

# WJF

## Parent/Coach Relations

&

## Sportsmanship



### WJF Mission Statement:

The overriding goal of WJF is to build young citizens through the sports of cheerleading and football. It is the mission of Washtenaw Junior Football to create a positive team sport experience while developing cheerleading and football fundamentals. These fundamentals reinforce the core values of sportsmanship including the challenge of competition, thrill of victory, reality of defeat, significance of commitment, and the ability to appreciate the importance of working together as a team. The life skills of responsibility, goal-setting, hard work, sportsmanship, self-control, teamwork, leadership, and perseverance are stressed on and off the field by our volunteer coaches and representatives. Our goal is to develop and guide each student athlete to reach his or her maximum potential.

### PARENT/COACH RELATIONS

Parent/Coach Relationship - Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the others and provide greater benefit to the student. As parents, when your children become involved in our programs, you have a right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's program.

#### Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

1. Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all the players on the squad.
2. Locations and times of all practices and contests.
3. Team requirements, i.e., fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning.
4. Procedure should your child be injured during participation.
5. Team rules and guidelines.

#### Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

1. The treatment of your child, mentally and physically.
2. Ways to help your child improve.
3. Concerns about your child's behavior.

It is very difficult to accept your child's not playing as much as you may hope. Coaches are professionals. They make judgment decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all students involved. As you have seen from the list above, certain things can and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other things, such as the following must be left to the discretion of the coach.

#### Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:

1. Team strategy.
2. Play calling.
3. Other student-athletes.

There are situations that may require a conference between the coach and the parent. These are to be encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear undersigning of the other's position. When these conferences are necessary, the following procedure should be followed to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.



#### If you have concerns to discuss with a coach, the procedure you should follow is:

1. Contact the parent rep. and explain your concerns to them. They will relay your concerns to the coaches.
2. If a meeting is needed, the parent rep. will set up a meeting for the parent. Each meeting must be accompanied by either the parent rep or the coaches rep.
3. If your concerns are about your child's minimum required plays per game, please contact the Vice Presidents or the President immediately. Do not approach the coaches.
4. Please **DO NOT** attempt to confront a coach before or after a contest or practice. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the coach. Meetings of this nature don't promote resolution. Give the situation a 24 hour cool down period.

#### What a parent can do if the meeting with the coach did not provide a satisfactory resolution:

1. Put your concerns in writing. E-mail or hand deliver your concerns to the Vice Presidents or President of your child's team.
2. Each letter of concern will be addressed at the bi-weekly WJF board meetings. We will resolve the issue to the best of our ability.

Many of the character traits required to be a successful participant are exactly those that will promote a successful life after WJF. We hope the info provided will make both your child's and your experience with WJF program less stressful and more enjoyable.

# What is Sportsmanship



Sportsmanship is the practice of playing fair, of taking defeats without complaint or victory without gloating and treating opponents with respect, generosity, courtesy, etc.

Good Sports are Winners!

◆ Sportsmanship is a demonstration of generosity and genuine concerns for others. It is a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

◆ Sportsmanship is a blending of cheers for “your team” and applause for the “opponents,” observing the letter and spirit of the rules and showing consideration for others.

◆ Sportsmanship is respect. Respect for others and for one’s self.

◆ Sportsmanship for an official may be showing restraint when verbal assaults by coaches, athletes and spectators.

◆ Sportsmanship is citizenship in action.

◆ Sportsmanship for a coach may be accepting a “questionable” call without protest.

◆ Sportsmanship for an athlete may be extending a helping hand to an opponent who is down.

◆ Sportsmanship for a spectator may be cheering for his team when it loses, and applauding the opponent when it wins.

◆ Sportsmanship encompasses all that which is good human nature.

◆ Sportsmanship is all this and much more.