

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

OF

Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc.
(A MICHIGAN NONPROFIT CORPORATION)

ADOPTED
August , 2008

BY

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Definitions:

League – The league as used in this document is the Western Suburban Junior Football League (WSJFL).

Organization or Unit – As used in this document means the Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc.

Team – A football or cheer squad

Player – A participant in Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association as defined in the WSJFL rule book.

Cheerleader - A participant in Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association as defined in the WSJFL rule book.

Veteran – A participant that has obtained returning player rights as defined in the WSJFL Rule book.

Quorum – A simple majority of any voting body, as used herein quorum means any number that is more than 50% of the eligible voting Executive Board members.

Director – The leader of a committee that is working on behalf of the Unit. By definition Directors are members of the Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc. Board of Directors.

Member – Parents of the children participating in the program and other such interested adults. The members vote in the election of the Executive Board only. The members delegate their authority of carrying out the program by annually electing an Executive Board.

Eligibility to vote - In order to vote at the board election meeting as a general member you must be at least 18 years of age and have attended (and signed the attendance sheets) at least two of the last three board meetings (prior to the meeting of election).

Executive Board – The body defined in Article VI of this document that is charged with the Operational, Financial, and Disciplinary oversight of the Unit.

Age – A participant’s league age is his age on August 31st of the year in question.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND LOCATION

Section 1. Name

The name of this corporation shall be known as Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc. hereinafter referred to as the “Corporation”, a perpetual nonprofit entity.

Section 2. Location

The principal office of this corporation shall be maintained at the treasurers residence, or in such as place as the Board of Directors may determine.

ARTICLE II Mission / Purpose

Section 1. Mission

The mission of the Corporation shall be to implant firmly into the boys and girls of the community the ideals of good sports conduct, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence so that they shall be finer, stronger and happier boys and girls. The objective is that they may mature as good, clean, healthy men and women. Also, to make participation in the game of football and cheerleading as safe as possible by eliminating unsupervised play.

This association is designed primarily for the improvement and development of the capabilities of individuals, to encourage certain types of sports and athletic endeavors, to promote the physical, mental and moral development and well being of children without regard to race, creed sex, color, or religion who are residents within the area of each football franchise by providing the means through which the individual child shall receive education and instruction in sports programs. The purpose and guiding principals will be to develop and promote fair play, honest and fair competition, and true sportsmanship. Emphasis will be placed on the protection of the physical and emotional health and development of each child involved rather than on the winning of games or any other adult competitive standard.

The Belleville Cougars Football Association Inc. is and shall remain a non-profit organization forever.

Section 2.

The objectives will be achieved by providing supervised, competitive football games and cheerleading activities.

Section 3.

The Corporation shall bring together concerned adults, dedicated to providing a means to fulfill the objective for the benefit of the youth in our community.

Section 4.

The attainment of athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary to the positive character molding of future men and women of our community.

ARTICLE III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1.

Membership in this Corporation shall be open to persons who are parents, relatives or guardians of children who are current or former program participants, or other such person as the Board may include as members.

Section 2.

The Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as the "Board") of this corporation shall, ipso facto, be members of this Corporation, and shall be such number not less than 6, nor more than 14 or, as from time to time, may be determined by the Board. The term of office on the Board shall be for one year. Board members are eligible to be elected for as many consecutive terms as their membership is valid. Directors shall have been involved in the organization for at least one complete football season prior to service unless the position cannot be filled otherwise. Executive Board Members shall have been involved in the organization for at least two complete football seasons prior to service unless the position cannot be filled otherwise.

Section 3.

The Board shall be charged with the responsibility of managing all of the affairs of the Corporation. No member of the Board, except for the duly elected President, shall represent or speak for the Corporation unless so authorized by the President of the Board.

Section 4.

Any member of the Board may resign their position by delivering a written resignation to the Secretary of the Corporation.

Section 5.

If a Board member misses 50% of the announced and convened Board meetings during any consecutive 12-month period, the Board upon a vote may declare the member's Board position vacant. A member attending other Cougar business is not considered absent.

Section 6.

Any officer, Director or Coach may be removed from their position "for cause" by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors, (excluding the member in question). "For cause" may include, but shall not be limited to, improper use of Board or coaching

position which places in jeopardy the Corporation's Mission/Policies. "For cause" may also include, but is not limited to, the finding that the League Rules or the philosophies of the Corporation were not followed, or that the Officer, Director or Coach is working in discord with the best interest of the children participating in the program, or in violation of the league rules.

Section 7.

Any officer, Director or Coach facing removal from their position shall have an opportunity to present their case to the Board.

Section 8.

