

TINLEY

PARK

BOBCATS

CODE OF CONDUCT

Bobcats Mission Statement

The **TINLEY PARK BOBCATS** is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that offers recreational/instructional programs in soccer, baseball, softball, flag football and cheerleading. The main objective of the **TINLEY PARK BOBCATS** is to provide positive experiences and "organized fun" for those who participate with our organization.

The **BOBCATS' MISSION** includes providing a safe, enjoyable environment in which our children can develop individual skills, as well as experience the benefits of team play.



Mission

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Codes of Conduct

Purpose

In order to achieve our mission, Administrators, Coaches, Parents, Participants and Officials all have responsibilities. These Codes of Conduct has been developed to clarify and distinguish approved behavior from that which is unacceptable. Failure to comply will weaken our ability to have a successful program that provides the best experience for the participants. The guiding principle behind this code is that the behavior of everyone involved in the Bobcats should enhance the children's safe enjoyment of the activity. Upon notification, each alleged infract ion of our Codes of Conduct will be addressed to minimize any negative impact on the organization and on the participant's experience. We need and expect 100% cooperation from all involved.

Code of Conduct for Administrators

Administrators are volunteers who act as guardians of the program to ensure its continued success. In representing the program, they are expected to fulfill the mission by the following:

- Ensure every decision is for the incremental benefit of the participants. All factors and viewpoints must be considered and evaluated before decisions get made and voted on.
- Work to develop programs that provide positive experiences and "organized fun" to the participants. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Follow existing policies of the Bobcats or create new ones when appropriate to ensure that the Bobcats' mission and objectives are enhanced.
- Guarantee financial security for the present and the future viability of the Bobcats by managing our resources judiciously. Promote and publicize Bobcats' programs; seeking out financial support when possible.
- Provide proper coaching, equipment and facilities for all participants to safely engage in all activities making every possible attempt to provide everyone, at all skill levels, with opportunities to participate.
- As the overseers of the organization, adhere to all rules of participation for Coaches, Officials and Participants. Follow-up on any notification of an alleged infraction of the Codes of Conduct.
- Foster communication to ensure that participants and parents are fully aware of their overall expectations as well as the day to day requirements of participation.
- Communicate by holding orientation meetings as well as being available to answer questions and address problems throughout the season.
- Recruit volunteers, including coaches, who demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the youths in our activities.
- Develop programs that train and educate coaches and officials. Require coaches and officials to attend these Bobcats' clinics.
- Act as role models in running the organization and develop other administrators to advance to positions in the Bobcats.

Code of Conduct for Coaches

Coaches are teachers, mentors, advisors, protectors and role models. Those who become coaches must understand that the justification for the sport or activity is that it provides values for those who play it and the game belongs to the players. The welfare of the game depends on how the Coaches remain mindful of the trust and confidence placed in them by the participants and parents or the participants. Coaches unwilling or unable to comply with the principals of the Code of Conduct have no place working with youths. Parents entrust their dearest possessions to the Coach's charge, and the Coach, through their own example must always be sure that the boys and girls who have played under them are better people for having done so. In representing our program, we expect the Coach to fulfill our mission by the following;

- Continue to improve their own knowledge of the activity and skills as a coach and communicator to develop the participants' talents individually and collectively as a team. Teach them the basics. Encourage all players to be team players.
- Provide a well planned, challenging and age appropriate practice for their team in a safe environment. Organize practices that are fun for the participants.
- Choose Assistant Coaches that share the same passion and mission of the Coach and the Bobcats.
- Place the well being of the individual and the team above any personal desire to win. Display emotional maturity. Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. You should care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, children are involved in the Bobcats for fun and enjoyment.
- Realize that no two children are alike and although there is a need for team guidelines, structure and discipline, each child is an individual with different physical and emotional strengths and weaknesses. Give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem. This will lead to more positive self development in a child.
- Protect the participant's from any form of harm. Ensure that they are always safe at practices as well as games or activities. Never leave a player unattended without supervision. Make sure that at least two adults are present at all practices and events.
- See that injured players are given prompt medical attention and that any physician's orders are carried out.
- Be concerned with the overall development of the participants. Set a good role model example by refraining from using alcohol, tobacco or illegal narcotic products while in the role as Coach. Avoid gambling references or talk.
- Encourage an atmosphere of diversity. Teammates, opponents and officials should be treated with respect, independent of race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status or skill level.
- Lead by example displaying good sportsmanship to fellow coaches, players, officials and opponents. Win with class and lose with class.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just. Do not criticize players publicly. Learn to be a more effective communicator and coach. Do not yell at players.
- To play the game is great. To love the game is greater.

