



READING

YOUTH SPORTS



HANDBOOK

READING RECREATION DIVISION
READING POLICE DEPARTMENT
YOUTH LEAGUES OF READING

GOOD SPORTS PARTERSHIP COMMISSION

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior in youth sports at all times through the education of parents, coaches and players.

ABOUT THE GOOD SPORTS PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION

The Good Sports Partnership Commission is a group made up of Reading Youth Sports Administrators along with members of the Reading Police Department and Recreation Division. Our goal is to promote and educate members of our youth sports community in the area of Sportsmanship.

TOWN OF READING MASSACHUSETTS

This handbook has been developed as a proactive approach against violence in youth sports. We sincerely hope each of our parents, coaches, players and officials in Reading will take the time to understand their role in this community as a participant with our youth programs.

This policy has been developed by leaders of the youth sports organizations and accepted by the Recreation Committee and the Board of Selectmen as a standard policy in Reading.

Let us pledge that we, as individuals, will abide by this code to insure that all of our children will benefit from the experience they have participating in Youth Sports.

THE PLAYERS ARE EXPECTED TO...

- ◆ Know, understand, and honor the commitments that they and their parents have made to coaches, teams, and leagues.
- ◆ Always try to do their best.
- ◆ Be honest with all involved.
- ◆ Learn all the rules of their particular sport.
- ◆ Respect and cooperate with their coaches, officials, teammates, administrators, opponents and parents.
- ◆ Avoid showing off, trash talking, or taunting anyone.
- ◆ Respect team and league rules concerning tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and behavior beyond the field or court.
- ◆ Respect equipment and playing sites and do not destroy the site, steal or leave a mess.
- ◆ Behave properly in transit.
- ◆ Expect to be treated fairly and with respect from all involved.
- ◆ Expect to play an appropriate amount of playing time according to team rules and regulations
- ◆ Expect coaches, parents, fans, game officials and administrators to provide an environment where the players can learn their sport, be safe, and have fun.

PLAYERS SHOULD EXPECT COACHES TO...

- ◆ Provide a safe environment for participants.
- ◆ Develop a strategy to implement and monitor the sportsmanship policies of the league.
- ◆ Communicate messages encouraging good sportsmanship to coaches, players, parents, fans and game officials.
- ◆ Review and monitor sportsmanship policies.
- ◆ Be sure that all persons involved are aware of rules and regulations.
- ◆ Support and reward participants, coaches and fans that display good sportsmanship.
- ◆ Create a positive atmosphere to allow participants to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship.
- ◆ Insist that the behavior of all involved will be positive and sportsmanlike.
- ◆ Serve as a positive role model.
- ◆ Show respect for public and private properties i.e. remove trash after games.
- ◆ Develop selection procedures for coaches designed to encourage the value of good sportsmanship.
- ◆ Make sure all players experience appropriate amount of playing time, according to league's policy.
- ◆ Make an effort to attend annual coach's training/orientation sessions.
- ◆ Promote the emotional and physical well being of all athletes ahead of any desire they may have for their own child.

PLAYERS SHOULD EXPECT PARENTS...

- ◆ Not force their child to participate in sports.
- ◆ Remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youths, not for adults.
- ◆ Inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child or the safety of others.
- ◆ Learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
- ◆ Be a positive role model for their children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players.
- ◆ Not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands or using profane language or gestures.
- ◆ Teach their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence.
- ◆ Demand that their children treat other players, coaches, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
- ◆ Praise their child for competing fairly and trying hard.
- ◆ Never ridicule or yell at their child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- ◆ Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit their child.
- ◆ Promote the emotional and physical well being of all athletes ahead of any personal desire that they may have for their child.
- ◆ Refrain from coaching their child or players during games and practices, unless one of the official coaches of the team asks them to help with Coaching.

PLAYERS SHOULD EXPECT FANS TO...