The Officers and Directors of this Corporation shall not be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken or any failure to take any action unless:

- (a) the Officer or Director has breached or failed to perform the duties of his or her office, and
- (b) the breach or failure to perform constitutes self dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Annual Meetings

The annual meetings of the Board shall be held in conjunction with the close of the fiscal year, on a date designated by the Board in conjunction with a normal monthly meeting.

Section 2. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at such time and place as decided upon by the Board as specified in Article XVI.

Section 3. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President at such times and places as he or she may designate. The President shall call a special meeting if requested to do so in writing by any four members of the Board. The call to meeting notice for a special meeting shall identify the agenda item or items. The business of the special meeting shall be limited to those items identified in the "Call to Meeting" notice. A special meeting at the request of the Board members shall be held within fifteen days of receipt of such request.

Any Officer or Director may waive, in writing, any notice required to be given by law or under these Bylaws, and attendance at any meeting shall automatically be deemed to have waived the notice requirement.

Section 4. Quorum

Fifty-one percent of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business of the Corporation unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE V. Organizational Make-up

Section 1.

The Board shall be comprised of the Executive Board and the Directors.

ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Corporation shall be elected by the Board and membership at its November Board meeting and shall serve for a period of one year or until their successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. The Officers shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Football Unit Director
6. Cheer Unit Director
7. Registrar

Section 2. Election and Term of Office

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, Football Unit Director, Cheerleading Unit Director and Registrar shall be members of the Executive Board, elected by the Members for a term of one year, and may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms in the same office. Executives and Directors shall succeed to office immediately following the annual meeting. Executives shall be held over in office until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

Section 3. President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and appoint all committees and their prospective Directors, and fill all vacancies not otherwise provided for in these articles. The President is the Chief Officer of the Corporation, with full power and authority to act within the context of the Corporation's policies and mission statement. The President shall not vote on yes/no votes unless there is a tie. The President votes for all coaching and staffing positions.

Section 4. Vice President

The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President. The Vice-President shall succeed to President if the presidency is vacated for any reason.

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall have, or delegate, charge of the Corporation's seal and the books and the records of Corporation, and shall execute and file all such documents or instruments with the Corporation, as required and shall issue notices of meetings of the Board. Maintain a record of all volunteer activity.

The Secretary shall keep true and accurate minutes of the meetings held by the Corporation and conduct, as directed, all official correspondence of the Corporation.

In conjunction with the President, the Secretary shall execute and file all such documents or instruments of the Corporation, as required and make such records and perform other such duties as ordinarily pertains to the office of Secretary or that which is required of him or her by the Board.

Section 6. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have, or delegate, custody of all the funds and securities belonging to or held in trust by the Corporation. The Treasurer shall collect all interest, dividends, rent and income on invested funds or on property held by the Corporation. The Treasurer shall authorize expenses only by prior permission granted in check or draft form signed by the authorized person(s) in accordance with the policies adopted by the Board from time to time.

The Treasurer shall obtain or provide a yearly audit or year-end financial statement of the books of the Corporation, and shall present said report to the Board. The Treasurer shall, by virtue of his/her office, chair the Corporation's Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible to file tax returns as necessary per statute.

Section 7. Football Unit Director

The Football Unit Director shall represent the Corporation at all WSJFL meetings and functions. The Football Unit Director shall oversee and provide the league and all qualified interested parties the official player roster of all teams. The Football Unit Director Acts as liaison between parents, coaches, and Board members, and represents the unit at any league disciplinary function. Oversees and insures coaching staff is compliant with all league rules, regulations and standards. In concert with the Coaches and Board determines team roster size for each team. The Unit Director may appoint Field Managers to assist with game day responsibilities.

Section 8. Cheerleading Unit Director

The Cheerleading Unit Director shall represent the Corporation at all WSJFL meetings and functions. The Cheerleading Unit Director shall oversee and provide the league and all interested parties the official cheerleading roster of all teams. The Cheerleading Unit Director acts as liaison between parents, coaches, and Board members, and represents the unit at any league disciplinary or planning function. Oversees and insures coaching staff is compliant with all league rules, regulations and standards. In concert with the Coaches and Board determines team roster size for each team. The Unit Director may appoint Field Managers to assist with game day responsibilities.

Section 9. Registrar

The registrar oversees the registration process for Football players and Cheerleaders. Collect and maintain all registration forms, birth certificates, and records of registration fees. Submits a list of all players, and cheerleaders including necessary registration information as appropriate to unit directors, coaches, candy chairpersons and others as deemed necessary by the board. The Registrar is responsible to turn over all registration fees to the Treasurer. The registrar is responsible to inform the head coaches of any known medical issues for each child as noted on the Registration and Physical forms.

