



Meridian Police Activities League Inc. CODE OF CONDUCT

LEADERSHIP · SPORTSMANSHIP · TEAMWORK

Meridian Police Activities League Inc. “Meridian PAL” programs rely upon volunteers to act as role models within their coaching position. It is your duty as a Meridian PAL Coach to uphold PAL character values in your interactions with families, players, fellow coaches, officials, and Meridian PAL Administration and volunteers.

As a Meridian PAL Coach you must agree to the following:

SAFETY

- The paramount concern of coaches is the safety of their players.
- Coaches will submit to a criminal background check and approval by PAL Administration.
- Coaches shall not abuse children including but not limited to:
 - *Physical Abuse*: Strike, Shake, Withhold Water, Exercise as Punishment
 - *Sexual Abuse*: Inappropriate Touch or Speech
 - *Mental Abuse*: Withhold Kindness, Cruelty, Neglect
 - *Verbal Abuse*: Humiliate, Degrade, Threaten, Tease
- Coaches shall report to PAL Administration any signs of possible abuse.
- Coaches shall not be alone with a single child where he/she cannot be observed by others.
- Coaches shall not leave a child unsupervised and shall not leave a practice/game site with children unaccounted for and should be aware of who is responsible for picking up children.

LEADERSHIP

- Treat all with respect and consideration regardless of ability, sex, race, religion or culture.
- Smoking; use of tobacco; consumption of alcohol; use of illegal drugs; misuse of prescription drugs during practices or games and in the presence of children is strictly prohibited.
- Use positive reinforcement and encouragement rather than criticism.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- Model respect for officials, opponents, and spectators.
- Coaches shall not attempt to undermine the rules or engage in behavior meant to circumvent rules. This includes the use of any unassigned or unregistered PAL players.
- OK to Play to Win, but not at all cost. Win or Lose with honor and dignity.
- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players and parents.

TEAMWORK

- Coaches are required to wear their Meridian PAL Coach Badge to all practices and games. Any violation of this policy will result in immediate discipline including but not limited to removal from the field, suspension or expulsion from the league.
- Be accountable to your players, parents, assistants, and league administration in all that you say and do.
- Coaches shall teach their players the team is greater than any one individual.

Coaches may be removed with or without prior warning by Meridian PAL Officials or Administration.

I understand youth development is the primary focus of Meridian PAL and should I violate the Code of Conduct or act outside the values of leadership, sportsmanship, and teamwork I may be removed from my volunteer position, suspended or expelled, and may be prohibited from attending Meridian PAL activities and events.

Registration as a Coach for Meridian PAL serves as acknowledgement of this policy and all code of conduct policies.