



Erie Rams: Player Code of Conduct

I, _____ (athlete name), want to play basketball for the Erie Rams Youth Basketball Organization. In exchange for the privilege of being on the team, I promise to abide by the following:

1) Academics Come First

Your grades and class work come before basketball. Do your homework when you should. Directly after school is best. **Failing grades will result in player ineligibility.**

2) Have Fun!

If you're not having fun, then you shouldn't be playing basketball.

3) Attendance: Be on time for all practices, games, and tournaments

Being constantly late to practice, games, and tournaments is unfair to your teammates and coaches. Consistent tardiness will result in a loss of playing time.

Be properly dressed in basketball shorts and shoes by the start of your scheduled practice. Do not wear your basketball shoes to practice, games, or tournaments when it's wet or snowy outside. The floor becomes very dangerous when it gets wet.

We are aware that there may be circumstances that arise that cause you to miss a practice; e.g. vacation, illness, etc. When this occurs, the **player or parent/guardian** will inform their coach well in advance when possible.

BEING GROUNDED BY YOUR PARENTS WILL BE TREATED AS AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. This type of absence and all unexcused absences will result in the player losing playing time, as it's not fair to the other players who are fully committed.

NOTE: If you miss practice(s) leading up to a tournament or game because of illness or vacation, you will be excused, however, if we put something new in at those practices that we plan on using in certain game situations where you haven't had the chance to learn it, then it may affect playing time in certain situations

4) Attitude:

Our goal is to field a team of players that consistently demand more of themselves than is demanded by the coaches. Be coachable. Hustle. Hustle. Display mental toughness, and be focused on the game.

I promise to uphold the Erie Rams core values.

(**P.R.E.A.C.H.** – Perseverance, Respect, Education, Attitude, Collaboration, and Honesty)

I will work harder than any other team I compete against.

I will strive to develop good habits by practicing with good form and appropriate efforts. I will practice like I will play. These efforts will determine my success during competitive play.

Respect coaches, teammates, opponents, and referees.

Behavior that reflects negatively on players, coaches and referees will not be tolerated, e.g. lack of control or profanity.

A player will be removed immediately from the game when they demonstrate the following:

- Talking back to a coach or referee
- Poor sportsmanship
- Taunting
- Complaining about referee calls
- Lack of hustle
- Giving up on yourself, team and coaches
- Crying due to anything other than an injury

It's just a game.

Nobody will remember how many points you scored in a 3rd or 4th grade game or how many tournaments you win three months from now. If you have a bad game or are having what YOU would consider a bad game, keep trying your best and most importantly, be there for your teammates. Basketball, like all sports, is more than mastering your on-the-court skills. It's learning how to control your emotions and being able to evolve into a leader that others can look up to. Current and future coaches don't care how much talent you have if you don't have the mental toughness to go along with it.

Respect classroom teachers and administrators.

Lack of respect and discipline issues resulting in school consequences, e.g. ISS, OSS, could result in game or team suspensions.

5) ISSUES/PROBLEMS

As a team member, I will go to the coaches first if there is a problem which is related to the team. I will not complain to others, until I have given the individual I have a problem with an opportunity to correct it; e.g., a team player or coach.

Adjustments and sacrifices are necessary to achieve team and individual success. **Extraordinary commitment** on the part of players, their families, and the coaches is important. In return, we have an opportunity to create a positive experience that will affect our lives forever.

As a parent/guardian of the above-named player, I promise to do the following:

Influence my child to abide by the contract he/she has signed. Discuss any issues regarding poor academics, bad attitude with the coach as soon as possible. Be an example of good sportsmanship at games by making only positive comments about the players, keeping criticism of the officiating to a minimum volume and frequency, and treating the fans of our opponents with respect. Transportation of my child to and from games and practices will be my responsibility, not the coaches or other parents. Be patient with coaches who are not giving your child the playing time you feel he/she deserves. Trust the process.

I understand that if I play on this team, I will agree to abide by these expectations described on this sheet.

_____ ***Date:*** _____
Player Signature

My child has informed me of the required expectations during the basketball season. I will ensure that these expectations are realized.

_____ ***Date:*** _____
Parent/Guardian Signature