

WSA PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."¹ I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.^{2,9}
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the youth competition is for the benefit of the youth, not the adults.^{6,9}
3. I will inform the beach marshal of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.⁹
4. I will learn the rules of competition and the policies of the Western Surfing Association.^{7,3}
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all competitors, judges, officials, staff and spectators at every WSA Surfing event.¹⁰
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, competitor, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.^{3,6,7,8}
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.^{5,2}
9. I will demand that my child treat other competitors, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.^{6,9}
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.²
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.²
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.^{2,5}
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize competition in the lower age groups.¹⁰
14. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.⁹
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during events and will never second guess their calls in front of other parents or competitors and will quietly and privately ask for an explanation from the beach marshal, contest director or head judge, before the results of the heat in question are made public.^{4,7}
16. I will demand a surfing environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all surfing events.⁶
17. I will refrain from coaching children other than my own during competition unless specifically asked by the child's parents.⁴
18. I will always leave the beach cleaner than I found it and will educate my children and guests to avoid trampling sensitive plants, dunes and tide-pools.
19. I will teach my child that losing with dignity is just as important as being a gracious winner.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:⁹

- Verbal warning by beach marshal, head judge, and/or competition director
- Written warning
- Parental competition suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by Western Surfing Association
- Event forfeit through the beach marshal, head judge, and/or competition director
- Parental season suspension

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date ___ / ___ / ___

References:

The Sport Parent Code of Conduct has been compiled from the following national organizations and local youth sports league Parent Codes of Conduct:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Arizona Sports Summit Accord | 6. National Alliance for Youth Sports |
| 2. Character Counts | 7. National High School Athletic Coaches Association |
| 3. Heartland Soccer Club | 8. Pop Warner |
| 4. Kidsports | 9. Rosemont Area Athletic Association |
| 5. Mt. Laurel Soccer Club | 10. USA Hockey |

Additional recommended resources for conduct and sportsmanship for coaches and athletes include: Arizona Sport Summit Accord, United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Coaches Code of Ethics, and the Character Counts Coalition.