

# **CVYS Parent and Player Code of Conduct and Expectations**

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## **The Parent/Guardian and Youth Athlete Relationship**

The attitude of the parent/guardian is the most influential factor in determining if a youth athlete has a rewarding or disappointing athletic experience. The attitude of the parent/guardian is more influential than the talent level of the youth athlete, the amount of playing time, the attitude of the coach, the attitude of the players or the team's win-loss record. Some youth athletes describe the "worst 15 minutes of the day" as the ride home in the car after a practice or competition, due to the parent/guardian's critiquing and critical words and attitude toward the youth athlete, the coach or the teammates. If there are questions and concerns regarding the effort or performance of the youth athlete, the questions and concerns should originate from the attitude that the child is giving his or her best effort during practices and games.

## **The Youth Athlete/Coach Relationship**

A parent/guardian can have a pronounced effect on this very important relationship. The role of the youth athlete is to be coachable for the coaching staff and to be a productive, respectful, and responsible teammate. While parents/guardians may not agree with all decisions of a coach, how and when a parent/guardian expresses his or her feelings can have a profound effect upon the youth athlete. If a parent/guardian expresses a negative opinion in front of a youth athlete, the parent/guardian needs to be aware that the youth athlete will return to practice the next day and likely carry with her the negative opinions expressed by the parent/guardian. This has the potential to greatly impact the youth athlete/coach relationship. Likewise, a parent/guardian providing contradictory technical or strategic instructions at home may interfere and conflict with the instructional process at practice sessions or during competitions. This may place a youth athlete in an awkward, no-win situation between the coach and the parent/guardian impeding a youth athlete's progress and affecting her contribution to the team.

## **The Parent/Guardian and Coach Relationship**

The role of a parent/guardian involves care and concern for his or her child's welfare and success. Parents/guardians want the best for their children. However, youth athletes can only have one head coach during a season. Allowing the coaching staff to instruct and guide the team is crucial to the success of youth athletes and the team. Should a parent/guardian have questions or concerns regarding her child, the expectation is not approach the coach at the conclusion of a contest or during a practice session. At that time, coaches have other responsibilities and may be unprepared to address the concern. The appropriate action for a parent/guardian is to call or e-mail the coach and make an appointment for a later time. This will allow for both the parent/guardian and the coach to approach the meeting in a calm, courteous and logical manner.

One of the responsibilities of a coach is to keep the team focused during the game and use plays on the field as teaching moments during the game as well as meet with the team at the conclusion of the games. We ask that youth athletes stay at the team benches during games, not talking to parents or fans during the games and they should not pause to talk to parents/guardians immediately after games. We ask that parents reinforce this. These teachable moments and meetings are essential to the learning process involved in youth sports.

## **The Parent/Guardian and Game Officials Relationship**

Officials agree to and follow a code of ethics. They really do not care or have an interest in which team wins the contest. As in any vocation, there are great, good, and average officials. However, each official is doing his or her best to provide a safe, unbiased and structured environment for the youth athletes. Nothing positive will result from a parent/guardian yelling at the officials. In fact, many negative actions can occur by a parent/guardian yelling at the officials. They are 1) the parent/guardian appears immature and foolish; 2) the parent/guardian will embarrass her child; 3) the parent/guardian will set a poor example that others may follow, escalating a negative environment; 4) the parent/guardian will negatively represent his/her child, the head coach, all members of the team, and the CVYS community; and 5) the parent/guardian may be removed from the competition.

## **The Parent/Guardian and CVYS Organization Relationship**

The CVYS Board administers all of the CVYS athletic teams. Prior to approaching a member of the CVYS Board regarding the administration and management of an athletic team, a parent/guardian should first speak to the head coach. If the parent/guardian is not satisfied with the discussion with the head coach, the parent/guardian may request a meeting with the CVYS President or Vice-President and the head coach. However, techniques and strategies are not appropriate topics of discussion with the head coach and CVYS Board members.

