

# **Clayton County Parks & Recreation Athletics Coaches' Code of Conduct**

Coaches are a critical element of Clayton County Athletics. You have direct contact with players at every practice and game, and you will be the primary influence on player growth. For most players, coaches are the only adult representatives they know from our league. For these reasons, Clayton County Athletics expects that all its head and assistant coaches will be familiar with and agree to follow the league mission, rules, goals and objectives. We would like the reputation and integrity of our parks to be free from the effects of irresponsible conduct of teams, coaches and other parties. The pressure that some teams and coaches feel to win, even at the expense of fair and ethical behavior, produces actions that set a terrible example for the players. When such conduct goes unchecked, pressure mounts on other teams and coaches to respond in kind.

## **Coaches' Responsibility and Code of Conduct**

A coach's most important role is teaching young men and women about life. This involves setting standards and a code of conduct. A coach with Clayton County Athletics must agree with the idea of being a role model for the players and their parents. Although it is important to teach young players to be competitive and to help them develop a winning attitude, there is more to the game of youth football than winning every game. Our coaches will, in both words and deeds, provide players a broader, constructive and positive view of athletic competition. They will emphasize good sportsmanship, teamwork, fair play, and academic responsibility. Coaches are responsible for their own conduct, and for the conduct of their players, parents and fans at all games. Abusive or obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, use of drugs or alcohol, or other behavior detrimental to the game or players will not be tolerated. The failure of a coach to control his or her players, parents and fans will result in action against him or her by Clayton County Athletics. Coaches should set the example regarding the officials. Explain to parents that, however the officials may appear, he or she is trained in the rules of the game, and is almost always better positioned than a spectator to see what actually happened. Point out that much of officiating is judgment and that the officials are neutral; while coaches, parents and fans are not. It is your responsibility to set the tone for the conduct of your parents and fans. If a coach, parent or fan becomes abusive in any way and you cannot quiet them, ask them to leave before the officials or a representative of Clayton County Athletics has to do so. They are all your responsibility from the time you come on to the field until you leave. Coaches will forbid their players from taunting, threatening or harassing any player during league play, at school, or otherwise. Coaches must also understand the need to stay informed of and learn about youth football coaching techniques, drills, and exercises, both as it relates to safety and player skill development. They will make every attempt to attend any coaching clinics offered by Clayton County Athletics.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_