

HARP Code of Conduct for Youth Sports Coaches



Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. Adults involved in coaching youth sports must serve as role models by demonstrating fairness, good sportsmanship, respect and self-control.

As a HARP youth sports coach, I will:

1. Provide a playing environment for my players that is safe from physical and emotional harm.
2. Do my best to be knowledgeable of the rules and fundamentals of the game and teach them to my players using coaching techniques that are appropriate for their ages and skill levels.
3. Treat all children equally regardless of gender, race, religion, culture, or ability.
4. Use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable for my players, increase their self-esteem and foster in them a true sense of enjoyment of the sport.
5. Treat officials, opposing coaches and opposing players with respect and dignity and instruct my players and their parents to do the same.
6. Observe all player participation rules and make each player feel as if he/she is a valuable member of the team.
7. Teach fair play and sportsmanship to my players and model these principles at all times.
8. Be a positive role model by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact, and maturity.
9. Place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of any personal or parental desires to win.
10. Control the behavior of players and parents by asking them to leave the field or sidelines should they become unruly or create an atmosphere that is not appropriate for the development of good sportsmanship.
11. Ensure that behavior issues and/or disputes are handled calmly.
12. Refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs at all youth sports practices, games, and other events and I will remind others to do the same.
13. Refrain from profanity, inappropriate slang, off-color jokes, and sharing of intimate details of my personal life.

As a HARP youth sports coach, I will not:

1. Subject any child to neglect or to mental, verbal, physical, or sexual abuse or harassment.
2. Leave any child unsupervised.
3. Be alone with any child where we cannot be observed by another adult.
4. Transport any children in my vehicle (unless my child is involved in a neighborhood carpool).
5. Attempt to contact or foster a relationship outside of the HARP program with any child.
6. Give any child gifts or special favors.
7. Hold extra or special practices that are not sanctioned by HARP.

I have read and will support and abide by the HARP Code of Conduct for Youth Sports Coaches. If I fail to adhere to this Code of Conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following:

- Verbal and/or written warning issued by the HARP Board, Baseball/Softball Committee.
- Permanent suspension and/or immediate ejection from volunteering or working at HARP youth sports programs, including access to the batting barn.

Coach Printed Name

Coach Signature

Date