

Austin Youth Basketball Code of conduct for Players, Coaches, and Parents/Guardians.

The following code of conduct and sportsmanship examples are an important part of playing basketball for AYB. Players, Coaches or Parents/Guardians who choose not to follow these guidelines could lose playing time, miss games/tournaments, or be removed from the team.

Code of Conduct - Player and Coach

1. I will not berate the officials or "trash talk" to my opponent.
2. I will not use profanity.
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, contest administrators and officials at every game.
4. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my teammates and opponents ahead of my personal desire to win.
5. I will treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
6. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all MYAS sporting events.
7. I will do my best to remember that youth sports are supposed to be FUN and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.
8. I will express my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.
9. I will respect the volunteers that are assisting with the conduct of these events.
10. I will respect and adhere to the rules governing eligibility and competition.

Code of Conduct - Parents

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, contest administrators and officials at every game.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of my personal desire to win.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all MYAS sporting events.
4. I will remember that the game is for the kids - not the adults.
5. I will do my best to make sure that youth sports are a FUN and POSITIVE experience.
6. I will treat other players, coaches, fans, volunteers and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
7. I will not berate the officials!
8. I will not undermine the coaches' instructions or directions.
9. I will not use profanity!
10. I will communicate my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.

Examples of Bad sportsmanship

- Sore loser – Someone who cannot accept the fact that his or her team lost. They get angry and start blaming everyone.
- Arguing with the Referee and other players – Arguing with officials can also be done with poor body language, rolling eyes, throwing hands up, acting in disbelief.
- Throwing the ball – Throwing the ball down at the ground, or at another player or official.
- Intentionally committing fouls – Playing dirty or trying to hurt another player or teammate.
- Refusing to Shake hands before or after the game – Shaking hands is a sign of respect.
- Not being a team player – Not passing the ball to teammates or not playing according to the team plan.
- Swearing at players, officials, or coaches.
- Excessive celebration - Trying to humiliate the other team.

Tips for teaching good sportsmanship

- **Avoid arguing.** Stay focused on the game instead of giving in to anger with teammates, coaches, or referees. Always avoid using bad language and negative words.
- **Everyone should have a chance to play.** In youth sports, it's important to encourage even those players who are the least skilled to have fun playing in the game. Parents, coaches, and even other players have an important role in allowing less talented teammates time to participate.
- **Play fair.** Good sportsmen want to win because they followed the rules and played the best game they could. Never support any effort to win that attempts to go around the rules. Cheating is not acceptable.
- **Follow directions.** Emphasize the importance of listening to coaches and referees and following their directions while on the field and involved in team activities.
- **Respect the other team.** Whether your team wins or loses, it's important to show respect for the effort of the other team. If the other team wins, accept defeat, acknowledge their abilities, and move on. If your team wins, resist bragging—that's what it means to be a gracious winner.
- **Encourage teammates.** Team sports work best when each individual supports the team. Praise teammates for what they do well and encourage them when they make mistakes. Avoid criticism and unkind actions. Parents should model this behavior for children by praising them for specific things they have done well, even if they made a mistake or may not have played as well as hoped.
- **Respect the decisions of referees and other officials.** These people are charged with making difficult decisions about plays in the game. Good sportsmanship requires that you accept a call, even if you disagree with it. Remember that it's only one call in a long game—get back into play and focus on the game.
- **End with a handshake.** Good sportsmen enjoy sports and know how to end a game on a positive note, whether or not they won. Threats, anger, criticism, and other negative expressions are not acceptable.