Section 10. Vacancies in Officer's Positions

A vacancy existing in any office may be filled by the Board at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

In case of any vacancy on the Board through death, disability, resignation, removal or other cause, the remaining Officers and Directors may elect a successor, who shall take office immediately and hold office for the duration of the unexpired portion of the term.

ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Directors shall include:

1. Concessions Director

The Concession Director is responsible for all concession operations, sales, purchasing, delivery, for all Cougar and High School Football concessions.

2. Merchandising/Apparel Director

Merchandising and Apparel Director is responsible for Cougar merchandise selection procurement, sales, and coordination of all merchandising for fundraising events.

3. Fundraising Director

The Fundraising Director is responsible to identify ways to raise funds, and turn all funds over to the Treasurer with a written report. The Fundraising Director is responsible for advertising and sponsorship procurement. Working with the entertainment committee to organize at least 3 off-season fundraising events and coordinate volunteers to assist with fundraising activities.

4. Public and Press Relations Director

Responsible for development and sale of the Cougar yearbook and program, Coordinate along with the Executive Board the development and posting of the Cougar Message Board, Responsible for delivering Board approved information to the internet manager for posting on the Cougar website.

5. Equipment Director

The Equipment Director is Responsible for inventory, ordering, procurement at request of the Board of all Football and Cheerleading equipment and uniforms. He/she is also responsible for Supervision and coordination of equipment maintenance, handout, and return of equipment.

6. Entertainment Director

Responsible for planning and presentation of Cougar banquet, homecoming activities and picnic, work with fundraising committee in presentation of off-season fundraising activities.

7. Photography Director

The Photography Director is responsible for coordinating action photos, coordination of photographer for team and individual photo's and distribution of action photos.

Section 2.

Director positions may be created or eliminated by a majority vote of the Board. Director duties are as needed for the named positions above. Directors are nominated by the Executive Board and voted on by the Board.

Section 3.

The Board will from time to time define and redefine the role and responsibilities of each of the Director positions.

ARTICLE VIII. LEAGUE PARTICIPATION & TEAM STRUCTURE

Section 1.

The Corporation shall participate in the WSJFL Junior Football League.

Section 2.

The Corporation shall be comprised of at least three divisions of play: Freshman, Junior Varsity and Varsity football squads, and as many cheerleading squads as the Board may determine to be appropriate.

Section 3.

Preference will first be given to returning participants (veteran status) within a designated time frame determined by the Board, and then to new participants outside of former and/or current membership.

Every participant shall have an annual certificate of good health signed and/or stamped by a physician and countersigned by a parent/guardian prior to any physical conditioning and/or body contact. These shall be on file with the member organization (registrar) and open for inspection (with cause) at all times.

Section 4. Mini-POM Squad

A Mini-pom cheerleading squad may be made available during each season at the discretion of the Board. Limitations on enrollment will be determined by the board for each season with an absolute limit of 25 members. Participation on the mini-pom squad is reserved for siblings of current players, member's children, coach's children, and siblings of current players on a first come first served basis. If remaining openings exist following the registration of all current member's children, coaches children, and players siblings, openings may be made available to the general public at the discretion of the Board.

Section 5. Grievance Process/Resolution

Any member of the Corporation and its participants has right to resolution under these Bylaws through due process with "for cause" (for cause defined in Article III, Section 6.). The process is as follows:

1. Member/Participant will submit complaint/grievance in written form stating facts as best to knowledge.
2. All grievances must be directed to the Unit Director (not the Coach)
3. Upon receipt of statement, the Unit Director will investigate the complaint, or grievance.
4. The Unit director will attempt to resolve the issue.
5. If unable to resolve the issue, the member/Participant shall have the right to address the complaint with the Board.
6. All grievance issues will be heard in closed session with only the Executive Board and the complainant present.
7. The Executive Board will determine resolution.

All persons involved in complaint/grievance process have right to present to the Board.

Following resolution by the Board, persons wishing further redress may do so under the bylaws of the WSJFL.

ARTICLE IX. COACHING STAFF

Section 1.

Each season, each Cougar football and cheerleading squad shall have a head coach approved by a vote of the Board after a full review of all applications received and presented. Applications for head coach positions will be accepted at the January Board meeting. The Belleville Cougars application/background check form will be required for each applicant and be valid for 1 year. Voting for head coach positions will take place following background screening at the February Board meeting or when background check results are received (if after the February meeting).