Coach Responsibilities to Players

- Set the standard for sportsmanship and be a positive role model.
- Keep the activity in proper perspective with the participant's academic education.
- Be sensitive to each child's developmental needs, strive to have each participant reach their full potential and be prepared to move to the next stage of development.
- Develop the child's appreciation of the game. The children should have fun and receive positive feedback.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your participants' parents. Explain the mission and objectives of the Bobcats.
- Supervise and control your participants to avoid injury situations. Inspect each player's equipment and field conditions for safety issues.
- It is recommended that the coach become knowledgeable in basic first aid and be prepared to handle medical emergencies at all practices and games. Bring properly supplied first aid kit and ice to all practices and games. Know emergency procedures and location of nearest emergency medical facilities.

Coach Responsibilities to the Bobcats

- Work in a spirit of cooperation with the officials, administrators, coaches, spectators and participants. Know and follow all rules set forth by the Bobcats.
- Be responsible for the conduct of your team's participants, parents, and spectators.
- Never criticize game officials and instruct players, parents and spectators to refrain from criticizing officials. Coach should treat officials with respect before, during, and after the game.
- Problems regarding an official should be submitted in writing to the responsible party for assigning the official to maintain integrity and fairness with in the sport or activity.
- Contact the sport or activity commissioner to resolve any conflicts in the proper timeframe. Never resolve disputes in the presence of the participants. Rival coaches should meet prior to the game and exhibit good sportsmanship leading by example.
- Adhere to Bobcats rules pertaining to recruitment of participants.
- Promote the Bobcats to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, participants or parents should be positive and constructive, never prejudicial or inflammatory.

Code of Conduct for Parents and Other Spectators

Parents are vital to the success of our organization. In support of our programs, we expect them to fulfill our mission by the following:

- Do not force your children to participate in sports or activities, but support their desire to participate in what they choose. Children should be involved for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Emphasize skill development through practice and how it benefits your child. Although competition is a natural part of sports activities, do not make winning the primary goal for you or your child.
- Know and study the rules of the games or activities. Encourage your children to participate by the rules. Support the officials at all times. Allow for the fact that anyone can make a mistake. This approach will benefit everyone as any criticism of the officials only hurts the game or activity.
- Applaud good efforts in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game or activity. Never yell or abuse your child afterwards---it is destructive! Work toward eliminating all forms of abuse in youth sports and activities.
- Remember to always set a positive example for your children with your behavior. Cheer for your child and their team, not against the opposing player or team. Avoid booing. Profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and all the other children. Communicate with them in a respectful manner and support them. Understand that constructive criticism is most effective if well timed and in private. Attempt to resolve conflicts with the Coach first and if still unresolved through the organization
- Ensure your child's attendance at all scheduled practices and games, on time, and properly equipped. Make sure that when each participant is dropped off that there is a Coach in attendance. Arrive on time to pick up participants after practices and games.
- Remain a respectful amount of distance from the players and Coaches during practice and games and allow the coaches to do the coaching.
- Follow the regulations set forth by the park or school district for use of its facilities. All property is alcohol and drug free. Always show respect for other fans.
- If you enjoy the sport or activity, learn all you can and consider volunteering yourself.

Code of Conduct for Players and Participants

Players too have responsibilities. In participating in our programs, we expect them to fulfill our mission by the following:

- Learn teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship. Be a team player working for the good of your team.
- Work to improve your skills. Play to the best of your ability with the required enthusiasm and effort.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, your opponents and the officials.
- Be on time for practices, games and activities with the proper attitude to participate. Pay attention to the Coaches and follow instructions.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Accept the decisions of the officials. Never argue with an official's decision. Applaud the efforts of your teammates and opponents honestly and wholeheartedly.
- Display respect to the facilities by leaving it in the same condition you found it.
- Play the game for the fun of the game. Always conduct yourself with honor and dignity.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be gracious when you lose.

