



PARENT / PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the duty of all involved with Lakota Sports Organization (LSO) to exemplify the highest ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. Parents, spectators and players are expected to recognize that one of the main purposes of LSO is to develop and encourage good sportsmanship among its members and players for the betterment of their physical and social being. All are expected and have acknowledged by signing a LSO registration form or by registering online to both respect and abide by the following principles:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship through my actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sport event.
2. I will treat all players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators with dignity in my language, attitude, behavior and mannerisms.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sport events.
4. I will respect all facilities and equipment made available by LSO or other organizations.
5. I will be responsible to report to LSO any perceived misconduct by a coach, a player, a parent or an official so it can be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

Specifically for parents or guardians:

6. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
7. I will remember that the game is for youths and not for adults.
8. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.

It is important to remember that LSO is managed mainly by volunteers, who have donated their time and talent to the organization. From the members on the LSO Board, to the members on the individual sport Board to a Team Parent, they all have one thing in common, they all do what they think is best for the children.

Spectator Etiquette

While enthusiasm and cheering during a game can be inspiring, it is important to remember the following guidelines for behavior when watching the children participate in games.

1. Cheer, don't coach – Avoid yelling specific instructions and issuing commands. Coaching from the bleachers can be extremely confusing for a child and possibly contrary to the coach's instruction.
2. Practice silence – Sometimes it is more relaxing for both parents and players and you will likely view the game differently as well.
3. Ask your children if they like you to cheer – The answer may surprise you.
4. Be positive and not negative.
5. Keep some comments to yourself – Do not speak out to the officials. Do not direct comments to the members of the opposition unless they are complimentary.
6. Demonstrate good sportsmanship – Applaud exceptional moves or plays by the opposition.
7. Accept the results of each game – Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
8. Overall, parents should be cheerleaders. Allow the coach to coach, the officials to officiate and most of all, allow your child to play the game.
9. Avoid running up and down the sidelines shouting – If you want to follow the action, make sure you don't distract the players or block the view of other spectators.
10. Stay away from the goals or end zones – In many youth leagues, standing behind the goals or end zones is prohibited.
11. Stand or sit back from the sidelines or touchlines – Again, this is a rule in many youth leagues.

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 other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved with LSO, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as for the team
- Locations and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.)
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline policies (i.e. missed practices, missed games, absences, etc.)

Communication coaches expect from parents and players:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach first
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and or expectations

As your children become involved with LSO, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there also may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussions with the coach are encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The treatment of your child both mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

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

1. Assistant Coach and / or Head Coach
2. Division Coordinator
3. Sport Commissioner
4. Sport Board
5. LSO Board

Penalties for Violating the Parent / Player Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct violations may be reported to the appropriate sport Commissioner in writing with 72 hours of their occurrence. Anyone can report these violations through an incident report which can be found on LSO's website. The Commissioner shall review the complaint with the rest of the sport Board and if the facts warrant action, the sport Board may request the parent or player to attend a regular or special session of the sport Board. The parent or player will then have the opportunity to tell their side of the story. In general, unsportsmanship conduct by parents or players shall result in a warning. The following are only examples of violations of the Parent / Player Code of Conduct, and additional penalties may be administered by a participating league outside of LSO.

	1 st Offense	2 nd Offense	3 rd Offense
1. Entering the field of play without permission of the official.	Warning and probation	Ejection and one game suspension	Penalty to be determined by sport Board
2. Threatening action or words toward officials, coaches, players, or spectators.	Ejection with two game suspension and probation	Expulsion from LSO	
3. Abusive language to an official.	Ejection with one game suspension and probation	Ejection with two game suspension	Expulsion from LSO
4. Aggressive physical contact with any official, coach, player, or spectator. <small>(i.e. grabbing the arm, turning individual around abruptly, poking, bumping, pushing, spitting, etc.)</small>	Ejection with two game suspension and probation	Expulsion from LSO	
5. Striking an official, player, coach or spectator.	Expulsion from LSO		
6. Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection.	Forfeiture of game <small>(regardless of length of game played)</small>		
7. Constant and excessive verbal harassment of the officials, coaches or players.	Warning and probation	Ejection with one game suspension	Penalty to be determined by the sport Board
8. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner.	Ejection with two game suspension and probation	Expulsion from LSO	
9. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner with deliberate intent to harm.	Expulsion from LSO		

- For any violation, the parent or player will be placed on a one-year probationary status.
- A parent or player on probation will be placed on suspension for any of the above infractions. In general, the penalties for a parent or player on probation will be twice that applied under non-probation status as described above.
- A parent or player under suspension may not attend or participate in any way at any game his or her team plays during his or her suspension.
- A parent or player under expulsion is out of the program indefinitely. The LSO Board may make reinstatement only after a favorable review. An expelled parent or player may not act in a coaching, managerial or supervisory capacity of any team or be elected for or remain as an LSO Board member (officer or appointed position). The violation of an expulsion may result in legal action against the violator.
- All penalties may be appealed to the LSO Board. All decisions reached by the LSO Board will be final.

I have read and understand the above Parent / Player Code of Conduct and agree to abide by both the letter and the spirit of this document in my activities as an LSO parent or player.

Printed name _____

Signature _____

Date _____