



**CITY OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT
YOUTH SPORTS POLICY**

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The City of Lighthouse Point Recreation Advisory Committee has proposed the following Sports Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, and understand this form prior to their children participating in our league. Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility.

Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and 4 core values:

- Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, and Caring.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “four core values.”

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports, and I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
2. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
3. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
4. 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 other sporting event including social media platforms.
5. 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 during practices, games, or on social media platforms.
6. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
9. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important to the game than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.

10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.

11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.

12. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.

13. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

YOUTH SPORTS CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

I recognize that participation in competitive activities is a source of strong feelings which will often lead to misunderstandings, disagreements and other conflicts. However, I also believe that every participant has a duty to respect the right of competitors to hold conflicting views. I therefore expect its coaches, players, referees and spectators, as well as their friends and families to deal with conflicts in a spirit of good sportsmanship and to cooperate in promoting the enjoyment of the sport.

I expect adherence to the spirit, the letter of its Rules and the Laws of the Game. Illegal, unfair, rowdy, violent, dangerous and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. I expect all participants to show respect for opponents, regardless of their skill. Coaches are responsible for communicating the Youth Sports Conduct to their players/participants and parents.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

- Vulgarity by coaches, players or spectators directed towards anyone in the city programs on the playing field or off, i.e. parking lot including social media platforms.
- Harassment of referees, coaches or players by anyone on the playing field or off including social media platforms.
- Debasement of referees, coaches or players by anyone on the playing field or off including social media.
- Physical violence or threat of violence directed toward anyone or encouraged by anyone.
- Verbal or physical assault on a referee. Physical assault is defined as any physical contact initiated by a player, coach, team official, or spectator.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

*Zero Tolerance Policy (Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the following):

- Any player, coach, or spectator who receives one (1) Personal Conduct Warning in a game will be ejected for that game.

- Any player, coach, or spectator who is ejected from two (2) games within the season will be removed from the program without a refund.

Persons unwilling to abide by these rules should reconsider their involvement in City-sponsored sports activities.