



CLAY YOUTH SPORTS

Our Mission: Clay Youth Sports is committed to providing a positive, character-building experience for all participants.

GOALS:

- 1) To Teach Sportsmanship: we will emphasize that doing one's best is winning, and we will work hard to foster respect and integrity in competition.
- 2) To Develop Character: we will use sports as a vehicle to develop resilience, teamwork, leadership, empathy, and self-discipline in our athletes.
- 3) To Coach Positively: we will help cultivate happy, healthy, and confident children through encouraging mentorship.
- 4) To Ensure Inclusivity: we will create a supportive environment where every child can thrive regardless of skill level or background.
- 5) To Have Fun: We will build team spirit and community connections through engaging, enjoyable experiences for everyone involved.

Let's Play in Clay!

CLAY YOUTH SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct establishes expectations for creating a positive, safe, and developmentally appropriate environment where our athletes can learn, grow, and enjoy sports.

For Parents and Guardians

Supporting Your Athlete

- Encourage effort, improvement, and sportsmanship over winning
- Allow coaches to coach and referees to officiate without interference
- Keep sports in perspective as one part of your child's development
- Let your child own their experience; avoid living vicariously through their performance

Behavior at Games and Practices

- Model respect in your words and actions toward all participants, officials, and opposing teams
- Refrain from coaching from the sidelines or criticizing players, coaches, or officials
- Control your emotions and avoid confrontational behavior
- Respect boundaries by staying in designated spectator areas
- There will be no smoking, vaping, or drug use allowed on Clay Youth Sports premises
- Please do not attend any games drunk or under the influence

Communication

- Address concerns with coaches privately and at appropriate times, not during games or practices
- **Follow the 24-hour rule: if you have a question about a decision, a playing time, or any related matter, you must wait 24 hours before discussing with coach or director**
- Use respectful language in all communications
- Support the chain of command for resolving disputes

Fundamental Commitments

- Ensure your child attends practices and games on time, or communicate absences promptly
- Prioritize your child's safety and well-being over competitive success
- Recognize that playing time, positions, and team selections are coaching decisions

For Athletes

Respect

- Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials with courtesy and respect
- Accept coaching feedback with a positive attitude
- Congratulate opponents after competition, regardless of outcome
- Use appropriate language at all times

Effort and Attitude

- Give your best effort in practices and games
- Support your teammates and celebrate their successes
- Take responsibility for mistakes and learn from them
- Maintain a positive attitude, even in difficult situations

Commitment

- Attend all practices and games
- Arrive on time and prepared with proper equipment
- Communicate directly with coaches about conflicts or concerns
- Complete any conditioning or skill work assigned

Sportsmanship

- Follow the rules of the game and respect officials' decisions
- Control your emotions and avoid arguing, taunting, or inappropriate celebrations
- Represent your team with dignity in victory and defeat
- Report bullying, hazing, or unsafe conditions to a trusted adult

For Coaches

Player Development

- Prioritize athlete safety, development, and enjoyment over winning
- Teach skills, strategy, and life lessons through sports
- Provide all players with meaningful participation opportunities
- Tailor coaching methods to the age and skill level of athletes

Positive Environment

- Create an inclusive atmosphere where all athletes feel valued
- Use constructive feedback and positive reinforcement
- Never use humiliation, verbal abuse, or physical punishment
- Address bullying or exclusionary behavior immediately

Professional Conduct

- Model sportsmanship and emotional control at all times
- Treat officials with respect, even when disagreeing with calls
- Communicate clearly with parents about expectations, playing time philosophy, and team policies
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with all athletes

Communication and Organization

- Respond to parent and player concerns promptly and professionally
- Keep parents informed about schedules, expectations, and team matters
- Make decisions about playing time and positions based on what's best for team and individual development
- Be available to discuss athlete progress, while maintaining appropriate boundaries about timing

Knowledge and Safety

- Stay current with coaching education and best practices
- Recognize signs of injury and prioritize athlete health
- Ensure proper equipment and safe playing conditions
- Follow all organizational policies regarding background checks, certifications, and reporting requirements

Sportsmanship

- Follow the rules of the game and respect officials' decisions
- Control your emotions and avoid arguing, taunting, or inappropriate celebrations
- Represent your team with dignity in victory and defeat
- Report bullying, hazing, or unsafe conditions to a trusted adult

Consequences for Violations

Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in warnings, removal from games or practices, suspension, or permanent dismissal from the program, depending on severity and frequency. Physical violence, verbal abuse, or behavior that endangers others will result in immediate removal.

Mandatory Agreement

This Code of Conduct is a required condition of participation in Clay Youth Sports. By signing below, all participants (parents, athletes, and coaches) acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by all provisions of this Code of Conduct.

Failure to sign this agreement will result in ineligibility to participate in any Clay Youth Sports programs, activities, practices, or games. No exceptions will be made.

Registration will not be processed and participation will not be permitted without a signed Code of Conduct on file.

Shared Commitment

Everyone involved in youth sports shares responsibility for creating an environment where young people can thrive. By signing this Code of Conduct, you commit to upholding these standards and holding yourself accountable to them.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

Role (Parent/Athlete/Coach): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

Role (Parent/Athlete/Coach): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

Role (Parent/Athlete/Coach): _____