The decision to accept or deny an application rests solely within the discretion of the Board of the Directors. If an application is denied, the Board shall be under no obligation

to disclose the reasons for denial and are held harmless from any claims arising out of the exercise of their discretionary authority in the selection process.

Section 2.

The Coaching staff (assistants) shall be limited to no more than 5 and shall be chosen by the Head Coach for each squad.

Section 3.

Each Head Coach and Assistant Coach of Cheer and Football will have a background screening performed as part of the application process, which will include but not limited to a criminal background check. This will be performed before the start of each upcoming season.

Section 4

Head coaches must be at least 18 years of age, and have at least 1 year of coaching experience.

Section 5

Head Coaches name and telephone number will be posted on the Belleville Cougar website.

Section 6

All coaches are to have a copy of the WSJFL league rule book as soon as possible prior to the first game. These are available @ www.bellevillecougars.com

Section 7

Head Coaches are accountable for the conduct of their staff and team on and off the playing field. Discipline is part of football and cheerleading and will be taught by the coaches.

Section 8.

Coaches shall select and play eligible players in conformance with the rules and regulations of the WSJFL of which the Cougars are a part.

Section 9.

The Coaches shall have charge of the boys and/or girls on their teams/squads during all practice sessions and games.

Section 10.

The Coaches are responsible for complying with all play rules of the game and all requirements set forth by the WSJFL in which the Unit participates.

ARTICLE X. COMMITTEES

The Board shall establish such committees as they deem necessary, and shall designate a Director to act as Chairperson thereof. The President, with

recommendations from the Chairperson, shall select the committee members who may or may not be Directors.

ARTICLE XI. FISCAL MATTERS

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be from January 1st to December 31st, inclusive.

Section 2. Bank Accounts

The funds of the Corporation shall, upon receipt, be deposited in one or more accounts to be designated by resolution of the Board, and shall be withdrawn only upon the signature or signatures of the officer, officers, agent or agents specifically authorized and designated by appropriate resolutions of the Board. Checks shall require two signors. No two immediate family members shall be signors on unit checks.

Section 3.

All equipment, records, funds and other materials and supplies belonging to the Corporation shall be surrendered by the Board member or Director immediately upon leaving office.

Section 4.

The Board of Directors shall have power to designate the officers and agents who shall have authority to execute any instruments on behalf of this Corporation.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCING

Financing of the Corporation shall be from voluntary contributions, gifts, participation fees, fund raising projects, concession sales, and other means that shall be determined from time to time by the Board.

ARTICLE XIII. RULES of ORDER

All meetings of the Board shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIV. DISSOLUTION

Dissolution of The Corporation shall be by super-majority (66%) vote of the Board. All assets of the Corporation shall revert to the benefit of the local government if the organization dissolves or, the organization may donate all assets to an organization designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3). The benefactor determination is to be made by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended, altered, repealed or superseded, either in whole or in part, by the affirmative action of a majority of the Board present at any meeting or

Special Meeting at which a quorum is present and acting. If this action is taken during a special meeting it must be provided that the notice thereof is included in the notice of such meeting.

ARTICLE XVI REGULAR MEETINGS - time and locations

Regular meetings will be held at the following times and locations

November - July: 2nd Tuesday of each month Location - South middle School cafeteria
7:00 p.m.

August - October: 2nd Tuesday of each month Location - Belleville High school
Baseball field - right field bleachers – 7:00 p.m.

Article XVII. Unit Operating Rules

The operating rules of the unit are to be used in the following descending order. Where a discrepancy exists the unit will defer to the higher level rule to determine which rule supersedes. The rules governing play, eligibility, and conduct are governed by the following rulings and organizations: MHSAA, WSJFL, Belleville Cougars Unit operating rules.

Board

1. Voting rights - all board members have voting rights on all issues unless they are directly involved (disciplinary issue) in the issue being voted upon. Voting rights may only be removed by the individual being removed from a board position by a majority vote of the Executive Board or by resignation from a position.
2. All squad numbers to be decided by Unit director(s) with appropriate input from coaches, and Board, the unit will seek to preserve at least 5 open positions for each team for new (non-veteran) players each season.

Players

1. Veterans and incoming players must play within their age group. Players and prospective players may not move into positions on a higher level team to avoid the waiting list. In general this means that Freshmen will be 9-10 years old, JV Players will be 9 -12 years old and Varsity Players will be 11-14 years old. Freshman minimum weight is 65 pounds, JV players must be a minimum of 75 pounds and Varsity players must be a minimum of 90 pounds. A Cheer mascot can only be 6, or 7 years old. A child of cheerleading age must be a cheerleader. 8 year old cheerleaders may be members of the freshman cheerleading squad or the Junior Freshman Cheerleading squad as space allows.

