

**TOWN OF BUCKFIELD
RECREATION COMMITTEE
PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT CONTRACT**

Parents play a crucial role in the success and enjoyment of the players and are absolutely vital to the development of young athletes. Whether sitting in the stands or helping out as volunteers, parents must always set a positive example. Parents and adults involved in youth sports should be models of good sportsmanship and lead by example both on and off the playing field.

The quality and integrity of the Buckfield Recreation Sports Programs does not solely rely upon any one single participant, coach, player or spectator. Therefore, it is important that everyone understands the goals and boundaries that been established and set forth by the Buckfield Recreation Committee. Having a “contract” helps us communicate these goals and boundaries to everyone involved in our organization. We aim to provide an environment of positive sportsmanship for our players, visiting opponents, and families.

The following guidelines have been set forth to establish how we all act together as we represent our community.

1. Children have enough to worry about and participation in sports is a place to have a great time while promoting teamwork, commitment, good sportsmanship, hard work and discipline. Therefore, together we will aim to make this both a positive and fun experience for your child.
2. Actions speak louder than words. Your child is watching you and listening to you. Always be respectful and courteous to all players, other parents and coaches. If there is a problem that has occurred and you feel needs to be address and/or resolved, please calmly approach and discuss it with the coach after twenty-four (24) hours and before seventy-two (72) hours of the occurrence.
3. Do not only congratulate and encourage your own player and team, but also the opponent. It goes a long way in teaching your child good sportsmanship.
4. Remember that mistakes happen in youth sports. Accept the decision of the officials (aka referees or umpires) on the field as being fair and called to their best ability. Do not “beg” or “suggest” calls to them. Criticizing the officials, coaches, opponents, or other fans WILL NOT be tolerated. Behavior of this nature is cause for immediate ejection from the stands. Repeat offenses will result in being barred from future practices and/or games.
5. Only players and coaches are allowed on the team sideline and playing area. No exceptions. Parents must stay off the sidelines and playing area, remain calm and under control in order to set a good example for players and other spectators.
6. Please leave the coaching to the coaches and remembers that all of our coaches as well as everyone involved in the Buckfield Recreation Sports Programs volunteer their time and energy. Support your coach and refrain from excessive “sideline coaching” from the stands. Also refrain from making suggestions to players or coaches during games or practices.
7. Show your support for the coaches, players and officials and help teach your child the value of commitment to the teams, sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.

8. Please refrain from rude and/or inappropriate behavior. Abusive language or cursing WILL NOT be tolerated. Keep all comments positive. Parents WILL NOT encourage their child or any other person to engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, official, or any other attendee. Behavior of this nature is cause for immediate ejection from the stands. Repeat offenses will result in being barred from future practices and/or games.
9. Please give constructive criticism to your child during a private moment – never in front of other parents, players, officials, spectators, etc.
10. Your child needs to learn that he/she is part of a TEAM. That includes being at the practices and games a little bit early and making sure they are prepared mentally, physically, emotionally, and dressed with the proper attire.
11. Whenever it is possible, help out with your child's TEAM. No one person can do it all on the own. It can be another way to get close to your child and they love it. When they see you involved in a positive manner, they will know that you care and are there to support them and the TEAM.
12. No open alcoholic beverages and/or smoking on or near any playing area will be tolerated. Behavior of this nature is cause for immediate ejection from the spectator and playing areas. Repeat offenses will result in being barred from future practices and/or games.
13. **You are responsible to watch your child(ren).** Furthermore, you are responsible for any and all family members and/or friends attending practices and/or games. Please make them aware of how we strive to be the best we can be in all aspects – such as but not limited to good sportsmanship and being part of a TEAM.
14. Other sanctions deemed necessary by the Buckfield Recreation Committee may be enforced, including lifelong permanent ban from participation in any Buckfield Recreation Sports Program.

THIS CONTRACT MUST BE SIGNED AS A CONDITION OF YOUR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN ANY BUCKFIELD RECREATION SPORTS PROGRAM.

I agree to abide by the above guidelines for all Buckfield Recreation Sports Programs.

PLAYER'S NAME (print): _____

PARENT'S NAME (print): _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____