Code of Conduct for Officials

Officials act to supervise the games and activities of the program. In representing the Bobcats, they are expected to fulfill the mission by the following:

- Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take your role seriously. Set a good example as an ambassador and teacher of the game or activity.
- Strive to provide a safe and sportsman like environment in which participants can properly display their skills.
- Know all the rules, their interpretations and their proper application. Follow Bobcats policies at all times.
- Make calls with quiet confidence, never with arrogance. Keep emotions under control.
- Control the activities to the extent necessary to provide a positive experience for all the participants.
- Be fair and impartial at all times. Admit mistakes when you make them.
- Answer all reasonable questions and requests. Use honesty and integrity when answering questions.
- Enforce the "zero tolerance" approach toward any form of misconduct. Never break the code of conduct yourself.
- Dedicate yourself to maintenance of officiating skills and ongoing personal improvement.

Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make Bobcats' sports and activities a rewarding experience and more desirable for everyone, the Bobcats are committed to good sportsmanship. This commitment is designed to require all participants, coaches, officials, parents and spectators to maintain an appropriate atmosphere before, during and after all Bobcats' games and activities. Thus, the following points of emphasis will be implemented.

For Everyone

- The use of obscene, vulgar or threatening language or gestures at any time, even if it is not directed at anyone in particular, will not be tolerated.
- Openly disputing or arguing any decision by an official including the visual demonstration of any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision is unacceptable.
- Taunting of participants, coaches, officials or other spectators by any means, including baiting, ridiculing or threatening physical harm is prohibited. Actual physical violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- Any participant, coach, official, parent or spectator at any Bobcats event who initiates a fight, scuffle, or any type of physical abuse or threats of abuse towards any participant, coach, official, parent, or spectator shall be banned from attendance at all Bobcats events for a period of one year.

Enforcement

- The game or activity will be stopped by the official(s) if and when, in their sole judgment, inappropriate and disruptive behavior that interferes with the enjoyment of the game or activity is displayed by anyone present.
- The officials will identify violators to the coaches present for the purpose of directing the coaches to control participants on their team or parents and spectators associated with their team. The coaches must cooperate with the official in providing a safe and appropriate environment for all to enjoy.
- Minor infractions may be dealt with a simple warning. Extreme incidents may result in the discontinuance of the game or activity and the awarding of a forfeit to the opposing team.
- Anyone present, including participants, coaches, parents or spectators, at any Bobcats' event including practices, shall be subject to the authority of all officials, administrators or coaches in attendance at the game or event. This authority shall include the authorization to direct any person involved in any incident in violation of this Code of Conduct to immediately remove themselves from the premises. NOTE: It should be understood that if the offending individual(s) will not leave the area on their own free will, to enforce any of the above violations a request will be made to have the offending individual(s) removed from the area to avoid awarding a forfeit.
- Any participant, coach, official, parent or spectator at any Bobcats event shall be subject to follow-up discipline as provided by the applicable Code of Conduct. Depending upon the seriousness of the infraction, the violator may be barred from attending any future game or activity as a spectator.

Codes of Conduct Committee

- The Bobcats shall establish a Codes of Conduct Committee as deemed appropriate, and will meet as often as is necessary to conduct its business for the purpose of enforcing this policy.
- The Code of Conduct Committee may establish specific policies and procedures as it deems appropriate for the conduct of its business. Participants and coaches may be placed on probation or suspended from Bobcats activities for violation of this code.
- Any incidents or problems shall be first brought to the attention of the Sport or Activity Commissioner who will notify the Code of Conduct Committee. All complaints will be thoroughly investigated.
- After review and upon determination that a participant, coach, official, parent or spectator at any Bobcats game or activity has committed a violation, the Code of Conduct Committee shall forward to the violator a notice identifying the date, location, nature of the violation and the warning and/or punishment to be taken in response to the violation.
- Any parent, official, coach or spectator at a youth sports event who believes that there has been a violation of the Code of Conduct may forward their name, address, phone number, date, location and nature of the violation to the Code of Conduct Committee. The Committee will then investigate the incident and make a determination.
- Any person receiving such notice who wishes to contest a response to a violation can submit a written request for appeal, specifically setting out the basis of such person's contest of the notice of violation.
- Upon receipt of such appeal the Code of Conduct Committee shall convene in a timely fashion and provide an opportunity for the person and any interested person or persons to appear and be heard with respect to the occurrence of any violation and action taken by the Code of Conduct Committee.
- The Code of Conduct Committee shall review statements, firsthand accounts and any other pertinent information or documentation relevant to the violation and may sustain, overturn, or modify the notice of the response to the violation.
- **All rulings on violations including banning or other actions taken shall remain in effect until overturned or modified by the Code of Conduct committee.**

TINLEY PARK BOBCATS
Contact Information

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