



Coaches Code of Ethics Agreement

We want to ensure that wrestling is fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. Wrestling should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for wrestlers, coaches, referees and spectators. To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this code of conduct.

- Before, during and after practice and tournaments, is an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a match, acknowledge opposing coach and the referee.
- During the match, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your wrestler. If one of your wrestlers is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the wrestler aside or even out of the match for the amount of time needed for him/her to calm down.
- During the match, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your wrestlers. It is imperative to explain acceptable wrestler and parent behavior before the season begins.
- Encourage your wrestlers to applaud and encourage team mates out on the mat.
- During the tournament, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the match, do not address the referee directly. If you have an issue, approach the scoring table and discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the head referee. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the match, the wrestler should shake the hand of the opposing wrestler and coach.

We stress these points:

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your wrestlers and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the match. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-match comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own wrestlers' overly aggressive behavior. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your wrestlers' enjoyment of the sport and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your wrestlers and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your wrestlers to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about results, or if you criticize the referee harshly, your wrestler and their parents will also notice. Think about what you're doing during a match! Uphold the Spirit of the match! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the sport will be alive and well in Maple Valley and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.