

Core tenant of the Bow Athletic Club

Mission: Every kid who wants to play should have the opportunity to play

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. Good 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 Bow Athletic Club sporting event. This includes practices, scrimmages, games, or any other event sponsored by Bow Athletic Club. Problems should be brought to the attention of the Director of the sport so that they may be addressed by Bow Athletic Club.

Parent Responsibilities

- ❑ Make a commitment to your child's coach and team. The Bow Athletic Club 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.
- ❑ Never criticize or second guess coaches or officials during games. Support your coaches and officials--remember that most of them are volunteers and the league has a difficult time finding people willing to take on these positions. You are welcome to volunteer for one of these positions.
- ❑ Understand that our programs are not specifically designed for individual training, but to teach teamwork, sportsmanship and to enhance all players' skills.
- ❑ Understand that Bow Athletic Club emphasizes equal play and sportsmanship above winning.
- ❑ If you have a problem with your coach, try to resolve it privately rather than through a public confrontation. If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your discussion, contact the Bow Athletic Club Director of that sport or the Bow Athletic Club President with your concerns. 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 Director at a later time.
- ❑ Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, profanity, threats or physical violence will not be tolerated at practices, games or other Bow Athletic Club functions.
- ❑ Equipment and uniforms must be returned to the coach within two weeks of the end of the season in reasonable condition.

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

- be notified that their actions will not be tolerated, or
- be asked to leave the Bow Athletic Club event, or
- be suspended for a game, the season, or indefinitely

Coach Responsibilities

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 when they become unruly; and always demonstrate a positive attitude. Remember that players and fans are always watching and will emulate the coach's actions.

- Play your players fairly, following your respective league rules; all players are on their team to grow and improve.
- Promote self-confidence through positive reinforcement.
- Teach and display sportsmanship.
- Understand and follow the rules of the game.
- Teach skills appropriate for the level of your players.
- 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, such as asthma.
- Ensure that parents and players understand your policy for tardiness and absences for games and practices. Bow Athletic Club strongly encourages equal play for all players, however, the coach may use his/her discretion (such as reduced playing time in games due to behavior or absenteeism).
- 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. Remember that the Refs, and their calls are part of the sport
- Try to work with parents to understand Bow Athletic Club policies. Avoid public confrontations with disgruntled parents. However, try to resolve any concerns with parents privately and swiftly, so the situation does not worsen.
- Drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, profanity, threats or physical violence will not be tolerated at practices, games or other Bow Athletic Club functions.
- Equipment and uniforms must be returned to the Director within two weeks of the end of the season in reasonable condition. A list of any lost or damaged items should be included.
- Background checks must be conducted for any coach or assistant.

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

Player Responsibilities

- Do not openly criticize the decisions of coaches or officials and accept them as part of the game.
- Never attempt to injure or hurt anyone.
- Do not use foul or abusive language, nor use inappropriate gestures.
- Do not criticize any player while on or off the field/court. Instead, I will encourage teammates to play better by complimenting their good play and by providing helpful suggestions on how to play better.
- Do not forget that sport is a game and not a life and death struggle. I will keep control of my emotions regardless of who wins or loses.
- Arrive to practices and games on-time and ready to play.
- Understand that when I practice with my team or anytime I wear my uniform, I represent my team, Bow Athletic Club, and my town and I am expected to behave accordingly.

NOTE: Any player 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 participation in future seasons