

**Code of Conduct for Parents at Sporting Events**  
**From the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation**

*Youth sporting events are supposed to be fun, but many parents don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, have a lasting emotional effect on their children..*

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 will be a positive role model for my child and show respect and courtesy for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every sporting event.
6. I will not engage in any unsportsmanlike conduct such as booing or taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language.
7. I will not encourage any behavior that endangers the health or well-being of any player.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches and officials 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 not feel defeated by the outcome of the game or his 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 participants 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 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 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.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at sporting events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am an official coach.