



VACAVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

"We Create Community through People, Parks and Programs"

Youth Sports Guide



Everything you need to know

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
THE YOUTH SPORTS OFFICE
469-4035**

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Welcome to the City of Vacaville's Community Services Department- Youth Sports Program!

MISSION:

To provide quality recreation sports leagues and programs accessible to the youth of Vacaville, regardless of ability and skill level, emphasizing fun in a safe environment utilizing our professional contractors, trained staff and passionate, screened volunteers.

PHILOSOPHY:

Sports programs foster physical, psychological, and social development in youth. Our recreation leagues and programs promote health and wellness by providing a safe environment to play and have fun. We emphasize participation, sportsmanship, basic skill development, and instilling a love for sports. Participants, parents, officials and coaches are expected to support this philosophy.

Sports are meant to be fun and enjoyed. An opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of busy and, sometimes, stressful days to laugh, cheer, motivate, and support players and coaches. Unfortunately, in recent years we have seen sports overshadowed by scandals, greed, and inappropriate behavior by athletes, fans, coaches, officials and parents. Sadly, our kids, the most vulnerable and impressionable, are picking up this negative behavior, despite the efforts of administrators, parents, officials and coaches who give the best of themselves to their sports and their communities.

The City of Vacaville's Community Services Department- Youth Sports Program understands the importance of sports, and the role it plays in the development of character and leadership in our youth. The success of our youth will have a direct correlate with our community's future successes. Our Youth Sports Code of Ethics lays the foundation for personal accountability and leadership development. Our Code of Ethics provides guidelines to live a responsible life as an individual, as a member of a team, and as a member of society.

CODE OF ETHICS:

Whether you are a player, parent/spectator, official or coach you share the responsibility of supporting the City of Vacaville's Community Services Department- Youth Sports Program philosophy. By participating in our program you are agreeing to uphold our Code of Ethics:

- I hereby pledge to uphold the City of Vacaville's Community Service's Department- Youth Sports Program philosophy
- I will be an example of and encourage good sportsmanship by all players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches
- I will refrain from using inappropriate language when addressing players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches
- I will demand that all programs take place in a safe environment free of alcohol, tobacco and drugs
- I will do my best to make youth sports experiences fun for all involved
- I will do my part to make sure our parks, fields and facilities remain in good condition to ensure a safe playing environment
- I will be knowledgeable of the rules of the sport, and will insist the rules be followed.
- I will expect every child to play in half of every game, regardless of their skill
- I will treat all players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or abilities
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of all players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches ahead of my personal desire to win

COACHES:

Thank you for volunteering your time to coach in our youth sports program. Coaching is a sacrifice that takes time away from your family, job, and personal life, which does not go unappreciated. As a coach you will surely make an impression on many children's lives. To make sure the impression you leave is positive you are agreeing to uphold our Coaches Pledge:

- I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement to all the youth on my team, and in the league, by following this Coaches Pledge
- I will clear a background check prior to volunteering to ensure the safety of all players
- I will educate myself on the rules of the sport and will teach the rules to my players
- I will open and maintain communication with the parents of my players regarding practices, games, and discipline concerns
- I will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all of my players with my choice of words and communication style
- I will treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group
- I will only play eligible players on my team roster
- I will promise to review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat and report injuries of my players
- I will do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players
- I will use coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that I teach
- I will not abandon, endanger, or leave a player unattended at any time. I will call the police to take custody of a child if I cannot contact their parent after 1 hour of the scheduled end of practice or game
- I will not drive participants, other than my children, to or from practices or games
- I will remember that I am a youth sports coach and the game is for the children- not for adults

PLAYERS:

Playing sports are awesome! You get to have fun, exercise, meet new friends, and challenge yourself. You will remember these times for the rest of your life. Keeping a positive attitude and giving your best effort will ensure you have a great experience. By participating in our program you are agreeing to uphold our Player's Pledge:

- I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Player's Pledge
- I deserve to have fun and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun
- I will do my best to listen and learn from my coaches and give my best effort during practices and games
- I will respect my teammates, parents/spectators, officials and coaches regardless of race, gender, creed or abilities
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it is important to me
- I will do my best in school
- I will remember that sports are about having fun and learning

PARENTS/SPECTATORS:

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to support our youth sports program. As mentioned in our philosophy, sports play a vital role in the development of children. Sports experiences create lifelong memories. How you conduct yourselves, as parents/spectators, will determine how the experiences are remembered. By participating in our program you are agreeing to uphold our Parents/Spectators Pledge and enforce this culture amongst your child's guest spectators:

- I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child, and all others, by following this Parents/Spectators Pledge
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all
- I will remember the games are for the youth- not for adults
- I will demand my child treat other players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or abilities
- I will do my best to make sure my child attend all practices and games, and will notify the coach if my child cannot.
- I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching or providing transportation
- I will require that my child's coach clear a background check prior to coaching, have resources available to ensure my child's success, and uphold the Coaches Pledge

I will do my part to make this a positive experience.

Name (print)_____ Signature_____ Date_____

CODE OF CONDUCT:

Unfortunately, incidents occur that are not in line with our mission, philosophy, code of ethics and pledges. In order to maintain the integrity of our program we must hold people accountable for their actions. Below is a list of violations and their consequences:

Negative or inappropriate language will not be tolerated at any time. **Penalty: 1 game suspension**

The use of tobacco products or smoking in or around the field or court is prohibited. **Penalty: 1 game suspension**

Arguing with officials, staff or coaches will not be tolerated. **Penalty: 1 game suspension**

Spectators will not enter the court during the course of a game. Only authorized players, coaches, and officials will be allowed on the court. **Penalty: 1 game suspension**

Any coach not giving all players at least 50% of game playing time. **Penalty: 1 game suspension**

Any coach using an ineligible or non-registered player during a game. **Penalty: 2 game suspension**

The use of alcohol will not be tolerated at our facilities or before, during or immediately after practices or games. **Penalty: immediate dismissal from program**

Players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches will not verbally fight at any time with other players, parents/spectators, officials or coaches. **Penalty: consequence determined on case by case basis**

Players, parents/spectators, officials and coaches will not physically fight at any time with other players, parents/spectators, officials or coaches. **Penalty: immediate dismissal from program**

Players, parents/spectators or coaches will not hit, bump or otherwise touch an official - it's the law. **Penalty: immediate dismissal from program**

Any coach or player receiving three (3) technical fouls in a season will be immediately **removed from coaching or playing for the remainder of the season**

Any coach, player or spectator ejected or removed from a game must leave the facility. He/she will be **suspended from his/her next scheduled game**, and may not attend the game as a spectator. Each case will be reviewed independently and further action up to and including dismissal from the program may be taken

Any player, parent/spectator, official or coach verbally, sexually, or physically abusing another child will be reported to the **Vacaville Police department and immediately dismissed from our program**

Repeat violations will be addressed on a case by case basis and will result in extended suspension and possible permanent dismissal from program.