2. All fees, fundraising money, etc. must be paid on time and all equipment turned in as required, and all volunteer time served by the players parent or other representative (as required to receive their refund) or the player will lose veterans rights. Equipment/uniforms not turned in by December 1st will result in loss of veteran's rights - No exceptions.
3. Player weight and weigh-in requirements are governed by WSJFL rules.
4. Six year Players and cheerleaders will at their option receive a jersey not to exceed \$50.00 in value.

Homecoming

1. Homecoming King and Queen to be selected by drawing from a hat. Each player/cheerleader name is placed in the hat one time per year of playing experience present year inclusive.
2. Homecoming King and Queen to be chosen at half time of each game during the homecoming games.

Membership and Conduct

1. All participants must act with sportsman-like conduct. Fighting, arguing, and foul language will not be tolerated. This is a WSJFL zero tolerance rule - no second chances. This includes coaches, players and PARENTS.
2. All Cougar Members may obtain a copy of the rulebook from the Belleville Cougar website @ www.bellevillecougars.com
3. Attendance at all practices is mandatory. This includes all football and cheer practices. Players' routinely missing practice will be disciplined by their coaching staff. Any practice missed should be discussed in advance with the head coach. Situations requiring a missed practice are discouraged and may result in missed play/cheer time during games. Disciplinary measures resulting in reduced play time must be approved by the unit directors prior to game day (exception – late for weigh-in/game).

BYLAWS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY:

President	Secretary
Date	Date

Vice President

Treasurer

Date

Amendment 1 to:

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS

OF

Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc.

Amendment 1:

- a. Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code, or corresponding sections of any future federal tax code.
- b. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organizations shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the

publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of a candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section (170) (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

- c. Upon the dissolutions of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas for the county in which the principle offices of the Belleville Cougar Junior Footballs Association Inc. is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for exclusively for such purposes.

This amendment has been adopted by the Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc., Executive Board of Directors on August 6, 2008.

President _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Football Unit Director _____

Cheer Unit Director _____

Registrar _____

Date

Amendment 2 to:

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS
OF
Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc.

Amendment 2:

Member and Parent conduct:

Football is a sport which requires the Players to act in an aggressive and confrontational manner while playing on the field. However, aggressive and confrontational behavior is **Never Acceptable** for parents and fans.

Members and Parents of the Belleville Cougars are expected to act responsibly and with decorum at all times as is fitting with their role as mentor, and role model for their children.

To this end, use of vulgar, or obscene language in the presence of children is unacceptable behavior. Aggressive and confrontational behavior on the part of parents is also unacceptable.

The behaviors listed below are unacceptable. If these behaviors are observed, the executive board at its discretion may institute the following disciplinary actions:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Parental Game suspension (written documentation kept on file)
- Parental Season Suspension
- Removal of Child(ren) from organization

Behaviors such as but not limited to:

- Offensive vulgar or obscene language used with Board members, coaches or other officials of the organization (including game officials).
- Aggressive or threatening behavior towards anyone while attending practice, games, or other Belleville Cougars sponsored event.
- Entering onto the practice field while practice is in session without invitation from the coaching staff or a board member.
- Approaching a coach with demands that their child be played at a specific position.
- Engaging in arguments and disruptive behavior in the presence of children and bystanders (if there is the need for a discussion it needs to be had without an audience)

Parents will be required to complete the attached “Sport Parent Code of Conduct” prior to children competing in any game.

This amendment has been adopted by the Belleville Cougars Junior Football Association Inc., Executive Board of Directors on August 15, 2008.

President _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

Football Unit Director _____

Cheer Unit Director _____

Registrar _____

Date

SPORT 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." *1*

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.*2, 9*
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.*6, 9*
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. *9*
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.*7, 3*
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 other sporting event. *10*
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. *3,6,7,8*
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. *5,2*
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.*6,9*
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. *2*
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time. *2*
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition. *2, 5*
13. 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. *10*
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. *9*
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. *4, 7*
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. *6*

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. 4

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following: 9

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
- Written warning
- Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
- Game forfeit through the official or coach
- Parental season suspension
- Removal of Children from organization

Parent/Guardian Signature

References

The Sport Parent Code of Conduct has been compiled from the following national organizations and local youth sports league Parent Codes of Conduct:

1. Arizona Sports Summit Accord
2. Character Counts
3. Heartland Soccer Club
4. Kidsports
5. Mt. Laurel Soccer Club
6. National Alliance for Youth Sports
7. National High School Athletic Coaches Association
8. Pop Warner
9. Rosemont Area Athletic Association
10. USA Hockey