

Alabaster Parks and Recreation Youth Sports

Mission Statement:

The mission of Alabaster Parks and Recreation is to teach fundamental sports skills while providing a positive experience in a safe, encouraging, and friendly environment for every child participating in our Athletic Programs. We believe every child learns life lessons through athletic participation such as how to work hard, persevere, be a team player, set goals, follow rules, and be respectful. To achieve this mission, it is mandatory that all adults, including coaches, parents, officials, spectators, and administrators, set a good example by exhibiting self-control, respectfulness, and following all rules implemented by Alabaster Parks and Recreation.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

IMPORTANT: Please always remember that youth sports are for children, not adults! Parents and players are passionate about sports. Unfortunately, this passion can sometimes result in poor behavior. Adults may complain about an official's call or yell at their child during a game. Bad behavior frustrates officials, makes it hard to find volunteers, and harms young players. The City of Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department will not tolerate bad behavior at practices or games. Our goal is for every child to have an enjoyable experience while on our fields. Please be a positive role model for your child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, officials, staff, coaches, parents, and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS CODE OF CONDUCT

I hereby pledge to abide by the Parents/Guardians Code of Conduct established by the City of Alabaster Parks and Recreation Department (CAPRD):

COACHES –

- Respect coaches. Remember, they stepped up and volunteered to coach your child.
- You may not always agree with the coach, but nothing will be gained from verbally attacking the coach. It would be more productive and respectful to offer to help the coach. The program will be stronger if parents and coaches work together to set your children up for success.
- Do not confront coaches on the field during games or practices.
- When you are upset, please take 12 to 24 hours to calm down before speaking with your child's coach.
- Coaches use GroupMe/Group Texts to communicate information to parents regarding practices, games, and/or to organize meetings.
 - Please refrain from using this form of communication to have arguments or voice complaints as this will not result in a positive experience for anyone, especially your children. Remember, the goal is to set your children up for success by working together as a team.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT –

- Enforcement of the Code of Conduct will vary based on the severity of the issues and complaints involved.
- A minor first offense may result in a verbal warning by an official, head coach, and/or Parks and Recreation Staff Member.
- A second offense may result in a written warning.
- Ongoing offenses or serious violations may result in you, the parent/guardian/spectator, being suspended from the game with written documentation of the incident.
- A serious violation may result in you, the parent/guardian/spectator, being suspended for the remainder of the season.
- **IMPORTANT:** Anyone suspended must leave the park facility immediately.

OFFICIALS –

- Respect the officials and their authority during games.
- Never question, discuss, or confront officials at the game field.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE –

- This is a recreational league which means ensuring all players are having fun and getting an opportunity to play. This takes precedence over any coach or parent's desire to win.

SIDELINE BEHAVIOR –

- Refrain from coaching your child or other players during games and practices unless you are one of the official coaches of the team.
- Degrading or demoralizing of players is not acceptable.
- Only coaches, assistant coaches, and/or officials are allowed on the field or sideline! Anyone else including but not limited to parents, guardians and/or spectators are to remain in the bleachers or on the bleacher side of the fence. The only exception would be due to special circumstances which would require prior approval from CAPRD staff.
- Per Alabaster City Ordinance 95-381: Any person who engages in arguments, uses abusive language, harasses game or league officials, or exhibits any unsportsmanlike behavior may be barred from parks and/or recreation facilities and/or prosecuted.
 - *NOTE: You agreed to these terms when you registered your child/children.*

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT –

- Do not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing, taunting, or using profane language or gestures, etc.
- Remember to place the emotional and physical well-being of all players ahead of a personal desire to win.

WORDS OF WISDOM –

- Remember: Losing is not failure! Failure comes from giving up!
- Don't focus on the athletic success of your child. Instead, focus on their work ethic and ability to be coachable and respectful. (Source: unknown)
- "Your words sow seeds in your children's hearts. From those seeds spring up either confidence or uncertainty, dignity or dishonor, worth or worthlessness. Your words create the beginning of their life stories, and they will carry this story with them always." (Source: Power of Positivity)