

Farmington Recreation Department Coaches Guide

The Farmington Recreation Department considers itself fortunate to have so many excellent volunteer coaches and referees. Your enthusiasm, commitment and maturity help the Recreation Department produce excellent programs for the youth of this area. It is important to remember that the children look up to you as role models and are just as excited to be around you as they are to play the sport itself. Please follow these guidelines as you continue to positively influence the children you coach and referee.

Perspective – For many of our program participants this is their first time involved in team sports. Often, they will not continue being involved in sports after their time in our programs. Some of the children are shy or are not sure they want to be involved in sports in the first place. Although we want programs to be competitive, our programs emphasize socialization and exercise, not winning and losing. It is important to keep all these things in mind when interacting with the children. Please remember that although you might be (or may have been) an athlete that takes part in serious competition, your players’ emotions may range from very intense to completely disinterested.

Positive Support of Participants – At all times coaches and referees should immerse themselves in teaching and positively supporting every player in the program. Coaches and referees should never be negative in their interaction with the children. Patience is an important characteristic to possess. The skill level of some participants may also be lower than what you are accustomed to.

Sportsmanship – Good sportsmanship occurs when teammates, opponents, coaches, spectators and officials treat each other with respect. Sportsmanship goes beyond simply shaking hands at the end of a game. It occurs from the second you are in contact with the children to the moment you congratulate both teams on their excellent effort. Remember, they are looking at you for an example on how to act. Please do not let your excitement show up the other team or overshadow the players on your own team. Do not complain about calls, non-calls or the overall performance of the referees. The referees and Program Directors oversee the programs because they carry out the philosophies of the Recreation Department and have every child’s best interest in mind. They are more focused on skill development and “fairness” than winning and losing. This should also be the focus of our coaches as well.

Attendance – There are many benefits of being a volunteer coach for the Recreation Department beyond the satisfaction of helping to positively influence a young person’s life. You will be able to develop your skills as a coach and mentor. Although volunteering is fulfilling, it is also a significant commitment. We expect that you will attend all the scheduled practices and games during the program. Any absences should be cleared with the Program Director if you believe you will not be able to attend due to scheduling conflicts. If you are unable to meet these criteria, please do not volunteer.

The Rec. Dept. is proud to have great volunteers. Your commitment is very important to the continued success of our programs. We appreciate that you are able to find time in your busy schedules to help and are willing to be such good examples to our program participants.

***Please note: If you are found to be in violation of any of the guidelines previous stated, we reserve the right to remove you from volunteer service with the Rec. Dept. at any time.**

Volunteer Name (Please Print)

Program – Season

Thank you, Farmington Recreation Department