

# Parental Code of Conduct

The Ponder Youth Football Program has implemented the following Sport Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand, and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league. Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from all following games. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

## ***Preamble***

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 characters".

## ***I therefore agree:***

- I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
- I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- 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.
- 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.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I agree that I and my child will treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- 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.
- I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time. I will remember that all parents should be cheerleaders and to applaud all good plays by my child's team AND by members of the opposing team as well.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or loosing a game.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 the time to speak with coaches the next day or at the next practice. I will remember that the coach is volunteering his/her personal time and money in order to provide a recreational activity for my child. The coach is offering an invaluable community service often without any reward other than personal satisfaction and without them my child would not be able to participate in Ponder Sports.
- 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.
- 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.
- I understand and agree that my child's participation and presence at practice will determine their playing time. I also understand that the coach will have the final say as to the amount of playing time my child has on the field if my child does not participate or show up to practice.
- I agree to put up a \$50 volunteer deposit that will be returned to me at the end of the season as long as I have volunteered at least one time during the season. I also agree to put up a \$100 uniform deposit (football only) that will be returned to me at the end of the season when I return my child's uniform.

(Please sign, cut and return the below portion with your registration forms)

I understand that by signing this agreement I am representing my town and the Ponder Youth Football Program. Participants include: Parents/Guardians, players, coaches, cheerleaders, spectators, and guests. I agree to obey all bylaws and rules during the season and that I have read and fully understand the Code of Conduct set forth by the Ponder Youth Football Program. I also understand that the Ponder Youth Football Program reserves the right to limit or remove participation of any person in any role for any reason as described above.

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_