

**TOWN OF DOVER**  
**ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT**  
as per Ordinance of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen  
of the Town of Dover  
ORDINANCE # 05-2006

**PREAMBLE**

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sporting event and shall confirm my behavior to the following Code of Conduct:

- 1) I will not force my child or child that I coach 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 other 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, taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
- 7) I will **not** encourage any behavior or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- 8) I will teach my child or the child I coach to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- 9) I will demand that my child or the child I coach treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation or ability.
- 10) I will teach that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that no child will ever feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- 11) I will praise all of the children for competing fairly and trying hard, and make each child feel like a winner every time.
- 12) I will never ridicule or yell at any child or any other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- 13) I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit a 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 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/gym, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed time and place.
- 16) I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and 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.

I also agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the above-mentioned rules and guidelines while attending, coaching or officiating or participating in any youth sports organization event with regard to any participating team I may be subject to the disciplinary action including but not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization, as appropriate,
- Written warning by Town of Dover Recreation Commission and/or sports officials, as appropriate,
- Suspension, (ban) or immediate ejection from a youth sports even issued by Town of Dover Police Department, Town of Dover Recreation Commission or the youth sport organization conducting the game.
- Suspension, (ban) from multiple youth sports events issued by Town of Dover Recreation Commission, as appropriate,
- Parental game suspension (banning) with written documentation of incident kept on file by organization involved as appropriate,
- Game forfeit through the game official, as appropriate,
- Parental season suspension (banning) or multiple season suspension as issued by the Town of Dover Recreation Commission.

**I hereby agree that I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and will abide by it.**

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Please Print Parent Name

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Signature of Parents/Guardian or Coach