

MASS PATRIOTS/MASS JUNIORS VOLLEYBALL CLUB PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Mass Patriots/Mass Juniors Volleyball Club Program requires that the parent or guardian of any prospective player in the Mass Patriots and/or Mass Juniors Volleyball Club program sign the following parent code of conduct before his/her daughter will be allowed into the program. The reason for this code is preserve the integrity of the athlete, the coaches, the opponents, referees and the program. Failure to sign this code prior to the teams being chosen will prevent the prospective player from becoming a part of the Mass Patriots and/or Mass Juniors Volleyball Club Program. This Parent Code of Conduct has been modified from the Sport Parent Code of Conduct written by the Youth Fitness Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports and the National Youth Sports Safety Foundation Inc.

Preamble: "The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."" (Arizona Sports Summit Accord)

I therefore agree:

I will not force my child to participate in sports.

I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.

I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.

I will learn the rules of the game and policies of Mass Patriots/Mass Juniors Volleyball Club.

I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice or tournament.

I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official (esp. player official), coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.

I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.

I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or her performance.

I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner.

I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.

I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning.

I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.

I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the tournament and will take the time if needed, to speak with the coach at an agreed upon time and place.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all tournaments and practices.

I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am the official coach.

I understand that volleyball is a team sport and that the position my child plays is up to the coach's discretion for the betterment of the team.

I understand that playing time will be afforded to all players, but not necessarily in equal proportions. Substituting in or out of a game reflects players' strengths and/or weaknesses or in some cases strategy adjustments by a coach. Playing time is the sole decision of the coach and may be influenced by attendance, tardiness, discipline, and ultimately by ability under or in pressure situations. These decisions may only be discussed with the athlete herself.

If I feel that my daughter's safety is in question, I will contact the program director with my concerns.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

Verbal warning by the official, coach, tournament director or Mass Patriots/Mass Juniors Volleyball Club Directors.

Parental tournament suspension for one or more tournaments.

My child's suspension from the team, monies non-refundable, for the season.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date