



Youth Sports YMCA Coach Behavior Policy

Youth Sports YMCA Coaches have the potential to influence a great number of people. We want you to be a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, HONESTY, & CARING.



Please Remember:

1. Your **attitude** and actions are on display for your team, your team's parents, plus opposing teams.
2. You are a **role model**—volunteer coaches should appear clean, neat, and appropriately attired. You should treat all children **equally**—regardless of sex, race, religion, or culture.
3. Coaches must use **positive techniques** of guidance, including redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement—rather than competition, comparison, and criticism.
4. **YMCA Coaches should be involved for the kids:**
 - To teach skills & knowledge about the game
 - To teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and character
 - To provide a fun, low-key environment for all
 - To promote friendships and family togetherness
5. Coaches should give high priority to the **objectives** above—focusing on winning & recognition can destroy positive outcomes.
6. YMCA Recreational Leagues are **low-key** and should be more relaxed. Higher competition and intensity are available in other leagues.

**Thank You for coaching
YMCA Youth Sports!**

Specific Guidelines:

1. Harassment & verbal criticism of officials is not allowed. Site supervisors are available for constructive comments following games.
2. In order to protect YMCA volunteers and participants, at NO time during a YMCA program should a volunteer leave a child unsupervised or be alone with a single child where they cannot be observed by others.
3. Never touch a child in a manner that could be interpreted as abusive or would make them feel uncomfortable.
4. Treat each child on your team and opposing teams as individuals and be sensitive to their own personal feelings. Profanity, inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of one's personal life, and any kind of harassment in the presence of children or parents is inappropriate.
5. Effective coaching experts agree that instructions should be given at practice. An over-abundance of instruction at game time only serves to confuse players.
6. Mannerisms can be just as offensive as foul language, i.e. throwing things, flailing movements, foot stomping, and tone of voice. This behavior is not allowed.
7. Smoking or use of tobacco in the presence of children, as well as, possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during YMCA programs are all prohibited.
8. Volunteers shall not abuse children including:
 - Physical abuse—strike, spank, shake, slap
 - Verbal abuse—humiliate, degrade, threaten
 - Sexual abuse—inappropriate touch or verbal exchange
 - Mental abuse—shaming, withholding praise, cruelty



Policy Enforcement:

1. Individual may be given a warning for inappropriate behavior.
2. Individual may be asked to leave the game(s), game(s) may be terminated and/or individual may be asked not to return for other Youth Sports activities.
3. Other sanctions as deemed necessary may be enforced.