

Bucyrus Area YMCA



Youth Sports Parent Handbook

Table of Contents

YMCA Youth Sports	3
Who We Are	
Our Purpose	
Our Mission	
Character Development	4
Code Of Conduct	5
Child Abuse Prevention	5
Strategies To Prevent Child Abuse	
Reporting Child Abuse	
Risk Issues	6
Bad Weather	
Lightning	
Tornado Warning	
Media	
Missing Children	
Facility Use Guidelines	7
Equipment and Uniforms	8
Lost and Found	9

YMCA YOUTH SPORTS

Who we are...

The Bucyrus Area YMCA has been serving Bucyrus since 1903. Our YMCA is a volunteer-led public charity 501(c)(3) that works collaboratively with community partners to improve the lives of children, adults, families and the whole community. Integral to everything that we do are our core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Our Y serves people of all backgrounds, ages, capabilities and income levels, providing financial assistance to those in need.

Our Purpose...

Encouraging, supporting and improving healthy living habits, among our members and throughout the community, are central to our purpose. Our work also focuses on youth development through a wide variety of programs such as child care, teen activities, day camps, swim lessons, organized sports, and more.

Our Mission...

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

Core Values...

Caring
Honesty
Respect
Responsibility
Faith

Character Development

The YMCA Challenge

We at the YMCA are committed to quality programs that enhance the spirit, mind and body of all. Through the delivery of these programs we strive to incorporate and enhance the character values of caring, honesty, responsibility and respect. YMCA coaches and parents must be willing to take the YMCA challenge to accept and demonstrate these character values. This can be partially accomplished by providing an environment in which the four character values are fostered. Coaches, parents and officials are all role models and their behavior should be conducive to character development. The four values should be demonstrated by all at each game and practice.

CARING is demonstrated throughout the youth sports program. A parent or coach's attitude and the way he/she communicates with his/her players helps demonstrate this value. Remember to treat the players the way you would like to be treated if you were learning a new skill or task. Players can exemplify caring by being supportive of teammates during games and practices.

HONESTY is an important component of our programs. For the youth sports coach, parent, and players, honesty and integrity should be put before winning and performance. Once again, this concept is best demonstrated by your example to your team and players. It should be maintained in all interaction with coaches, parents, players, and officials. The same should be true for your players in their interaction with teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials. An example of this would be admitting to a foul or penalty rather than attempting to "get away with one".

RESPECT is shown by parents, players, and coaches during a season. First and foremost is to show respect for the official and for the calls he/she makes. To dispute, mock or second guess calls does not show respect for their position of controlling the game. Respect can also be shown during interaction between players and coaches. An example of this is the ability of both players and coaches to listen to one another.

RESPONSIBILITY as a YMCA youth sports coach or parent includes areas such as being on time, personal appearance, teaching basic skills, and overall leadership in the program. The participants should also be aware of the responsibilities of being on a team. These include paying attention at practice, working with others as a team, and most of all, treating others the way they would like to be treated.

Code of Conduct

Parent/Coach Behavior

Parents, coaches, participants, and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a respectable, responsible, honest, and caring way. The YMCA has a no tolerance policy for behavior that is disrespectful, disruptive or rude. We will not hesitate to ask someone to leave the gym and/or facility for inappropriate behavior. Facility Supervisors and officials have the authority to ask any spectator or coach, who does not display conduct consistent with the YMCA philosophy, to leave the game area. This includes inappropriate comments to the officials, staff, or other participants.

Child Abuse Prevention

Purpose

In response to an increasing incidence of abuse and neglect being both reported and confirmed locally, but also on a national scale, we have established some guidelines and procedures to raise awareness of child abuse and to minimize the potential for abuse/neglect occurring within our programs and facilities.

Strategies to Prevent Child Abuse

1. The YMCA has in place a comprehensive pre-employment screening procedure to screen out staff and volunteers not suited for working with children. *All of our volunteers go through a criminal background check. *
2. The YMCA will take any allegation or suspicion of child abuse seriously.
3. Staff and Volunteers understand their legal obligation to report suspected abuse.
4. Staff and Volunteers understand what practices may be considered abusive and the difference between what may be considered appropriate and inappropriate touch.
5. Staff and Volunteers protect themselves and the YMCA by agreeing not to be

alone with YMCA youth or program participants outside of YMCA programs or facilities (ie: babysitting, take children on trips, etc.) Players may not go to coach's homes, unless their parents are with them.

6. Coaches should monitor the release of participants on their teams to ensure a child is never left alone or picked up by a stranger.

