

Spectator Code of Conduct

The goal of the Sioux Falls YMCA YFORCE Basketball League is to provide a fun basketball environment for children. We seek to develop skills as well as self-esteem and self-confidence. Players should play their best while learning to win and lose with good sportsmanship.

Spectators are invited to attend games in order to help promote the goals of the League and the development of players. In order to ensure that the League's goals are met, we have established certain required rules relating to spectator conduct. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators and are advised to assign an assistant coach or team parent to monitor the activity of their spectators during the game.

Location of Spectators: At all games spectators are to be seated in the bleachers or chairs provided. This allows the players to play the game and everyone to see.

Spectators May Not Coach: Spectators may not provide direction or instructions to any player including your own child. This is the job of the coach or assistant coach. Positive cheering and encouragement is fine.

Spectators May Not Criticize Any Players or Coaches or Referees: Spectators may not criticize their own players or coaches or their opponents. Only positive comments are permitted. If a parent has an issue with their child's coach, the issue should be raised in a setting away from the court and game in a private manner.

SPECTATORS MAY NOT DISAGREE WITH, QUESTION OR CRITICIZE THE REFEREE. THIS RULE APPLIES EVEN IF THE REFEREE MAKES A MISTAKE. Every year we lose many referees because they do not like the negative treatment that they receive from spectators and coaches during the season. Referees do make mistakes and your coach has a method for providing feedback to the League after the game if the referee needs constructive criticism. If you have an issue with your referee, speak to your coach after the game. The coach or spectators may not object to a referee's call or judgment on the court either during or after the game. The coach or spectators may not question a referee at any time. The referee is not required to give your team a warning; he may merely report the misconduct after the game. The League will sanction teams, coaches and/or spectators who violate this rule. The league may suspend spectators from attending games and or practices. Referees are entitled to sanction the team with a technical foul if misconduct of their spectators occurs.

How Spectators Can Help: Please help your coach by arriving on time with your child dressed in uniform and shoes. Make sure your child has a water bottle available to him/her. Make sure your child attends practice where he/she will have a chance to learn.

Please cheer for everyone. Leave your area clean.

Redefine A Winner: Redefine what it means to be a "Winner" in your conversations with players and other fans. Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes stop them. Learning from mistakes is part of the game. Also, remember that all children are born with different abilities and develop at different rates. The true measure of how a child is doing is not in comparison to others but rather in comparison to his/her prior best. If you only judge the success of a game by whether your child's team wins, you should expect to be unhappy half of the time (our goal is to make sure that each team experiences both winning and losing).

No Smoking or Alcoholic Beverages: No smoking or drinking is permitted in the community center or on school grounds. Spectators suspicious of being intoxicated will be asked to leave.

CONTROL OF CHILDREN

1. If an official must stop play due to a child's action, the official may sanction the team whose player is responsible for the child. If the official has to stop play again because of a child on the same team, the official may request that a player leave the court to monitor the child. This could result in a forfeit if that team does not have enough players to continue.

2. Children **must be seated in the gym**. They are not to be running around on the sideline or anywhere in the school or community center. **Parents will be responsible to pay for any damage caused by their child/children.** The school district is now utilizing video cameras in the hallways to help monitor behavior.

You can make this a positive experience for everyone. We need your help. Teams and parents who do not follow this Code of Conduct will be sanctioned.