

# Opportunity Sports Organization



## PLAYER, PARENT & COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

OPP SPORTS is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to create and provide youth sports programs for all youth including those who are economically disadvantaged. The programs are based upon the ideals of good sportsmanship, integrity, personal responsibility, self-sacrifice, and teamwork. These ideals are taught through organized athletic activities. This Code of Conduct outlines expectations for players, parents and coaches.

### I. PLAYERS

**A. SPORTSMANSHIP** - Sportsmanship plays a key role in respect. Your actions affect the reputation of your teammates and OPP SPORTS. You are required to:

1. Give your best effort in school and community.
2. Give your best effort at all games, practices and OPP SPORTS events.
3. Refrain from arguing with umpires, officials, coaches or players.

4. Respect and encourage teammates.
5. Listen to your coaches and follow their instructions.
6. Never throw equipment (i.e.: helmets, bats, balls, gloves or any other items of equipment) out of anger or disappointment.
7. Do not throw temper tantrums (i.e. stomping out of anger, yelling/crying inappropriately, etc.)
8. Never use profanity, racial or derogatory comments of any kind.
9. Attend all practices and games or appropriately give notification to head coach.
10. Clean up the location after all practices and games.
11. Not leave the playing area during a game or practice except for injury, illness or to use a restroom.
12. Focus on the game at all times and do not converse with others outside the playing area.
13. Stay Drug, Alcohol and Gang Free!!

## **B. PLAYING TIME –**

1. Playing time in basketball, football tournaments and league games for players who follow the sportsmanship requirements will be granted according to the individual sporting by-laws.
2. League games are to be used for teaching and gaining of experience by all players. The sporting bylaws use varying methods to ensure each player receives specified minimum amounts of playing time during games.
3. Tournaments are purely competitive events and playing time is determined by the head coach with the goal of fielding the most competitive team.
4. Athletes are expected to work hard and earn your playing time and positions. If you are not satisfied with your playing time or positions, first, work hard to show your coaches what you can do. Second, discuss the matter with your coaches. Ask them what you need to improve on and for some ideas on how you can work to improve.
5. Athletes are expected to maintain passing grades in school and good behavior in their communities as well as the sporting fields or arena. If the athlete is performing poorly at school or badly in the community or home, their grades and/or behavior have to improve to be placed back on the active tournament or team roster.

\*Athletes are still required to participate in practices and scrimmages when serving suspension.

## **II. PARENTS**

### **A. AFFIRMATIVE ACTS IN GENERAL - You are expected to:**

1. Support the team, the coaches and OPP SPORTS.

2. Be positive & encouraging to your child, teammates & other parents.
3. Be respectful of all others, including opposing players, fans, officials and umpires.
4. Volunteer required time for individual sporting concessions & fund-raiser events.

**B. PROHIBITED ACTS IN GENERAL** - You may not at any time or in any manner:

1. Consume alcoholic beverages at any OPP SPORTS event.
2. Coach or instruct any players, including your child (unless you are your child's coach) during a game or practice.
3. Use profanity, racial or derogatory comments of any kind.
4. Contribute to the destruction of equipment or facilities.
5. Verbally and/or physically assault another person at any league event.
6. Take part in any action that is deemed disruptive to the orderly conduct of the event.
7. Violate any City, State, or Federal regulation, ordinance, and law.

**C. PLAYING TIME / POSITION** – OPP SPORTS prohibits parents from discussing playing time or position with coaches immediately prior to, during or immediately following a game. You may ask your child's head coach what you and the coach can do together to help your child improve. ***This must be done away from the playing field and while players and other parents are not present.*** Preferably, meetings require 24-48 hours advance notice.

**D. BEHAVIOR** - Parents are expected to treat all players, coaches, umpires and fans with respect.

1. Parents should be fans.
2. Parents are expected to not coach any players, including their child (unless of course he/she *is* their child's coach), during practices and games. Parent instruction to players during practices or games are often inconsistent with instructions given by the coaches. Giving a player instructions causes stress to the player.
3. Limit comments to cheering and encouraging the team.
4. Please do not yell at the coaches, children and umpires/officials. Let the coaches handle the Umpires/ Officials.

