

# Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission

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## Youth Sports Policies and Procedures Manual

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Fun is a pivotal reason for being involved in a sport. Lack of fun is a leading reason for dropping out!

### Youth Sports Objectives

The Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission strives to provide recreational youth team sports opportunities for all children who want to participate.

These sports are provided to encourage learning, social interaction, physical exercise, skill development and to promote fun.

The Youth Commission has formulated these policies to foster participation, increase the enjoyment and development of the participating players, and to provide guidelines for players, coaches, parents and personnel.

### **ELYC Board**

The Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission board/ Liaison is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the youth sports programs.

Under the direction of the Youth Commission Board, is responsible for planning, developing and implementing a variety of athletic activities for school-aged children designed to teach leadership skills, basic rules knowledge, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Responsibilities also include: registration, soliciting and selecting coaches, scheduling games, selecting uniforms, providing sports program communication to be posted on the website or social media, oversight, addressing and resolving sports related parent/guardian, coaches, and spectator issues, and working effectively to create a fun and safe sports environment for everyone involved.

### **Player-Up-Down Policy**

The Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission strongly recommends that all players participate within the age groups set forth by the Commission. As a result, players will not be permitted to play up a level. In some instances, players may play down a level if such a placement is deemed developmentally appropriate by the Youth Commission Board.

#### Disciplinary Policies/Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to insure that there will be a safe and healthy environment for all recreational activities sponsored by the Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission.

Levels of violation will determine the range of responses that can be taken.

If coaches feel they have a serious disciplinary situation concerning their team, they should call the Recreation Liaison for guidance on how to handle the situation.

Disciplinary action can range from a verbal warning to suspension from a specific program, depending on severity.

## Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Drugs

Alcoholic beverages and drugs are not permitted on or in playing/practice facilities.

No coach or volunteer shall participate in any games or practices, while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Smoking or use of any tobacco product is not permitted in or around youth sports practices or games.

### **Chain of Command**

Any concerns throughout the season should be handled in the following manner. Please begin by having a conversation with your child's coach. Coaches will provide their contact information to parents at the beginning of the season. If the desired result is not achieved after this conversation, please contact the Recreation Liaison, who will assist with the situation and

involve the Youth Commission Board, if necessary. It is expected that questions and concerns will be discussed with the coach before bringing them to the next level.

#### FOR COACHES

##### Background checks

All coaches and any assistant coach 18 years of age and older, are required to undergo a criminal background investigation.

This process is to further ensure the safety and wellbeing of all players. Any cost of the background check will be paid by the Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission.

If a prospective coach refuses authorization to conduct background check, they will not be allowed to coach.

##### Minimal Touch Policy

It is strongly recommended that coaches are not alone with players at any time. Before the season starts, please discuss this with your parents and ask that someone stays at a practice with you if you don't have assistant coaches present.

Along with this recommendation, please be aware that we have a “minimal-touch” policy between coaches and players.

A pat on the back, high-five or a quick hug is appropriate in most circumstances.

Please be aware of each player. Some players may like a quick hug; others will think that is too personal. Because it is hard to judge people at times, not being alone with players is very important.

### **Coach’s Code of Ethics**

I hereby pledge that I will:

- Place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of a personal desire to win.
  
- Treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
  
- Do my best to provide a safe playing situation for my players.
  
- Review and practice basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of my players.
  
- Do my best to organize practices that are fun and challenging for all my players.
  
- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all my players.
  
- Provide a sports environment for my team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
  
- Be knowledgeable in the rules of each sport that I coach, and I will teach these rules to my players.

- Use those coaching techniques appropriate for all of the skills that I teach.

- Remember that I am a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children and not adults.

REMINDER to coaches: Your behavior directly affects the behavior of everyone around you. If you are yelling at an official, then the parents and players think it is okay to yell at them, too. You are a role model for everyone involved. The Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission always encourages coaches to give equal playing time to everyone on their team. Thank you for taking on such a big responsibility.

### **FOR PARENTS**

- Parents need to be positive role models at all times. Please show proper sportsmanship at all times, refraining from negativity of any kind.
- Coaches volunteer their time to spend it with your child. Please be supportive of their decisions and don't undermine their efforts. After all, they volunteered when you could not. If you don't agree with a coach, please talk to them at an appropriate time and away from the children.
- Please drop off and pick up your children on time for games and practices. Parents are encouraged to stay at practices to help the coach and be involved with the team.
- Please report unsportsmanlike conduct or abuse of any kind that you may witness at games or practices.
- Competition and taunting between parents is not acceptable.

#### Parent's Code of Ethics

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics Pledge:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
- I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.

- I will ask my child to treat players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will require that my child's coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

Any complaints against parents for allegedly violating the code will be handled by the Youth Commission Board. Odds of Playing Sports in College Men's Basketball - Less than one in 35, or approximately 2.9 percent of high school senior players will go on to play at an NCAA member institution. Women's Basketball -About 3.1%, or approximately three in 100, of high school senior players will go on to play at an NCAA school. Baseball-Less than three in 50, or about 5.7%, of high school senior players will play at an NCAA school. Men's Soccer - Less than three in 50, or about 5.7%, of high school senior players will play at an NCAA school. In each of the sports listed above, less than 1 % of high school senior players eventually will be drafted by a professional team. (Above statistics taken from The Enquirer, where information was from NCAA.)

### **FOR PLAYERS**

#### Responsibilities and Expectations

One of the Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission's goals for offering sports to the youth is to provide the highest quality programs along with a positive experience for the child. The following are responsibilities we feel the player has in this process:

- Players will listen to their coaches and be respectful of their elders.
- Players will take care of the facilities, equipment, and uniforms, which they are given.
- Players will avoid all types of taunting and belittling remarks to their teammates or opponents.
- Players will show good sportsmanship at all times, win or lose.
- Though consistent attendance is important, players will not make sports a priority over schoolwork or significant family events.
- Be present, on time, and prepared for all practices and games.
- Players will participate for the love of the game and competition and not to win at all cost.

## Player's Code of Conduct

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following the Players' Code of Ethics Pledge:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect, regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.





Player's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Youth Sports Policies and Procedures Manual. I understand that as a player, parent, or coach I have a responsibility to abide by the Code of Ethics. Failure to do so may result in limited participation, suspension, or dismissal from the Elizabethtown-Lewis Youth Commission sports program. This page must be signed and returned to your coach on the first day of practice. Players will not be permitted to participate until a signed acknowledgement has been received.

Youth Athlete: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

ELYC Recreation Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_