



## Parent Code of Conduct

The parents of DME Sports Academy athletes generally want the same “end result” for their child from the athletic experience. Parents hope their child learns positive traits while participating in sports, among which are:

- Teamwork
- Sportsmanship
- Overcoming adversity
- A sense of positive competitiveness
- Healthy fitness regimens

In order for the child to learn these skills, they need to participate long enough in the activity to gain these valuable lessons. What facilitates this process is parents being very aware of the way they interact with their child, the coach, and other parents. To enhance the opportunity for these goals to be met, we ask our parents to follow the “*Parent Code of Conduct*” as listed below.

1. Allow for only ONE instructional voice for your child.....the coach’s. Shout encouragement at every opportunity for your child and other teammates. However, a steady stream of technique suggestions, advice, or strategies during contests is counter-productive to the coach helping your child have success. Don’t confuse your child with potentially conflicting instruction.
2. Sometimes, an official’s call is hard to take for several reasons. Such times present a test of emotional control on the part of the athlete, the coach and the parent. Parents that loudly harass the official are embarrassing to the athlete and the team. Part of the learning process for the athlete is to occasionally deal with a “wrong” call, accept the responsibility, and move on. Don’t encourage your child to place the blame for their failures upon others. Learning to cope with disappointment is a valuable life skill.
3. Athletics is one of the safest environments for your child to struggle, fail, get back up, move on and learn from these various “hurdles”. Let him/her learn to work them out *without* your interference. For example, a player has every right to discuss with the coach what needs to be done to earn more playing time. Our coaches are child-oriented; they realize that all kids want the opportunity to play and show their skills. Give your child the gift of learning how to work through those questions by not running interference each time a conflict may arise.
4. Support your coach and DME Club Management and stand behind their decisions. Please do not talk poorly about them in front of your child. Your child will still need to work with the coach and his/her teammates in the future; don’t burden them with additional doubt when you talk poorly of the coach or DME Club Management. If you believe you need more data or communication from the coach to answer your question(s), go directly to the coach and arrange an opportunity to discuss your concerns out of sight from your child. Set the example of “being an adult” with issues of like nature.
5. Remember that the opposing players are someone else’s child. The other team’s players and coaches should be “off-limits” for harassing or mocking. Parents of athletes who intend to disrupt or upset someone else’s child exhibit the worst of poor sportsmanship.

As a parent, be involved in a positive way. Attend your child’s games as often as you can. Cheer loudly for the kids on the team. Help with the team when asked by the coach. If you’re not sure how you can help, ask the coach. When the larger portion of a team is working well, the experience can be wonderful for everyone involved! Other people and parents who see this type of synergy in action will want to support and be a part of the action. Younger parents will be looking forward to the day when their child is a part of our program. This type of teamwork perpetuates itself, and once it gains momentum, it can be quite a force. It just takes PARENTS who care!

Printed Athlete Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_