



Sioux Falls Family YMCA Character Pledge

It is only through working together that both parents and players learn from their experiences. The Sioux Falls Family YMCA recommends you take the time to read this pledge together, commit appropriate effort and time to agree what is expected of each, and then sign below. Please take the time to post it at home where everyone can see it.

PLAYER



- I pledge to do all I can to help my parents/guardians get me to practices and games on time. This means being ready with all my equipment when they are ready to leave. This shows respect for the coach and it tells my teammates that they are one of my top priorities. _____
- I pledge I will encourage good sportsmanship by showing positive support for all players, coaches and parents at every practice, game or any YMCA event. I will not use negative comments to anyone at any time. _____
- I pledge to give my best effort in all I do to continue to learn and improve. I will not let mistakes or fears of making a mistake stop me. I understand that mistakes are part of the game and I can learn from my mistakes so I do not do them again. I will not compare myself to others as that creates jealousy and because I am giving my best and I am just as good as anyone and my skills will improve as I practice more. _____
- I pledge to be a team player and not show off or “hog” the ball. I understand that everyone on the team is important to making the team successful. _____
- I pledge to honor the Character Counts Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship). This includes going to the Character Counts website at <http://charactercounts.org/sixpillars.html> with your parents. _____

PARENT

- I pledge to get my child to practice and/or games on time. I will also be on time to pick them up after their practice and/or game. This shows respect for the coach and your child as well as tells your child that he or she is on the top of your list. _____
- **I pledge I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and other parents at every practice, game or any YMCA event. I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills...not to win. I understand that the game is for the kids and I will encourage my team to have fun and keep sports in its proper perspective.** _____
- I pledge to understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure of success is not how one compares to others, but how he/she is doing in comparison to his or her own best. _____
- I pledge I will not make negative comments about the game, players coaches or other parents. This sets a bad example which can negatively influence my teams’ motivation and overall experience. _____
- I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions to my child and coach. I understand this is the coach’s job. I also understand that games are chaotic for children trying to learn new skills during fast-paced events. _
- I pledge to lead by examples and encourage my child(ren) to follow the Pillars of Character. This includes helping your child go to the Character Counts website at <http://charactercounts.org/sixpillars.html> to go over each Pillar.



Player _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Parent/Guardian _____