

## Parent Orientations

As part of The Minimum Standards for Youth Sports in Dare County (check out the link at top of page) all parents must attend a parent orientation prior to their child's participation in Dare County Parks & Recreation programs and activities.

After attending an orientation you will be certified and have to renew your certification every 2 years. Only one parent needs to attend an orientation session but the attending parent is responsible for sharing the information with the other parent and any other family members that may attend programs and activities at any DCPR site. All parents and family members will be held accountable to the parent code of conduct.

The purpose of the parent orientations is;

- To help parents better understand and be aware of their roles and responsibilities in creating a positive experience for all children.
- To offer parents the essential information they need to ensure their child's participation in youth sports and activities will be safe, fun and positive.

Parent Orientation dates and times will be advertised prior to each season through newsletters, calendars, and our website. If you would like more information, please contact us by phone, email, or stop by any of our division offices to speak with a DCPR staff person.

Parents should support their young athlete by;

- Attending all parent meetings with the coach
- Making sure their child attends all practices, games, and social events the team may have
- Effectively communicating with coaches, officials, DCPR staff and other parents
- Volunteering to help the team
- Being Positive
- Reading, signing and adhering to a Code of Conduct (attached below)

# SPORT PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

## PREAMBLE

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."

- 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.
  8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
  9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
  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 deemphasize 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 coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
  16. 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.
  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 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, Dare County Parks & Recreation staff member, and/or head of league organization
  - Written warning
  - Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
  - Parental season suspension
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Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



COUNTY OF DARE

**PARKS & RECREATION**

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