

*As a coach, you have a major influence on your athletes. Not only will you affect the development of their skills and long-term enjoyment of the sport, you will also play a role in their development as individuals. It is important that you have effective resources to help you.*

*The Coaching Association of Canada, in partnership with the national sport organizations, compiled the following coaching tips.*

## Fair Play



There are four main groups of people involved in community sport competitions; the participants, their parents, the coaches, and the officials. How these groups interact and treat each other before, during, and after each competition will greatly influence whether the sport experience for the participant is a positive or a negative one.

Many teams spend time at the beginning of the season to outline together how the four groups involved will act, and then to describe these behaviours in their own fair play charter or team code of conduct. It is important to involve everyone in developing such a code and then have everyone sign it.

Committing to fair play will not detract from the competitiveness of a participant or a team. In fact, teams and competitions are enhanced when all groups agree to adhere to fair play statements that outline the dos and don'ts in a very clear way.

### **Some examples of fair play behaviours include:**

- Following all the rules and never seeking to deliberately break a rule.
- Refusing to win by cheating.
- Respecting the officials (e.g. not yelling at them or harassing them in any way).
- Demonstrating self-control.
- Recognizing good performances by the opponent; to get the best out of you, you need your opponents to play their best too.
- Cheering your team without verbally abusing opponents.

**Source:** *Community Sport – Initiation Reference Material*, Coaching Association of Canada, 2003.

