



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

YMCA MISSION

The mission of the YMCA of South Hampton Roads is to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

PLAYER'S CREED

Win or lose, I pledge before God to play the best that I can, to be a team player, to respect my opponents, the rules and officials, and to improve myself in spirit, mind and body.

SEVEN PILLARS OF YMCA YOUTH SPORTS

- I. **EVERYONE PLAYS** - We do not use tryouts to select the best players, nor do we cut kids from YMCA Youth Sports. During the season everyone receives equal practice time and plays at least half of every game. As part of a team, everyone contributes to the team's success.
- II. **SAFETY FIRST** - Although children may get hurt playing sports, we do all we can to prevent injuries. We've modified each sport to make them safer and more enjoyable to play.
- III. **FAIR PLAY** - Fair play is about playing by the rules and following the traditions of the game. It's about coaches being role models of good sporting behavior and guiding their players to do the same.
- IV. **POSITIVE COMPETITION** - We believe competition is a positive process when the pursuit of victory is kept in the right perspective. The right perspective is when adults make decisions that first are in the best interest of the athletes participating and then decisions that help win the contest.
- V. **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT** - YMCA Youth Sports encourages parents to be appropriately involved in their child's participation in our sports programs. In addition to parents helping as volunteer instructors, coaches, officials and timekeepers; we encourage their presence at practices and games to support their child's participation.
- VI. **SPORT FOR ALL** - YMCA Youth Sports is an "inclusive" sport program. That means that youngsters who differ in various characteristics are to be included rather than excluded from participation.
- VII. **SPORT FOR FUN** - Sports are naturally fun for most kids. They love the challenge of mastering the skills of a game, playing with their friends and competing with their peers. Remember, YMCA Youth Sports are for the kids; let them have fun!

PARENT/PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

YMCA Youth Sports Programs are an excellent tool to promote sportsmanship and teamwork. It is the goal of our Youth Sports programs to ensure that every participant has a positive experience. In order for this to happen, it is imperative that everyone, including coaches, players, parents and officials work together for the good of the league. We ask that everyone who participates in any capacity acts in an appropriate manner. Here are a few reminders:

1. Have FUN! We want everyone to enjoy themselves at the YMCA.
Make sure you don't do this at someone else's expense.
2. Support our volunteer coaches. Be willing to lend a hand at practices and games.
3. Keep your emotions under control.
4. Remember that our officials are hired to be facilitators/counselors first.
They are doing the best they can.
5. Encourage all participants – even those who aren't on your team.
6. Winning is an attitude, not an outcome.
7. Show respect to all coaches, players, facilitators and parents.

This is not an all-inclusive list of behaviors we expect, but it is a good start. Please be mindful of these things as you participate in YMCA Youth Sports. It is only by working together that we can ensure a positive experience for all involved. Thank you for your support!