**E. KEEPING A PROPER DISTANCE FROM THE TEAM**

1. Parents are not allowed in the team area (i.e. dugout, sideline, etc.) unless as a coach, scorebook keeper, down-marker holder, etc. that are required to be in the area for game purposes.
2. Parents are required to remain a proper distance from the team during games, practices and warm ups. Parents may approach these areas when their child is sick, injured, needs directions concerning a ride home following the game or similar instructions.

3. Players should arrive at the playing field or arena location with an adequate supply of water or sports drinks.

**F. PARENT VOLUNTEERING** - The OPP SPORTS is a non-profit organization that relies on sponsorships and volunteers. Volunteering at events is expected and may be required for each sport your child plays. In addition, the OPP SPORTS expects parents to be good role models by exhibiting behavior of caring for facilities. This includes picking up trash and cleaning up when necessary, etc.

### **G. FEES**

1. Parents are expected to pay registration fees on or before the due date. Fees not paid in full by the first game of each sport will result in that player not being able to participate.
2. In case of financial hardship, please contact an OPP SPORTS Board Member.
3. When a player quits the team or is removed from the team, no refunds are given.
4. Socio-economically disadvantaged youth who qualify will receive Athletic Sponsorship. This will consist of 100% of their fees being paid by the OPP SPORTS organization.

**H. COACHING EVALUATIONS** - As the OPP SPORTS coaches are all volunteers, evaluations will be distributed to all parents at the end of each sporting season.

Coaches will have the opportunity to review all of their evaluation comments. The Director of Program and Basketball Operations reviews and addresses all evaluations with the President of OPP SPORTS.

## **III. COACHES**

**A. AFFIRMATIVE ACTS IN GENERAL** - You are expected to:

1. Support the team, other coaches and cooperate with the administration of the OPP SPORTS.
2. Be positive and encouraging to all children and parents.
3. Promote honesty, teamwork, fair play and responsibility.
4. Be respectful of all others, including opposing players, fans, officials and umpires.
5. Treat players with dignity and respect regardless of their athletic ability. Reward their efforts more than their skills.
6. Encourage and motivate your players with patience and positive talk. Do not let your players get down on themselves.
7. Schedule appropriate practices and games and conduct them so that all players have opportunities to improve their skill level through active participation.

8. Work with Director of Program and Basketball Operations to ensure understanding of the following:
  - a. sport by-laws
  - b. rules & regulations
  - c. age-appropriate skill development
  - d. drills & practice strategies
9. Cooperate with the administration and coaches of OPP SPORTS and the enforcement of rules and regulations. Report any irregularities that violate sound competitive practices to the Director of Program and Basketball Operations.
10. Protect the health, safety and well-being of the players and ensure players use equipment properly. Remember the players are in your continuous custody during all practices, games&events.
11. Attend any mandatory coaches meetings.
12. Maintain high levels of fairness and professionalism.
13. Learn the strengths and weaknesses of players in order to place them in situations where they have a maximum opportunity to achieve success.
14. Address issues appropriately and communicate any issues with Director of Program and Basketball Operations as they arise.
15. Review coaching evaluations distributed by the Director of Program and Basketball Operations as collected from parents at end of season.

**B. PROHIBITED ACTS IN GENERAL** - You may not at any time or in any manner:

1. Consume alcoholic beverages or use tobacco products at any OPP SPORTS event.
2. Use profanity, racial or derogatory comments of any kind.
3. Argue with officials, coaches, or players. This is not to be confused with challenging an official call. Arguing results from refusal to accept the final decision of an official after the coach's challenge has been made and considered by the official. (It is acceptable to challenge the Interpretation of a rule in a courteous non-confrontational manner.)
4. Participate in the destruction of equipment or facilities.
5. Verbally and / or physically assault another person at any league event.
6. Take part in any action that is deemed disruptive to the orderly conduct of the event.
7. Violate any City, State, or Federal regulation, ordinance, and law
8. Quit or leave during any team event unless in case of injury or emergency or employment on call.