7. Profanity, inappropriate jokes and any other type of harassment is prohibited.

8. Coaches will respect children's rights not to be touched in ways that make them feel uncomfortable. Side hugs, pats on the back and high fives are appropriate contact for coaches to have with their players.

9. Coaches must use positive techniques of guidance including positive reinforcement and encouragement rather than competition, comparison, and criticism.

Reporting Child Abuse

- When you suspect that a child has been abused, whether at or outside of the YMCA, you must report the information immediately to the Program Coordinator.
- It may be necessary to remove the child out of an activity if they appear to be in pain or are withdrawing from the group. In this case, make sure the child is with an adult that they trust.
- Do not discuss the situation with anyone except the Program Coordinator, the Bucyrus Area YMCA's CEO, or Praesidium Guardian.
- You will be asked to write down the facts or assumptions that you have made.
- The Program Coordinator and the Praesidium Guardian will make the appropriate phone calls to the Police department or Social Services.
- You can also report suspected abuse by filling out the form at the end of this handbook and leaving it at the front desk.

Remember, you are not making the determination that child abuse has actually occurred. You are reporting that you suspect child abuse.

Risk Issues

Bad Weather

In the case of bad weather on a practice night, it is up to the coach to determine if practice should take place or not and to contact their team in the event of a cancellation. The YMCA will not reschedule missed practices.

Game cancellations are at the Program Coordinators discretion. Unless extreme conditions exist, games may not be called until the game time. As soon as cancellations are made coaches will be contacted and asked to contact their team. If a Level 3 snow emergency is issued for Seneca County the YMCA will be closed and all activities cancelled. Information will also be posted on the YMCA website and Facebook page. Every effort will be made by the YMCA to make-up cancelled games.

Lightning

All outdoor activities will be stopped and all people asked to move inside to a safe location when either of the following occurs:

- 1. Cloud to ground lightning is observed and less than 30 seconds pass from seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder from the flash**
- 2. In cloud lightning is occurring directly overhead.**

The outdoor activities can be considered safe to continue 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen. It is the responsibility of the YMCA staff person on site to determine when play should be stopped and when play should resume.

Tornado Warning

In the event of a tornado warning, practices and games will be discontinued. Return to the building or seek shelter nearby. Practices and games may only continue when the warning has ended and no dangerous weather conditions are present.

Media

Please do not speak with the media regarding any incident. All inquires are to be sent to the YMCA.

Missing Children

If you notice a child in your care is missing:

- 1. Determine through a quick search that they are really missing (never leave other children unattended).**
- 2. Arrange for other adults to continue searching while you call the YMCA to**

notify the staff in charge. The YMCA will send help and call the parents.
3. Activate the 911 system.

Facility Use Guidelines

Please review the general guidelines below and contact the YMCA if you have any questions about the facility that your team is using.

1. Teams are only allowed in the gym or on the field during their scheduled practice time. Please arrive and exit practice and game sites on time.
2. Parents **MUST** check in and out with the coach at each practice and game, do not just drop your kids off! Parents are **REQUIRED** to stay for practice and encouraged get involved.
3. If a player's siblings are present during practice or games an adult must accompany them. Please do not let your children run around, they must stay under your direct supervision.
4. Please make sure all trash is properly disposed of. Trash cans are available throughout the building and at the fields.
5. No alcohol or tobacco may be used on YMCA property or during YMCA youth sports events.
6. Any damage to site property will not be tolerated. Facilities need to be treated with respect.

Equipment & Uniforms

Basic equipment for most sports will be checked out to coaches for the season. If you bring your own equipment to practices or games, please make sure it is clearly marked with your name. Below is the information on basic equipment participants need for each sport offered by the YMCA.

Basketball – Each player needs to have non-marking tennis shoes and shorts or pants.

Flag Football – Each player needs to have tennis shoes, a mouth guard, and shorts or pants.

Track – Each player needs to have tennis shoes and shorts or pants.

Cross Country – Each player needs to have tennis shoes and shorts or pants.

Youth Cheerleading – Each player needs to have tennis shoes and shorts or pants.

Please note, if a player does not have the appropriate footwear or safety equipment they will not be allowed to participate in the practice or game.

Lost & Found

The YMCA is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Items that are found are kept at the YMCA facility. If items remain unclaimed they are given to charity. Items left behind during games at non-YMCA locations are collected by YMCA staff and brought back to the building. However, not all items are always found by staff.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact the Program Coordinator!

**Thank you for being
a part of the YMCA
Youth Sports
Program!**