

**"What you are as a person
is far more important than what you are as a basketball player"
■ John Wooden**

Natick Travel Basketball Code of Conduct

In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition, the following Code of Conduct has been established and adopted.

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Each coach will ensure that his/her coaching conduct and communications with referees, spectators and game officials is reflective of the ideals established herein.

To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the coach is expected to:

1. Know the rules and abide by them.
2. Instruct team members in the rules and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
3. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
4. Ensure that the players and spectators follow all building rules and regulations.
5. Ensure that fans of his/her team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites; assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during the games.
6. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.
7. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud in defeat.
8. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
9. Instruct team support personnel (e.g., assistant coaches, scorekeepers, and timekeepers) in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.

10. Realize, accept, and practice the principal that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.

11. Provide your team with a first aid kit that will be adequate to deal with expected sports injuries.

PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these Six Pillars of Character. I therefore agree:

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, including learning/behavior issue that may affect their participation in Travel basketball.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators 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 never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her 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 participant 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 games and 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 may 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, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.

16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Play for Fun!
2. Work hard to improve your results.
3. Be a team player- get along with your teammates.
4. Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
5. Be on time for practices and games.
6. Learn the rules, and play by them. Always be a good sport.
7. Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
8. Never argue with the official.

Playing Time:

The most difficult part of coaching in a competitive league is trying to balance winning with ensuring that everyone plays. It is easy for a coach to divide playing time in lopsided games but in close games it is nearly impossible to keep everyone happy. It is the coach's discretion to devise the substitution plan based on each game situation, but it is recommended that all players participate on average at least 10 minutes in each game.