

T.A.P. Youth Basketball League

Mission Statement and Code of Conduct

T.A.P. Youth Basketball League Mission Statement:

The T.A.P. Youth Basketball League is a not-for-profit organization made up of volunteer coaches, volunteer assistant coaches and a volunteer Board of Directors. It exists to enable the youth of its member towns (Townsend, Ashby, Pepperell) to learn, grow, and develop skills via basketball competition by playing on recreational league teams. The administrators, coaches, parents, and spectators should never lose focus that the main objective is to promote sportsmanship, integrity and fairness that serves the best interests of the overall majority of the children who participate in the program.

T.A.P. Youth Basketball League General Standards of Conduct in Support of League Goals:

At all times the T.A.P. Youth Basketball League expects all people participating or attending any T.A.P. activity to follow these basic standards of general conduct in order to support the following goals.

1. To teach the players teamwork and sportsmanship.
2. To ensure the players have fun.
3. To teach the fundamentals of the game of basketball.

Acceptable standards of spectator behavior include:

- Remember that the players are children and are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Remain seated in the spectator areas during games.
- Respect decisions made by officials.
- Be a role model by positively supporting teams and by not shouting instructions or criticism to the players, coaches or officials. Do not coach from the stands.
- Make no derogatory comments or gestures to players, coaches, parents of the opposing team, officials or league administrators.

In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in the T.A.P. Youth Basketball League, the following codes of conduct for players, coaches and spectators have been established and adopted.

The T.A.P. Youth Basketball League will not tolerate unsportsmanlike behavior nor will it tolerate those who violate the rules. Parents, coaches, referees, or spectators who violate any of the rules in the codes of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by the league, including suspension, expulsion and permanent exclusion from T.A.P. participation. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

PLAYERS, COACHES and PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Each **player** will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a young lady or gentleman fairly competing to the limit of his/her ability.
2. **Players** and **coaches** learn/know the rules and abide by them.
3. **Players, coaches** and **spectators** shall respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game. The team coach may address the officials during the game but only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.
4. **Coaches** shall instruct team members in the rules of the game and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
5. **Players, coaches** and **spectators** at all times shall maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
6. **Coaches** are to ensure that all building rules and regulations are followed by players and spectators, respecting at all times the school facilities and the property of others.
7. **Players** and **coaches** are to respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the end of the game. Opposing players and coaches will exchange a cordial, mandatory, congratulatory handshake after each game. Players are expected to be generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
8. **Coaches** have the responsibility to assist team support personnel (e.g. assistant coaches, scorekeepers and timekeepers) in their responsibilities as teachers/ mentors to help them learn and ensure they are successful in performing their responsibilities.
9. **Spectators** must respect the rules of the game and refrain from questioning the decisions of the game officials or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful or abusive manner.
10. **Spectators** should cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner, refraining at all times from making hostile, negative, or abusive remarks about the opposing team.
11. It is the responsibility of the **coaches, spectators** and **administrators** to ensure the T.A.P. goals of teaching teamwork and sportsmanship, the fundamentals of the game and ensuring players have fun are always supported in all T.A.P. activities.
12. **Players, coaches** and **spectators** should realize, accept and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy and manners of each individual player and the citizenship of their fans.