

Sportsmanship Program

At the conclusion of each game, the Referee will rate each team for sportsmanship behavior in the 8U through 12U age groups. This rating is for sportsmanship behavior by the players, coaches and parents. Please inform your parents that they are part of your team and are rated by the referee on their behavior at each game. The criteria the referee uses to rate each team consists of, but is not limited to, positive coaching, teamwork amongst players, respecting the officials, team support, and a good positive attitude towards winning, as well as losing.

The teams in 8U, 10U and 12U divisions that score the highest total sportsmanship points at the end of the season will be invited to the Sportsmanship Festival which is held the weekend after the last regularly scheduled fall season game (see regional website for dates). The day includes specials games for the invited teams, a team banner contest, limited edition T-shirts for players and coaches, prizes, goodie bags and much, much more. Helpful hints to maximize your sportsmanship ratings:

Before the game:

- Have your game card properly filled out and ready for the referee.
- Have your qualified linesperson report to the referee for pre-game checks and briefing
- Inspect your team prior to the referee pre-game check for jewelry, hair clips, watches etc. that need to be removed

During the game:

- Sit down and encourage both teams to do their best
- Refrain from “traffic cop” coaching (constant directions or instructions throughout the entire game) Let them play!
- Take measures to prevent the score from becoming lopsided
- Be positive and have your spectators cheer on both teams. Halftime:
- Provide water to the referee team (Home Team)
- Be ready to start the second half on time.

After the game:

- Coach and all players cheer for the other team regardless of the outcome
- Teams should be gracious in winning and losing
- Thank the center referee and other match officials with handshakes or high fives.
- Provide the referee team a snack and drink (Visiting Team)