



St. Paul the Apostle  
Parish Athletic Association

## Code of Conduct for Parents

The Saint Paul the Apostle Parish Athletic Association exists as a ministry to form our young people as disciples of Jesus Christ. We believe what Pope Francis calls 'the Joy of the Gospel' (*Evangelii Gaudium*) should permeate every aspect of our sports programs. The following code of conduct helps set a vision and path forward for all who participate in our programs as fans and parents. Parents help set the tone for behavior on and off the field. We must all remember that youth watch and model adult behavior – thus, it cannot be emphasized enough that the vision of Saint Paul the Apostle is that our programs reflect the core values of Christian virtue and discipleship that are, again, the primary purpose of our sports programs.

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."

As a parent, I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child 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 and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes, coaches, officials and spectators.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.  
I will not teach my son or daughter how to cheat to win.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability. Racial slurs and insults, along with any type of discriminatory behavior is completely against the standards of the Diocese of Columbus and Saint Paul the Apostle.
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.

11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my 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 for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront officials.
16. I will respect coaches at games, and, if desired, take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
17. 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.
18. 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 abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- 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

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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