

# **MBA SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY & CODE OF CONDUCT**

## **The Fundamentals of Good Sportsmanship**

Millard Basketball Association (MBA) emphasizes the importance of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT. This code will work best when players, parents, and coaches hold each other accountable. The following code of conduct will define good sportsmanship and will help everyone understand their responsibilities at an MBA sporting event:

**1. UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE RULES OF THE SPORT.**

Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials or coaches. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.

**2. EXERCISE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AT ALL TIME.**

The true value of competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior which is representative of sound values. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.

**3. RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE PERFORMANCES OF BOTH TEAMS.**

Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, but also reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality performances.

**4. EXHIBIT RESPECT FOR THE OFFICIALS.**

The officials of any contest are trained, impartial arbitrators who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all those involved in the contests are a part of the game. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decisions made by the official. This is critical for young athletes to learn the importance of respect for later applications in life.

**5. DISPLAY OPENLY A RESPECT FOR THE OPPONENT AT ALL TIMES.**

Opponents should be treated cordially. Players, coaches, and fans should respect the amount of time and effort that the opponents have put in toward the building of their teams.

**6. DISPLAY PRIDE IN YOUR ACTIONS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.**

Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a representative of the MBA. Regardless of whether you are a fan, player, or coach, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you and our program.

## COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Players look up to coaches as a role model on and off the court. Do not take this responsibility lightly. Coaches are representatives of the Millard Basketball Association and are expected to maintain a high level of integrity and responsible behavior.

### **INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:**

- Inappropriate engagement of an official during or after the game
- Violation of sport specific rules (i.e. playing time, etc.)
- Physical contact of any sort with a player, opponent, official, or spectator
- Consumption of drugs and/or alcohol prior to a competition
- Use of foul or demeaning language
- Inappropriate gestures
- Violations of local, state or federal law
- Knowingly playing an ineligible player

The conduct of the players, coaching staff, and parents is the responsibility of the coach. If necessary, the coach may ask a player or spectator to leave the court and that decision will be documented and reported to Leon Haith.

Coaches are also responsible for communicating with parents. They should inform parents of game or practice schedule changes. If a player will have to sit out for part of a game, coaches should communicate with parents before the game and discuss the situation.

Our philosophy is that every player plays in games. This will not always be equal playing time, but over the course of several games, playing time should be close to the same for all players. An exception to this rule would be if a player is sitting for discipline reasons.

Coaches should end practice on time so parents do not have to wait for their children after practice. If a coach is willing to stay after with players, parents need to know in advance so they can plan accordingly.

Coaches should help teach the value of respect toward our practice and game facilities. Teams should leave a facility in better shape than when they got there. Teach players to pick up all trash and clean playing area and benches before leaving.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR COACHES

Any coach who is ejected from a game will be subject to a one game suspension. Two ejections during the course of a season will result in requiring the coach to meet with Bill Morrison or designee before reinstatement.

## PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Players must respect all aspects of the game including coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, and fans. Players should always uphold the highest standard of sportsmanship. The use of foul language, inappropriate gestures, or taunting will not be tolerated and are strictly prohibited. Players should display self-control at all times.

Players are not allowed to question or challenge the judgment decisions of the official. As in all team sports, you win and lose as a team. Team members should continue to be positive and supportive of each other. Negative comments or attitudes will not be tolerated.

Players having inappropriate physical contact or verbal exchanges with a teammate, coach, official, or opponent will be subject to the player discipline rules below. A player may be ejected by an official or benched by a coach if he is in violation of the rules listed above. A coach may suspend the player in accordance with our discipline policy.

*“The world of sports is both a classroom and a laboratory. Through competition, we learn from a young age the value of training, practice, and discipline, as well as the meaning of fair play. Sports teach us how to persevere, how to deal with adversity, how to become part of a single heartbeat that defines a team. Sports teach lessons in leadership, respect, and courage.” -- Gary Mack*

## DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR PLAYERS

Any player who is ejected from a game will be subject to a one game suspension. The player must serve their suspension on the sideline area with their team. They are expected to support their team.

If the player doesn't report to the next game, they will serve their suspension at the next game they are present. The coach will inform parents of the suspension and why the player will not be participating.

A second ejection will result in the player and coach being required to meet with Bill Morrison or designee before reinstatement.

## PARENTS & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

It is vital that spectators remember that they are there to support the team, coaches, and officials. Remember that this is a game that is meant to be a fun, learning experience for children.

- Spectators are to cheer positively. Do not use profanity or degrading language.
- Avoid actions that offend teams, players, officials, or other fans.
- Accept the judgment of coaches, officials and league representatives.
- Support the coach, players, and other spectators in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- The use of, or being under the influence of, drugs and alcohol prior to competition is strongly discouraged.
- Accept victory with grace and defeat with dignity.
- Parents who feel the need to communicate with a coach must observe the **24-hour rule**. Do not confront a coach after a game and/or in front of players and fans. Communication between parent and coach must be presented in a civil manner. Discuss areas of concern without letting your emotions interfere.

Athletic competition helps young people grow in confidence, loyalty, teamwork, and skill. The Millard Basketball Association is committed to promoting the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.

Remember that your children play for their own fun and enjoyment.

Show appreciation and respect for your team's opponents. Without them, there would not be a game.

Treat officials with respect. They do not care who wins. Any mistakes are honest ones, and your children need to know that you believe this. Being an official is a difficult job – please respect this. Maintain self-control. Refrain from disrespectful conduct of any sort. Players will model the same type of attitude toward officials that coaches and parents do.

All parents are required to remain away from the players' and coaches' sideline, with the exception to attend to an injury if directed by the coach. At no point before are any parents that are not coaches allowed on the court or team bench.

## DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR SPECTATORS AND PARENTS

A spectator or parent that is ejected from a game by either the player's coach or official, must leave the court immediately.

If ejected a second time during the season, they will meet with Bill Morrison or designee before being allowed to attend another MBA event.