

NEW JERSEY YMCA COMPETITIVE PARENT'S CODE OF ETHICS

The YMCA is concerned with the development of the mind, body and spirit. Within the philosophy of "Keeping a Good Kid Good" we believe that competitive athletics can have a tremendous influence on helping youngsters with the difficult decisions in life and with maintaining a positive direction away from the negative influences of drugs, alcohol, crime, academic failures, drifting, cults, teen suicide, etc...

The following "Code of Ethics" is offered as a guide to insure the promotion of good sportsmanship and conduct among the PARENTS of the New Jersey YMCA competitive community.

A parent should:

1. Conduct himself/herself in a manner to earn the respect and confidence of the athletes, coaches, officials and YMCA Professional Staff.
2. Conduct himself/herself in a manner that will ensure the rights and welfare of the athletes with whom he/she comes in contact with.
3. Always practice good sportsmanship.
4. Offer congratulations to team opponents, win or lose.
5. Be a goodwill ambassador between his/her team and the public.
6. Be aware of the ethical, social responsibility and influence that he/she has on the lives of the athletes as a role model for them to emulate.
7. Maintain high ideals and firm principles of right and wrong.
8. Encourage the moral, spiritual, physical and intellectual life of the athletes.
9. Support such virtues as hard work, honesty, values and sportsmanship with the athletes.
10. Treat every athlete fairly, justly, impartially, intelligently and with sensitivity.
11. Parents should not recruit athletes from other teams located outside their respective YMCA service area within any calendar year.
12. When contacted by another parent who is considering switching teams, the parent should proceed with care and sensitivity and comply with the league's constitution.
13. Promote the many benefits of competition at all levels and attract athletes to your respective program in an ethical and positive manner with respect to the individual YMCA's service area and league philosophy on recruiting.
14. Maintain high integrity and respect for the rights and efforts of team coaches.
15. Understand that coaching decisions are for the best interest of the team and athlete and should therefore be supported.
16. Keep the child's best interest at heart as a priority and don't exert undue pressure on the child to promote your own personal goals and desires.
17. Maintain a balanced perspective on the purpose and values YMCA competition is trying to promote, not who has the best win/lose record or a win at any cost attitude.

18. Never provide or recommend drugs to athletes as a means of improving athletic performance.
19. Never use alcohol or other recreational drugs in the direct presence of athletes nor be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when involved with athletic events, parent conferences or planning meetings.
20. Understand that individual YMCA competitive philosophies differ, therefore parents should not concern themselves with competing programs and should focus their time and energy on their own program.

PROMOTING YOUR TEAM:

Public statements, advertising and promotional activities should serve the purpose of enlightening the public about the benefit of YMCA competitive sports and help the public to make informed decisions about programs. Statements should not be presented in a manner which creates false or unjustifiable expectations and should not contain comparisons to other programs that cast doubt about the competing programs.