

PARENT (FAN) DECORUM

A KYFCL member organization's responsibility includes the responsibility of instituting full and complete team and crowd control measures at all contests assuring that the participants, parents, coaches and fans of the member organization conduct themselves at all times in a proper and sportsmanlike manner, assuring full compliance of the member organization's and KYFCL rules and guidelines.

At a time when society is experiencing increased incidents of physical confrontations and unmanaged anger, often associated with youth sports, Greencastle-Antrim Midget Football and Cheerleading Association wishes to state a philosophical stance of keeping our athletes, coaches, and fans safe; insisting on proper behavior, and prompting our positive reputation as regards to sportsmanship.

We recognize that the majority of our parents and fans set a behavioral example of the highest standard. However, the few who do not; force us to address these issues.

In as much as our coaches, players and cheerleaders have certain standards of expected behavior; it becomes incumbent upon us to set standards for the behavior of our adult fans and parents.

Greencastle Antrim Midget Football/Cheerleading Association will not condone or permit inappropriate parental behavior directed toward GAMFA coaches, players, board members, the opposing team and all its representatives (including coaches and fans), or the game officials. Such behavior by parents can cause the organization to suffer severe sanctions from the KYFCL, is embarrassing to the organization and reflects poorly on our values as a community.

Greencastle-Antrim Midget Football/Cheerleading Association support the KYFCL rules and emphasis on sportsmanship. We embrace this fully by definition and in spirit of intent. Proper human courtesies, kindness and decorum must apply to all relationships and situations. Sports are no exception. Youth sports exist to build character, allow young athletes to express themselves through physical exertion, and as entertainment. There is no place for poor behavior toward anyone.

Parents need to understand certain facets of the structure of youth sports and the relationships involved.

1. There is no inherent right for equal playing time. Coaches will strive to meet the minimum playing requirements as set by the KYFCL. (6 play rule)
2. Likewise, the coach alone is responsible for deciding who plays and how much.
3. By allowing one's child or children to play sports, the parent is, in effect, turning the child over to that coach for that time period. The coach, as is naturally assumed, will instruct the child safely within normally accepted standards.

4. Coaches are unpaid volunteers donating their time and effort into improving the skills and character of our youth. Until proven otherwise, it is assumed that they are operating within the best interests of all youth athletes in their charge.
5. It is inappropriate for a parent to confront a coach after a practice or event. Parents should wait until the next day and/or attempt to contact a member of the GAMFA Communication Committee. This will help avoid conflict at a potentially emotional time.
6. Making derogatory comments about the officials, coaches, players of either team or other parents and fans at an athletic event is never acceptable.
7. Swearing in public at athletic events is never acceptable.
8. Coming to an athletic event intoxicated is not acceptable.
9. Being offensive in any fashion is not acceptable.

Parents who violate any of the above standards of decorum risk sanctions by the organization including, but not limited to, the following;

1. A warning, verbal or written.
2. Removal from the contest or premises.
3. Banishment from attendance at athletic contests for a short period of time or even permanently.
4. The severing of further contact with team personnel.
5. Civil or legal action could result.

In conclusion, we commend those parents who have always exhibited exemplary behavior and who, by such, have served as positive role models for our student-athletes. We encourage our parents to volunteer, to become involved with the teams, and to be supportive of the attempts of the entire community to educate our youth. By working together, we will establish Greencastle-Antrim Midget Football/Cheerleading Association and the Greencastle community as a "class act".

We sincerely want to strive to make sportsmanship an expectation...

Where we let Players play, Coaches coach.

Together Everyone Achieves More