

New Durham Parks and Recreation Athletic Program Mission Statement

The purpose of the New Durham Parks and Recreation Athletic Programs is to promote the interest in and the growth of a variety of youth sports for children in the New Durham community. The ND Parks and Recreation Department supports a fun and positive atmosphere where fair play, building individual and team skills and positive reinforcement and sportsmanship are emphasized in youth athletics.

Sportsmanship

It is the obligation of coaches, players, parents, referees and spectators to practice the highest principles of good sportsmanship and to adhere to the ethics of friendly competition during all youth sporting events. Sportsmanship is defined as behavior which displays courtesy and genuine concern for others. Negative or threatening comments from coaches, players, parents, referees or spectators will not be tolerated at any New Durham athletic event. This includes practices, scrimmages, games, or any other event sponsored by the New Durham Parks and Recreation Department. Problems should be brought to the Recreation Director so that they may be addressed by the New Durham Parks and recreation Commission.

Coaches' Ethics

The coach must be aware that he or she may be either a positive or negative influence on the development of the athlete and the atmosphere of the game. In all of the coach's contacts with players, officials, parents and the public, the coach must strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Coaches must treat officials with respect; play all players fairly; take control of his or her fans if they become unruly; and always demonstrate a positive attitude. Remember that players and fans are always watching and will emulate the coach's actions and example.

Parent Responsibilities

Make a commitment to your child's coach and the team. The New Durham Parks and Recreation Department does not discourage players from participating in other activities. However, if the child wants to be a true team member, both parents and child should make the effort to be at ALL practices and games. Support your child and team with positive cheers and praise. Never shout derogatory comments at referees, coaches, players or other spectators.

If your child is ill and not in school, your child is not eligible to attend practice or play in a game on that day.

Never criticize or second guess coaches or officials during games. Support your coaches and officials – remember that these individuals are committed volunteers who give of

their time and effort for the benefit of our children. You are welcome to volunteer for one of these positions if you are not satisfied with the performance of others.

Understand that our programs are not specifically designed for individual training, but to teach teamwork, sportsmanship, responsibility and to enhance all players' skills. Understand that the New Durham Parks and Recreation Department emphasizes fair play and sportsmanship as a priority while also promoting skill building and growth in all children through athletics. Recreation teams are designed to build skills and learn the game. Only travel and All Star teams will be considered competitive teams.

Understand that coaches will strive for fair play for all, however the coach may use his/her discretion in penalizing players for absences or misconduct that detracts from the other team members (such as reducing playing time in games). Fair play translates to children who actively participate will have equal field or court time during games. While coaches will encourage players to learn different positions, the coach will determine the game position of his or her players, with the goal of placing athletes where they can grow, develop and experience fair playing time. We expect parents to assist us in teaching our children responsibility to his or her team.

If you have a problem with your coach, try to resolve it privately rather than through a public confrontation. Please observe a 24 hour cool down period prior to approaching a coach about an issue. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your discussion, contact the New Durham Parks and Recreation Director with your concerns, with the next step being the Parks and Recreation Commission. Never approach an official or coach with negative comments immediately following a game. This will only cause a confrontation. If you have a formal complaint, document it in writing and bring it to your coach or Recreation Director at a later time.

Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, profanity, threats or physical violence will not be tolerated at practices, games or other New Durham Parks and recreation functions and events.

Equipment and uniforms must be returned to the Recreation Director by the end of season due date, in good condition.

Parents are expected to support the children through the season, to include volunteering with the concession stand and other fundraising activities so as to help keep costs low and keep programs successful.

NOTE: Any parents or fans who violate the above rules will:

- be notified that their actions will not be tolerated, or*
- be asked to leave the event, or*
- be suspended for a game, the season, or indefinitely as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission.*

Coach Responsibilities

Play your players fairly, following league rules and so that all children who actively participate spend equal time on the field or court during games. Fair play translates to children who actively participate will have equal field or court time during games. While coaches will encourage athletes to learn new skills and play new positions, the coach will determine the game position of his or her players, with the goal of placing athletes where they can grow, develop and experience fair playing time and success. Coaches will teach players all positions, with the goal of having each child play at two or three positions throughout the season. Coaches will not favor certain children over others who have the skills to play positions, however coaches will have the discretion to place players in positions which best serve the whole of the team and the children.

Promote self-confidence through positive reinforcement.

Teach and display sportsmanship.

Understand that each child's skill level, learning ability, and behavior is different.

Ensure safety. Never deny your players water. Continually monitor each player's condition during drills. Be aware of any health concerns. **Handle first aid situations and document incident, treatment and parental notification using ND Recreation form within 24 hours of the incident.** Note any field or court safety issues and pass on information to the recreation Director. Document unsafe behavior or situation with the appropriate incident report form.

Ensure that players and parents understand the policy for tardiness and absences for games and practices. The New Durham Parks and Recreation Department strongly encourages fair play for all players, however, the coach may use his/her discretion in penalizing players for excessive absences or behavior that detracts from the good of the team (such as reduced playing time in games). It is important to promote responsibility to one's team.

Treat officials and other coaches with respect. If you have a question about a call, it should be handled privately and professionally. Remember that calls are rarely overturned and your players and fans are watching. Please keep in mind that officials are often volunteers as well.

Try to work with parents to understand ND Rec policies. Avoid public confrontations with disgruntled parents. However, try to resolve any concerns with parents privately and swiftly, so the situation does not worsen. Utilize the Recreation Director for assistance if necessary. If unsuccessful taking these measures, understand that the New Durham Parks and Recreation Commission is here to support you and to assist in resolving any issues that arise and that have not been addressed.

Support other coaches, and if need be, seek support from other coaches. We are all in this together for the kids.

Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, profanity, threats or physical violence will not be tolerated at practices, games or other New Durham recreation Department functions or events.

Equipment and uniforms will be returned to the Director in good condition and by the due date. Any equipment needs should be made through the Recreation Director, and a list of any lost or damaged items should be included. Upon receipt, all equipment will be turned in to the Recreation Director in good working condition, and any damaged equipment will be reported to the Recreation Director immediately.

Keys to equipment sheds or closets will not be given to anyone to use other than coaches, and they will be turned in at the end of the season.

NOTE: ANY coach who violates the above rules will:

- *Be given a warning, or*
- *Be suspended for a game, or*
- *Be suspended for the season, or*
- *Be denied a coaching position in the future.*

The above will be determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission in conjunction with the recommendations of the Recreation Director.

Whether you are a parent, a coach, a player or a fan, Recreation programs are for the well being and positive growth of the children in our community. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring that our children have the most positive opportunities to play and grow.