

# Parents' Code of Conduct

## **1. Encourage children to participate for their own interest and enjoyment, not yours.**

Support your children in their participation in basketball but do not force them to play if they don't want to. Sport is played by children for enjoyment and fitness. If they feel too much pressure from you it may make them rebellious or even depressed.

## **2. Encourage children to always play by the rules.**

Just as responsible parents teach their children to obey the law of the land, so should those same parents encourage their children to play sport by the rules. If you see your children constantly breaching rules you should be prepared to speak to them at an appropriate time.

## **3. Teach children that an honest effort is always as important as a victory.**

Your children will suffer many disappointments in their lives. You should teach them from an early age that whilst a win in basketball will bring them much pleasure, it is not the most important thing. Participating to the best of their abilities is far more important than winning. You can help them learn this, so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.

## **4. Focus on developing skills and playing the game. Reduce the emphasis on winning.**

If children see that effort is rewarded by an increase in skills, they will derive considerable pleasure and see the importance of striving to improve over the necessity to win every game.

## **5. A child learns best by example. Applaud good play by all teams.**

Acknowledge all good plays whether they be by your children's team or the other team. Good manners and respect can be infectious. If you acknowledge the achievements of your children's opponents it is likely your children will follow suit.

## **6. Do not criticise your or others' children in front of others.**

Reserve constructive criticism of your own children for more private moments. Children can be very sensitive and feel strong humiliation if they are criticised in front of their peers. When you do feel the necessity to speak to your child about something that displeases you, make the effort to explain what the problem is and why you are concerned about it.

## **7. Accept decisions of all referees as being fair and called to the best of their ability.**

Referees and officials have a difficult task to perform and your children could not play the game without them. They are there to enforce the rules of play but they cannot always be right. Accept bad calls graciously. Abuse of referees is unacceptable behaviour. If you disagree with a decision, discuss it with your children in a constructive manner.

## **8. Set a good example by your own conduct, behaviour and appearance.**

Children often learn by example. You are the prime role models for them. Do not criticise opposing team members or supporters by word or gesture. Accept loss graciously and applaud the efforts of all playing the game.

## **9. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.**

## **10. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person.**

## **11. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators.**

Volunteers are necessary for the functioning of sporting activities. Without them, your child could not participate. Show them the respect and appreciation that they deserve.

## **12. Keep children in your care under control.**

Basketball encourages you to bring your children to games. However, there can be dangers to them in a stadium. They can also constitute a danger to players. You should ensure that children with you at a basketball game are well behaved and are under your supervision.

**13. Always respect the use of facilities and equipment provided.**

Facilities and equipment cost money and will only function properly if kept in good order. Ensure that you do not abuse anything provided for use.

**14. Fulfill your volunteer obligation willingly, knowing that the effort will directly impact your child's experience.**

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_