- ◆ Show interest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the good plays on both teams.
- ◆ Show proper respect for game officials, participants, coaches and other fans.
- ◆ Not "boo", stamp feet or make disrespectful remarks towards players or officials.
- ◆ Learn the rules of the game so that they may understand and appreciate why certain things take place on the field or court.
- ◆ Obey officials and league administrators who are responsible for keeping order.
- ◆ Stay off playing fields at all times.
- ◆ Never use tobacco, alcohol, and or drugs at games and practice sites.
- ◆ Pay attention to the game and not disturb those around you.
- ◆ Treat the contest as a game not a war.
- ◆ Encourage those around them to display good sportsmanship.
- ◆ Accept and respect all decisions of the game official.
- ◆ Show good judgement on their choice of words.
- ◆ Show respect for public and private property to include removing trash and personal items after each practice or game.

PLAYERS SHOULD EXPECT OFFICIALS TO...

- ◆ Know the rules. Stay current and discuss them with the coaches and other officials. Stay in good standing in your official's association. Attend the official's clinics and rules interpretation meetings.
- ◆ Be punctual. Follow your associations' and the league guidelines concerning your arrival time prior to game start. It is your responsibilities to know directions to game sites and arrive on time. Know your pre-game responsibilities and perform them properly.
- ◆ Dress properly. Look sharp. Follow the league and association guidelines to the letter concerning uniform particulars.
- ◆ Keep your equipment safe and up to date.
- ◆ Be decisive. Be confident. Be proud. Make your calls clear without hesitation. Carry yourself with integrity, humility and honesty.
- ◆ Listen to players and coaches. Use your discretion when somebody crosses the line then act accordingly. Do not look for trouble. Do not hold grudges or look to get even but do not appear weak. If a situation seems to be getting out of hand, slow down and calmly decide what should be done and take the appropriate action without hesitation.
- ◆ Not use of alcohol or drugs prior to games.
- ◆ Work with your partners. Know your individual and team game responsibilities.
- ◆ Communicate clearly with coaches when calling a game due to hazardous weather or field conditions.

READING YOUTH SPORTS INFO

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>CONTACT NAME</u>	<u>PHONE/EMAIL</u>
Reading Youth Softball	Frank Driscoll	fpd46@yahoo.com or readingyouthsoftball@gmail.com
Pop Warner Football	Adam Pollock	(781) 942-9494
Babe Ruth League	Jeff Pierce	(781) 944-7552
Senior Babe Ruth League	Jeff Pierce	(781) 944-7552
Lou Tompkins League	Jeff Pierce	(781) 944-7552
United Soccer Club	Mike Sheedy	contactus@rusc.org
Reading Little League	Andrew Fotino	rybcommish@gmail.com
Reading Recreation T-Ball	Jenna Fiorente	(781) 942-9075
Reading Youth Basketball	Jenna Fiorente	(781) 942-9075
Reading Youth Hockey	Derek Abruzzese	(781) 820-0683
Reading Youth Boys Lacrosse	Christopher Flanagan	(617) 930-7584
Reading Youth Girls Lacrosse	Barbara Doherty	(781) 944-0553

READING YOUTH RESOURCE WEBSITES

Reading Recreation - www.readingrec.com
Reading Police - <http://users.rcn.com/reading1/police>
Reading United Soccer Club - www.rusc.org
Girls/Boys Youth Lacrosse - www.readinglacrosse.com
Little League Baseball - <http://www.sportsmanager.us/ReadingYouthBaseball.htm>
Pop Warner Football - www.leaguelineup.com/readingpopwarner/
Youth Hockey - <http://www.readingyouthhockey.org>
Youth Softball - <http://www.eteamz.com/readingyouthsoftball/>

GOLDEN RULE OF COACHING

If athletes are coached with criticism, they learn low self-esteem.

If athletes are coached with hostility, they learn to fight.

If athletes are coached with ridicule, they learn to withdraw.

If athletes are coached with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If athletes are coached with patience, they learn to improve.

If athletes are coached with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If athletes are coached with praise, they learn to have faith.

If athletes are coached with fairness, they learn justice.

If athletes are coached with approval, they learn positive self-esteem.

If athletes are coached with honesty, they learn to trust.

If athletes are coached with modesty, they learn teamwork.

If athletes are coached with acceptance and friendship, they will learn to
find love in sport.

-From the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation, Inc.

