



YMCA
of Middle Tennessee

We build strong **kids**, strong **families**,
strong **communities**.

Our Mission: A worldwide charitable fellowship united by a common loyalty to Jesus Christ for the purpose of helping persons grow in spirit, mind and body.

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YMCA Youth Sports

Everybody Plays, Everybody Wins

Fair play guidelines for parents,
coaches and referees

What role should parents, coaches and referees play in **YMCA Youth Sports**?

Together, parents, coaches and referees impact the lives of thousands of youth sports participants every year. They have the opportunity to be **role models** and instill the values of fair play and good sportsmanship in the players they encounter. Enclosed in this brochure are some helpful tips to ensuring that every child's youth sports experience is a positive one.

Parents, Coaches, Referees: Role Models for Life

Parents:

What can parents do to make the game more enjoyable for the players?

1. Be knowledgeable of the game.
2. Encourage fair play at home.
3. Be supportive (help your child attend all practices; drop off/pick up on time).
4. Attend games.
5. Be positive or quiet at games.
6. Be respectful and expect your children to be respectful.
7. Focus on good nutrition.
8. Volunteer to help a coach.
9. Become a referee.
10. Play the game.
11. Be calm and have good manners.
12. Support the coach's and referees' decisions.
13. Encourage communication with the coach.
14. Ask your children to describe their role on the team and any new skills they've learned.
15. Watch practices and focus on new strategies.
16. Find sport-related DVDs/videos and watch them with your children.
17. Concentrate on praising other parents' children during games.
18. Read newspaper articles about older players' successes and provide role models for your children.

Parents' daily modeling of fair play, conflict resolution and the "golden rule" encourages players to calmly play with skill on the field.

Coaches:

What can coaches do to make the game more enjoyable for all players involved and easier for the referee to manage?

1. Take a course on the rules of the game.
2. Be accepting of the referees' decisions.
3. Remain calm.
4. Do not make loud, offensive remarks.
5. Concentrate on coaching rather than on the accuracy of the referee's decisions.
6. Be a role model of fair play.
7. Be positive; avoid confrontation with parents or officials.
8. During games, leave the decisions to the players.
9. Attend coaching classes to learn the most effective ways to conduct practices.
10. Give good guidelines to parents.
11. Set high standards.
12. Be firm with parents at games.
13. Teach skills and fair tactics.
14. Discourage unfair gamesmanship.
15. Communicate with parents often in meetings and social gatherings.
16. Play the game and encourage parents and officials to play.
17. Referee games.
18. Delegate responsibilities.

Referees:

What can referees do to make the game more enjoyable for the players?

1. Know the rules.
2. Be professional (on time, in proper uniform, prepared, fit, etc.)
3. Study the game and encourage the spirit of the game.
4. Attend trainings, meetings, clinics and seminars.
5. Show respect for the players, coaches, parents and spectators.
6. Explain the rules when needed.
7. Help less experienced referees.
8. Play the game to better understand it.
9. Seek evaluation from the coaches and players.
10. Be assessed regularly.
11. Smile and enjoy the game.
12. Be firm, fair and honest.
13. Be consistent.
14. Accept only the number and level of assignments that can be done well.
15. Be neutral.
16. Know and use the proper procedures.
17. Always remain calm.
18. Take each game seriously.
19. Implement good management techniques.
20. Show courage and confidence, avoid arrogance.