

Saint Albert the Great Coaches' Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct should be read, understood, and followed by all Saint Albert coaches:

- The Athletic Board of St. Albert the Great School, and its members and the leaders of the CYO League are concerned about the conduct of all coaches, players, parents and referees during games at all levels.
- We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. Any sporting event should be friendly and unifying – a spirited, social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators.
- Before, during and after the game, and practice, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, lead your team in a prayer. Introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee(s).
- During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of yourself and your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them, and you may need to be forceful and direct from yelling at players and the referee(s).
- During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.
- During the game be polite and respectful when talking to the referees. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee(s) was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to the appropriate sports co-coordinator or board member. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee(s) and ask your players to do the same.

Referees—especially young and inexperienced ones—are like your players 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 game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game 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 players' overly aggressive behavior towards them. Remember, it could be your own child or even you someday refereeing a game!

1. Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.
2. Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game!, and the Catholic Spirit. If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game, and God's love will be alive and well in the games and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above may be disciplined or removed.