



Detroit PAL Parent Pledge



Making a positive difference in the lives of Detroit's children

I AM an essential ingredient of youth sports. Youth sports programs would be hard to come by without the help of parents. We are the source of volunteer work and most importantly we are the children's biggest supporters on and off the playing field.

Detroit PAL's #1 focus is the kids at hand and we thrive on providing a positive, safe and fun environment for children to play sports. Therefore, we ask that you review this pledge before every event that you attend.

Keeping in mind the core values of Detroit PAL:

- I will emphasize being a good sport and the importance of sportsmanship. I will Respect the game, other players' coaches and officials. Win with grace and lose with dignity.
- I will be supportive through wins, losses, mistakes and successes. I will be there to support my child emotionally and continue to be proud no matter what the outcome of the game is, knowing that mistakes are OK! and a part of learning and building character while cheering during successes, being uplifting during adversity and never putting too much pressure on winning and losing keeping the game FUN.
- I will be respectful of other players, coaches, referees and other spectators to ensure a fun and positive playing environment for the players.
- I will keep my composure and set good examples for my child. Officials may make poor calls, coaches may coach differently than I would like, and players will make mistakes. This is a great opportunity for me to keep cool and stay positive for my child.
- I will refrain from taunting, profanity, vulgarity and violence which are never allowed at any sporting event, keeping in mind this is a fun and positive environment for children.
- I will make sure all school work is done before playing sports, knowing that education comes first and sports come second.

*I will abide by all guidelines listed above. If I have a guest I shall inform them of these guidelines. I understand that if I fail to meet the expectations of the Parent Pledge, Detroit PAL has the right to penalize myself, my child and also the team.

Name of Child _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s)

Thank you for your positive participation in Detroit PAL Athletics. Your head Athletic Director is Dewayne Jones. He is accessible at djones@detroitpal.org or (313) 833-1600 ext.222. Additional information for parents is available at <http://play-positive.libertymutual.com>.



Detroit PAL- Parent's Code of Conduct



When kids are surveyed about the reasons why they play sports, the number one response kids consistently report is *to have fun*. In addition to the fun kids experience while playing sports, additional benefits from sport participation include physical, emotional growth and development, as well as building character. These great things do not happen automatically, but instead occur as a direct result of the positive efforts of parents and coaches. It is in this spirit that we have created the following Parent's Code of Conduct Contract to remind parents of a few important tips designed to help your child maximize his or her athletic experience.

As a parent, it is important that you:

Respect the game, including your child, his or her teammates and opponents. This means ensuring that your child attends and comes prepared for all practices and games and treats both teammates and opponents with dignity and respect. Good sportsmanship means playing fair and safe, controlling negative emotions and keeping the spirit of competition a healthy endeavor.

Cheer whenever possible, and stay away from booing and other negative fan behavior. Youth sports provide a great opportunity for positive fan support, including cheering. Booing and other negative gestures and language from the sidelines are not appropriate. Be sure to stay focused on positively supporting the children on the court at all times. Remember, these players are all kids. Whether on your child's team or not, they deserve our support. Booing, using foul language or taunting is never acceptable. Please refrain from taunting (stomping feet, yelling, booing) during free throws in all age divisions.

Respect the officials. Remember, referees are an important part of the sport of basketball and add to the overall experience for your child. It is important that you respect all officials and develop tolerance skills for when bad calls are made (which will happen – officials are human and like all of us, will occasionally make a mistake). When bad calls happen, it is a great time to role model resiliency for our young people to show them that the breaks won't always go their way, but they need to keep playing. They look to you on how to act and will feed from your energy. Keep it positive and don't let a bad call break your team's spirit.

Let the coaches coach. While it may be easy to second-guess your child's coach from the sidelines, most parents forget or overlook how challenging it is for coaches to manage competitive games and at the same time make sure that all of the players have an opportunity to develop. The job of being a coach is an incredibly challenging task so be sure to support your child's coach as much as possible. And remember, all of our coaches are volunteers who have sacrificed their time to invest in your child. If you have an issue to work out with them, schedule time to talk before or after practice or bring the issue to the attention of the team's president or league commissioner.

Refrain from coarse and threatening language, as well as all forms of physical aggression. There is never a place in youth sports to use vulgarities, threaten, intimidate, or use physical aggression. Also be aware of the language you may use while on the phone during games and practices. Often times we can get wrapped up in a conversation and lose track of the environment we are in. If you have to take a call that might get heated, please exit the gym and try to find a private place to conduct your call.

Watch for the safety of all players at all times, including physical and emotional dangers. Be sure to pay attention to injuries, including concussions, and respond to them in a timely manner. Additionally, pay attention to signs of youth sport burnout and be sure to respond to your child if he or she needs help. Training and resources for parents are available from Detroit PAL on these issues.

I agree to follow the above listed principles and to educate any guests I may bring to the games on the policies of this league. I understand that if I do not follow the Parent's Code of Conduct, Detroit PAL has the right to penalize myself, my child as well as the team.

Thank you!

Detroit PAL