

## COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Mahwah's recreational youth sports are run by the Township of Mahwah Youth Sports Boosters (TMYSB), a volunteer, not-for-profit organization working in partnership with the Township of Mahwah. The TMYSB's mission is to develop, encourage, and coordinate recreational activities for boys and girls in Mahwah, to develop and encourage good sportsmanship between all participating youths for the betterment of their physical and social well-being, to establish and conduct leagues, teams, clinics and other events that further the stated purposes of the TMYSB and to do any and all acts desirable in the furtherance of the foregoing purposes (See Article 2-Mission Statement).

It is a privilege and an honor to be chosen to coach a Mahwah Youth Sports team; with this comes an obligation for a coach to act in an appropriate manner. A coach is a teacher, a leader, and a role model for each player under his/her supervision. Coaches work in conjunction with commissioners and officials to support the athletic program in all policies, rules and regulations. To remain a Mahwah Youth Sports Coach in good standing, each coach must continue to conduct himself/herself in a way that encourages good sportsmanship, safety, and the development of the young athlete.

Our goal is also to develop "winners," and winning situations occur in many different circumstances. We want our players to give maximum effort toward learning new skills and building relationships with a team, to develop self-esteem and to play hard and competitively with pride and good sportsmanship. This is reflected in both team and individual growth throughout each season and through the years, but not always in a final score or league ranking. At the recreational level, we are learning through experiences, not victories, which means focusing on the "process" (practices, gaining skills and knowledge of the game, building teams and friendships) and not on mere "results". In an effort to adhere to these principles and to achieve these goals, coaches agree to the following Code of Conduct.

As a Mahwah Youth Sports Coach, I will

- Place the emotional and physical well being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
- Treat each player as an individual, remembering there may exist a large range of emotional and physical development within any age group.
- Do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players by controlling my language and temperament, and by respectfully treating the officials, other coaches, and players on other teams.
- Be knowledgeable of the rules of each sport that I coach and teach these rules to my players.
- Use those coaching techniques appropriate for the skills and the age of the players that I teach.
- Do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players, including reviewing and practicing basic first aid principles and acquiring certification through the Rutgers Youth Sports Safety Program provided by the TMYSB.
- Communicate effectively with the parents of my players, so that they remain informed about practices, games, the Youth Sports program, and the rules of good sportsmanship as spectators.
- Provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at or before all youth sports events.
- Be mindful that I am a youth sports coach and that the game is for children and not adults.

Furthermore, I understand that if I do not adhere to the above principles and this Code of Conduct, I will forfeit the privilege of coaching in the TMYSB Youth Sports Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Sport / League or Division)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)