

SECTION 08

FAIR PLAY



08



CANADA
BASKETBALL



8.0 FAIR PLAY

Fair play involves everyone who organizes and delivers a community sport program. As a program organizer, you work a lot behind the scenes. You organize schedules, ensure that rules are enforced, and communicate with coaches, parents and players. You also play an important role in creating an atmosphere that encourages everyone to play fairly.

By promoting fair play values to Coaches, Officials, Players, Parents and Spectators, you will make a positive impact on the child's sport experience and on their individual development. This does not have to take a lot of time or add much work to your busy schedule. This resource is geared to help you make fair play an integral and rewarding aspect of your program in a way that is simple, effective and fun.

8.1 - WHAT IS FAIR PLAY?

Integrity, fairness and respect are the principles of fair play. Since children learn best by seeing and doing, sport offers an excellent opportunity to teach fair play in a way that is both effective and fun.

- If children see all members of the program receive a turn, they will learn to treat people equally and fairly.
- If children learn the importance of the rules in a game, they will learn to respect and value the rules in society.
- If children are rewarded for playing fairly, they will learn the value of honesty and integrity.

By promoting and teaching these ideals, you can help all participants enjoy and benefit from sport. The principles of fair play are reflected in the five simple statements:

1. Respect the rules.
2. Respect the Officials and their decisions.
3. Respect your opponent.
4. Give everyone an equal chance to participate.
5. Maintain your self-control at all times.

8.2 - WHY ENCOURAGE FAIR PLAY?

Sport has two kinds of participants; athletes who derive great enjoyment and personal challenge from their game or activity, and those who do not (and may eventually drop out). What makes the game so different for these two groups? For many, it's the result of what they've learned, or didn't learn, when they originally became involved in amateur sport.

Teaching respect for the rules and for other participants, teaching fair play and the spirit of the game are all just as important as teaching the skills. Without fair play, some children will come to believe that winning and scoring points are the only benefits of their sporting experience. That means they will miss a lot of the enjoyment and opportunities that sport and recreation have to offer.

8.3 - CODES OF CONDUCT

Canada Basketball has approved the following Codes of Conduct for all programs, players and participants in Steve Nash Youth Basketball.

It is recommended that all leagues, teams and associations make their best efforts to communicate all codes to their participants.

It is further recommended that these Codes of Conduct be posted at all venues where Steve Nash Youth Basketball programs occur – whether it be practices, games or other scheduled events.



These Codes of Conduct represent a general philosophy that should encompass all Steve Nash Youth Basketball programs. They are not expected to cover every possible situation nor are they all inclusive. Steve Nash Youth Basketball programs cover a wide range of ages of participants and not all points may be applicable to each participant but the underlying philosophy of Fair Play is important for all participants involved in Steve Nash Youth Basketball.

It is understood that individual teams, leagues, associations etc., may add to these codes to cover specific circumstances e.g. a travel policy, a chaperone policy, a curfew policy, special playing rules and other special situations.

Coaches' Code

- The building of sound, fundamental basketball skills and developing a love for the game is the first objective.
- Encourage team play.
- Every attempt should be made to give players equal playing time.
- Reinforce good sportsmanship whenever possible.
- Show respect for referees, other coaches, parents and players at all times.
- Be a resource person to your players, helping them to develop their athletic and human potential.
- While trying to treat all players as equals, recognize all children are not the same; respect their individual differences.

Parents' Code

- Remember, children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Allow your child to participate in sports voluntarily.
- Remember that children learn best by example.
- Encourage your child to always play by the rules.
- Accept your child's mistakes and disappointments with positive reinforcement.
- Accept all officials' decisions and respect their integrity
- Help your child understand that individual skills and achievements are more satisfying when applied to a team situation.
- Teach your child that an honest effort and hard work is just as important as a victory.

Players' Code

- Play for the fun of the game (and not to please parents and coaches).
- Play by the rules.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates and opponents.
- Work hard for yourself and your team.
- Respect and accept officials' decisions.
- Control your temper.
- Be a good sport and treat all players how you'd like to be treated... the basketball golden rule.

Administrator's Code

- Remember that you set an example. Your behavior and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Give all children equal opportunities to participate.
- Ensure that everyone involved emphasizes fair play.
- Give an appropriate code of conduct sheet to all players, coaches, parents, officials and spectators.
- Help coaches and officials reinforce appropriate behavior and basketball skill development.
- Ensure that the rules, equipment, length of games and practices are suitable for the age, ability and maturity level of the participants.
- Ensure that all participants and spectators are aware of and respect the rules of the facility.
- Remember, kids participate for enjoyment!

Spectator's Code

- Remember, children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Applaud the efforts of both teams, regardless of the game's outcome.
- Support the efforts of all participants regardless of mistakes they may make
- Encourage players to follow the rules and abide by the officials' decisions.
- Support the efforts of coaches, officials and administrators
- Use appropriate language at all times.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form by anyone associated with the game.