sports in the proper perspective.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. I pledge to "Honor the Game". I understand the importance of setting a good example for my child. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and officials. I understand that officials make mistakes. If the official makes a "bad" call against my team, I will "Honor the Game" and be silent. \_\_\_\_\_

5. I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions to my child. I understand that this is the Coach's job. I understand that games are chaotic times for children trying to deal with fast-paced action and respond to opponents, teammates and coaches. I will limit my comments during the game to encouraging my child and other players for both teams.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my child's coach in my child's presence. I understand that this plants a negative seed in my child's head that can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience. \_\_\_\_\_

I will honor the Parent Pledge in my words and actions.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Child's Name  
Parent Signatures Date