

## YMCA of Greater Spartanburg's Role of a Coach

YMCA Youth Sports Coaches have the potential to influence a great number of people. We want you to be a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, HONESTY, CARING & FAITH.**

### Please Remember;

1. Your **attitude** and actions are on display for your team, your team's parents, plus opposing teams. You are a **role model**—volunteer coaches should appear clean, neat, and appropriately attired.
2. You should treat all children equally—regardless of sex, race, religion, or culture.
3. Coaches must use **positive techniques** of guidance, including redirection, positive reinforcement, and encouragement—rather than competition, comparison, and criticism.
4. **YMCA Coaches should be involved for the kids:**
  1. To teach skills & knowledge about the game
  2. To teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and character
  3. To provide a fun, low-key environment for all
  4. To promote friendships and family togetherness
5. Coaches should give high priority to the **objectives** above—focusing on winning & recognition can destroy positive outcomes.
6. Y Leagues **focus on skill development, team building, and personal growth.** The YMCA of Greater Spartanburg encourages children to participate in sports at the highest level their ability will allow. Higher competitive leagues are available in the area and the YMCA will be happy to make recommendations based on players ability.

### Specific Guidelines;

1. Harassment & verbal criticism of officials is not allowed. Site supervisors are available for constructive comments during or at the end of games.
2. In order to protect YMCA volunteers and participants, at NO time during a YMCA program should a volunteer leave a child unsupervised or be alone with a single child where they cannot be observed by others.
3. Never touch a child in a manner that could be interpreted as abusive or would make them feel uncomfortable.
4. Accepting and adhering to all league rules and policies related to the participation of adults & youth. Please refer all disputes at halftime and/or timeouts.
5. Treat each child on your team and opposing teams as individuals and be sensitive to their own personal feelings. Profanity, inappropriate jokes, sharing intimate details of ones personal life, and any kind of harassment in the presence of children or parents is inappropriate.
6. Effective coaching experts agree that instructions should be given at practice. An over-abundance of instruction at game time only serves to confuse players.
7. Mannerisms can be just as offensive as foul language, i.e. throwing things, flailing movements, foot stomping, and tone of voice. This behavior is not allowed.

**Thank YOU for  
Coaching Youth Sports  
at the YMCA of Greater  
Spartanburg!**



### **Policy Enforcement:**

1. Individual may be given a warning for inappropriate behavior.
2. Individual may be asked to leave the game(s). Game(s) may be terminated and/or individual may be asked not to return for other Youth Sports activities.
3. Other sanctions as deemed necessary may be enforced.

8. Smoking or use of tobacco, as well as possessing or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs on YMCA property or during YMCA sponsored programs or events are prohibited.
9. Volunteers shall not abuse children including:
  - Physical abuse—strike, spank, shake, slap
  - Verbal abuse—humiliate, degrade, threaten
  - Sexual abuse—inappropriate touch or verbal exchange
  - Mental abuse—shaming, withholding praise, cruelty
10. Volunteers should not transport children in their personal vehicles
11. Under no circumstances should volunteers release children to anyone other than the authorized parent, guardian, or other adult authorized by the parent or guardian.

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**Coach's Signature**

**Date**

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**Coach's Printed Name**