

Conduct Expected of Parents and Supporters

The Kenner Parks and Recreation Department is thankful for your willingness to allow your child to participate in athletics. Please be aware that you are an extension of our teams, our Recreation Department, and our City. Therefore, your behavior at athletic functions directly reflects how people perceive our programs. With that said, please adhere to the following:

- **Avoid Confrontations with any player, coach, referee, and other spectators.**
- **Place the emotional and physical well being of your child ahead of any personal desire to win.**
- **Maintain self-control at all times.**
- **Show respect for the coaches' and their decisions. Do not attempt to coach your child or speak to him/her during games.**
- **Show a positive attitude when cheering.**
- **Refrain from negative comments or behavior.**
- **Learn the rules of the game; increased knowledge will prevent misunderstandings regarding the game.**
- **Although winning is important, please keep in mind that at the Kenner Parks and Recreation Department we are first and foremost dedicated to developing the character of our athletes.**
- **The playing field or courts are filled with young athletes; they will make mistakes. Your job is to be supportive and encouraging.**
- **Remember that the game is for the players and not for the adults.**
- **Support your child's coach by having them on time to practices and games.**
- **Accept decisions made by coaches regarding playing time and discipline. If you feel it necessary to speak to a coach, make an appointment to do so. It is not acceptable to approach a coach about a serious matter before, during, or after practices or games. If the matter is not handled to the standards you feel it should be, contact your playground supervisor and if that does not help contact the Recreation Administrative Coordinators at 468-7211.**

The best advice that you can give to your child is to tell them to play hard, and to have fun. If they keep a smile on their face, they will most likely give a strong effort. During the process of playing hard they will get better at any sport they participate in. One of the hardest lessons that any parent has to learn is what your expectations are and your child's expectations are in any sport may be different. Your child can be the best player in the league but if they loose that desire to participate all that talent will mean nothing. Parents must learn that in a lot of circumstances they are the reason that a child does not succeed. If you push your child and do not respect their dreams and ambitions, then you are missing a valuable opportunity to help your child grow as an athlete and as a human. Dreams are fine, but keep them in perspective. A young player might get turned off early and leave the game if they feel to much pressure to succeed. The best path is to encourage participation, good sportsmanship, hard work and having fun. If they understand those are your expectations from them, then the cream will eventually rise to the top. For parents of young players there is one guiding principle: If you want your young player to develop a love for sports, he or she must first develop a passion for the game. To do that, they must enjoy the game and see sports, particularly at a young age, as an activity that comes with a smile.

I have read and fully understand all components of the conduct expected by parents and supporters and agree to abide by all of the provisions set forth above. I understand that failure to comply with this conduct expected by parents and supporters will cause me to be asked to leave the activities if my behavior is having a negative impact on the players or other fans and may cause extended suspension from the activities in the future.

Child's Name (Please Print) _____

Parents Signature: _____ **Date:** _____