

# Madonna del Sasso School Sports Program

## **Parents Code of Conduct**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of Madonna del Sasso Parish School is to motivate, instruct and nurture children in the beliefs, practices and values of the Catholic community integrated with the highest standards of academic excellence, physical development and leadership skills to become lifelong learners inspired by Jesus Christ.*

### **PHILOSOPHY**

*Madonna del Sasso Parish School creates an environment where students can experience a maturing relationship with God, themselves and others. Together with parents, the primary educators, we prepare students to become involved, responsible and contributing members of the church and society. Under the inspiration and leadership of Jesus Christ, the master teacher, we create an institution of learning and living where a family of families can grow, share and experience a love for learning and Christian fellowship.*

The mission of Madonna del Sasso School's sports program is to teach youth to learn and play the games while developing good sportsmanship, work ethic and friendships along the way in alignment with the Mission Statement and Philosophy of the school. This is why Madonna del Sasso has developed this **Parents Code of Conduct**.

Youth sports are supposed to be fun for the coaches, and most importantly for the KIDS that are learning to play the game. Unfortunately, many parents, fans, coaches, and other kids don't realize that their actions both verbal and nonverbal have a lasting effect on young athletes. Unfortunately, kids are leaving sports activities because the fun has been taken out of the game.

### **Madonna Parents Make the Difference**

Keep in mind that, above all, the motivating factor for most children who enter an organized youth sports program is their desire to have fun. This is particularly true with young children, many of who are newcomers to the youth sports scene. With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the "basics" of the sport, everyone will come away from their youth sports experience with a positive feeling.

### **In the Stands**

Parents can take the fun out of any sport by continually yelling or screaming from the stands. Parents should enjoy the game and applaud good plays. The stands are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their kids. Kids often mirror the actions of their parents; if they see mom or dad losing their cool in the stands, they will probably do the same in the sports arena.

### **Car and Home**

Some parents not only spoil the fun for their kids at the sporting event, but also in the car, believing this is the perfect place for instruction or criticism. Parents should try to keep things in perspective. There's more to life than sports, and the car and home are not places to coach. Parents need to remember that they are not the coach, and the most difficult kind of parent is the one who coaches against the real coach. It's unfair to put children in a position of having to decide who to listen to – their parents or the coach.

**At Practice**

Parents have to remember that if a child wants to improve, they have to practice – not just play. Encourage your children to develop a strong work ethic and to work hard to improve their skills. Even if a child is not the “star” player on the team, practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline, and learning to control your emotions, all of which are important lessons children can use both in and out of sports.

**At the Sporting Event**

Parents need to stress fair play and risk management to help eliminate injuries.

**Supporting Your Child**

Many benefits are derived from playing youth sports. Boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn to work together, how to sacrifice for the good of the team, how to enjoy winning and how to handle defeat. In the process, they also learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal health.

The degree to which your child benefits from his or her youth sports experience is as much your responsibility as it is theirs. In order for your child to get the most out of a youth program, it is important for you to show support and offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team.

**Always be Positive**

Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction and approval. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to coaches, referees, opponents and teammates.

Remember that your children are PLAYING sports. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives.

**Let the Coach Coach**

Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. A recent survey indicated that 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. The most important aspect of your child’s youth sports experience is for them to have fun while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them in life. A healthy, risk-free environment that emphasizes the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, discipline, and most importantly, fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self-image.

**Positive Reinforcement**

The best way to help children achieve goals and reduce their natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. After all, no one likes to make mistakes. If your child makes a mistake – and they will – remain positive and help your child to do the same.

## **Parents Code of Conduct**

\*To be signed by the parent(s) of any child playing any sport at Madonna del Sasso Parish School. If a child is in more than one sport, only one copy of this needs to be signed.

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will enforce and support the Code of Conduct for coaches, parents, and players.
4. I will refrain from publicly ridiculing or verbally abusing my child, other players, coaches or officials. I will not embarrass my child by yelling negative comments at my child, other players, coaches or officials.
5. I will set a positive example and encourage good sportsmanship at all games; loud, positive cheering, clapping, and noise making is encouraged.
6. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child and the team ahead of any personal desire to win.
7. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
8. I will help my child be on time for team events.
9. I will demand a drug, alcohol and tobacco free sports environment for my child and agree by refraining from their use at all sporting events.
10. I will do my very best to make sports fun for my child.
11. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches and officials with respect.
12. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
13. I will require that my child's coaches be knowledgeable in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach.
14. I will attend all parents meetings and be a supportive member of the Madonna del Sasso School's Sports Program.

***I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents Code of Conduct.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_