**C. BEHAVIOR** - Coaches are expected to show as much, if not more, discipline and commitment as Players and parents – the OPP SPORTS holds its coaches to a very high level of professionalism and Integrity. Be a positive role model in your words and actions. Help develop positive character in the Athletes.

**D. ASSISTANT COACHING** - Head coaches for each sport are allowed to select Assistant Coaches as needed and as communicated back to OPP SPORTS Director of Program and Basketball Operations.

**E. SELECTION PROCESS** - Individuals interested in coaching need to contact the Director of Program and Basketball Operations And notify them of interest well in advance of the start of each sport season. Coaches will be recruited, educated and selected by the Director of Program and Basketball Operations based on the following criteria.

1. Previous coaching experience inside and outside the organization.
2. Understanding of fundamentals.
3. Teaching abilities – including communication skills, patience, temperament and good Sportsmanship.
4. Time commitment honored.

The OPP SPORTS also reserves the right to process background checks for all head coaches. Those with prior conviction of felony, child abuse or sexual misconduct will immediately be disqualified and restricted from coaching.

## **IV. PENALTIES**

For the reported first violation of the Code of Conduct, the coach, player and/or parent(s) may be removed from that game/practice. The second violation may result in suspension from all OPP SPORTS games and practices, wherever located, for a 7-day period commencing on the day of the offense. A third violation of any type by a coach, player or his/her parent(s) may result in the expulsion from all OPP SPORTS activities.

OPP SPORTS reserves the right to expel any individual on the first offense by noting that a Board Member, with the assistance and agreement of at least two members of the OPP SPORTS present at a practice, game or meeting of OPP SPORTS, may remove a coach, assistant coach, player, or parent/guardian of a player that has demonstrated improper conduct as described in this Code of Conduct, OPP SPORTS Constitution, specific sport bylaws, or affiliated governing bodies and leagues.

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**V. ADDRESSING CONCERNS** - Steps for addressing and rectifying concerns/problems:

1. Player speaks to coach and/or other person with which the problem lies.
2. Parent speaks to coach and/or other person with which the problem lies.
3. Parent speaks to Director of Program and Basketball Operations.
4. Director of Program and Basketball Operations calls OPP SPORTS President.
5. Director of Program and Basketball Operations & OPP SPORTS President speak with coaches and/or other person with which

Problem lies.

6. Director of Program and Basketball Operations & OPP SPORTS President meet with entire team, including coaches; coaches are never excluded from team meetings. If a problem arises with a coach, absent exigent and extreme circumstances, the OPP SPORTS will always initially assume a pro-coach viewpoint; the burden of persuasion lies with the challenger to change the viewpoint of the OPP SPORTS and prove any alleged violation or misconduct by clear and convincing evidence; however, coaches are held to extremely high standards by OPP SPORTS. The removed individual(s) has the right to address the action in front of the entire Board and Director Session at the next properly scheduled meeting. The Board will take a vote of confidence on the action.

**VI. QUESTIONS** - Please contact an OPP SPORTS Board Member if you have any questions. [www.contactus@oppsports.com](mailto:www.contactus@oppsports.com)

**VII. AMENDMENTS-** OPP SPORTS may amend the Code of Conduct and any time.

**VIII. SIGN AND RETURN ATTACHMENT-** Players, parents and coaches must complete the attached form and return to the OPP SPORTS.

I have read, understand and agree to follow the OPP SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT.

Player Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_  
Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s) Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coach (es) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN AND GIVE SIGNATURE PAGE TO AN OPP SPORTS BOARD MEMBER OR  
MAIL TO:  
**OPPORTUNITY SPORTS**  
**P.O.BOX 200551**  
**AUSTIN, TX 78720**