### **As a parent/spectator, I respect my child's experience by:**

1. Supporting my child by being a positive listener, especially after a difficult game or loss.
2. Avoiding putting pressure on your child to start, make plays or be the star of the team.
3. Serving as a good role model for the parents, athletes, and fans, displaying excellent sportsmanship at all times. Children learn best by imitation and good example.
4. Teaching my child to pursue victory with honor and integrity, to win with class and lose with dignity.
5. Working to promote a positive environment that is conducive to the development of ALL CVYS athletes.
6. Understanding that team goals are more important than individual goals.
7. Focusing on my child's effort and development rather than the outcome of any particular game.
8. Being Loud, Being Proud and Being Positive.
9. Avoiding constant and chronic complaining.
10. Cheering for my child's team, not against the opponent.

### **As a parent/spectator, I will respect my child's coach and support his/her efforts by:**

1. Not coaching from the sidelines.
2. Insuring my child will attend all practices and games, avoiding vacations during the season and notifying our coach of any scheduling conflicts well in advance.
3. Not forcing an unwilling child to participate in athletics. Children take part in organized sports for their own enjoyment, not yours.
4. Becoming familiar with the philosophy, rules, and regulations pertaining to CVYS.
5. Communicating any concerns or questions in a timely manner, following the proper protocol by starting with the coach and communicating in a courteous, civil manner and at an appropriate time.
6. Not publicly questioning an official's judgment or integrity. I will not complain or argue about an official's calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.
7. Treating all coaching personnel with courtesy and respect and insisting my child do the same.
8. Not speaking negatively about the coach in front of my child. Doing so may create a major barrier in my child's hope for improvement.

### **As a parent/spectator, I will respect CVYS by:**

1. Being loyal to the CVYS organization and team.
2. Positively supporting and showing respect to everyone involved in the CVYS organization – coaches, youth athletes, fans, groundskeepers, parents, officials, volunteers and the Board members, especially in public.
3. Positively contributing to the organization by volunteering to help with projects and committees.
4. Understanding and appreciating the ultimate purpose of youth athletics as an educational opportunity and participation in any athletic program is a privilege, not a right.
5. Appreciating the enormous time and effort put forth by CVYS coaches and volunteers.

## CVYS Player Code of Conduct

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As a player, I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Players' Code of Ethics Pledge.

I will respect myself, my team and my coaches by:

- Having fun!
- Not engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct or rude behavior.
- Learning the value of commitment to the team.
- Attending every practice and game that I can and notifying my coach if I cannot.
- Working hard for myself and my team
- Being a good sport (win or lose)
- Being honest, fair and always showing good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, officials, parents and fans at every game and practice.
- Treating all participants in your sport as I would like to be treated.
- Putting personal goals aside for the betterment of the team.
- Helping my coach in setting up the field and gathering equipment.
- Cleaning up the bench area after a practice or game, home and away.
- Doing my best in school.
- Always coming with a positive attitude and being enthusiastic!
- Being coachable and being willing to try new things.
- Always hustling.
- Staying focused.
- Arriving early for practices and games.

I will respect the game by:

- Following and playing by the rules.
- Not leaving the dugout during a game.
- Watching the game and cheering for your teammates.
- Not talking with parents, or other family members during the game.  
Using the restroom prior to the start of the game/practice.
- Asking my coach if I need something during a game.
- Showing courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents, coaches and officials.
- Playing hard and always trying my best.
- Recovering from mistakes and focusing on the next play.
- Respecting our opponents.

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Lastly, we believe the CVYS is an exceptional organization. Therefore, PARENT(S) / PLAYER(S) will conduct themselves with the utmost of sportsmanship, appropriate language and behavior towards their team's coach(es), and the opposing team's coach, players, parents, and ump. Strict penalties for any PARENT(S) / PLAYER(S) that cannot conduct themselves accordingly will be imposed, beginning with but not limited to:

1st offense: Written warnings to PARENT/PLAYER but is subject to final word from Board

2nd offense: One (1) game suspension of PLAYER but is subject to final word from Board

3rd offense: Suspension from the league for the duration of season including, but not limited to, playoff games and tournament play.