



Stanley Park T- Ball Program FAIR PLAY, SPORTSMANSHIP, PHILOSOPHY, POLICIES & RESPONSIBILITY

In agreeing to be involved in this program, whether as a player, coach, supervisor, parent or even spectator, I agree to not only exhibit good sportsmanship but to also do what I can to promote it. I will abide by the Optimist Club's Policies* and league rules, respect the decisions of the umpires and league officials and sign a contract agreeing to such.

* **Policies include: Fair Play, Sportsmanship, Zero Abuse, and Tobacco, Drug & Alcohol Free.**

Fair Play Codes

Parents

1. Be adults
2. Encourage your child to play by the rules of the game and by the fair play codes.
3. Show your appreciation of volunteer coaches and officials.
4. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
5. Turn defeat into victory by emphasizing the value of honest effort, skill improvement and fair play.
6. As spectators, applaud all good plays made by both your team and the opposition.
7. Actions speak louder than words. Make sure your behaviour sets a good example for fair play.
8. Support all efforts to remove violence from children's sport.

Players

1. Have fun!
2. Play for your own enjoyment, not just to please parents or coaches.
3. Control your temper – fighting and “mouthing off” spoil the game for everybody.
4. Cooperate with your teammates and opponents for without them you don't have a game.
5. Play by all the rules within the spirit of the rules. Respect the umpires.
6. Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
7. Winning is only part of it. Having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing your best, are also just as important – if not more so.
8. Cheer all good plays, both your team's and the opponents'.

Responsibilities of Coaches

Coaching is fun because it is rewarding to be a coach. It is both fulfilling and extremely gratifying to watch a child develop his or her athletic potential. That development seems to take place very quickly at the ages of the Stanley Park players. Because a coach leaves a part of him or her with each child whom he coaches, he has a very heavy responsibility to ensure that only positive seeds are sown in the players. If a coach needs to remember anything through the course of the season, it is to be reasonable and let common sense prevail.

Coaching is an onerous responsibility and should be seen as such. The league cannot function without appropriate coaching and children cannot benefit from inappropriate coaching. Coaches must at all times remember that they are role models for each of the players and for the older and younger brothers and sisters of those players. The influence of the coach should not be underestimated and his/her conduct is being watched by far more young impressionable children than merely the players on the team. Coaches must serve with enthusiasm in order to fan the flame of sportsman-like competition and excitement within the players while acting within the boundaries of true sportsmanship.

Each coach is directed to assure himself/herself that he/she has the appropriate and proper insurance coverage in place. In order to obtain insurance coverage, all injuries, no matter how seemingly

small at the time, must be reported to the convener of the league who will put the municipal insurer on notice. Even if you believe that you are not responsible for the accident, you must still notify the convener in order to avoid potential future problems for yourself. This also is a duty which the executive hands over to each coach in the league. Reporting forms are part of the coaching material (refer to Website.) If you feel that it is necessary, you yourself must put your own insurance company on notice of your own possible personal liability in the accident.

One of the most usual sources of liability is the failure of coaches to equip the children with proper equipment. If you notice that any of your equipment is becoming frayed, worn or dangerous, please alert your convener who will arrange to provide replacement equipment. Those allowing unregistered and/or over-aged children to participate are placing themselves at unnecessary risk as our insurance does not extend to such players or any acts they may commit, or be exposed to, intentional or otherwise.

Intentional acts will not be covered by any policy of insurance and the only way to insure you against liability for intentional acts is to remember that discretion is the better part of valor. Use common sense, promote safe conduct, keep tempers under control and we should all enjoy another incident-free season.

The executive of the Stanley Park T-Ball Association is thankful for the fine work done by its volunteer coaches, coaching assistants and all those who step up to help as needed.

Philosophy

The Stanley Park T-Ball Association was formed in 1978 to provide young boys and girls with the opportunity to participate in and learn about the game of baseball.

The emphasis is on fun, fair play and participation of all players.

The Association is run entirely by volunteers (executive, coaches, convenors, etc.) who generously devote their time. All are expected to act as role models by adhering to Government Regulations, City Bylaws and our own policies which include “No Smoking – No Tobacco” at our games, practices and events. New volunteers are always welcome regardless of how much or little time anyone is able to give.

Disputes are discussed between coaches and/or umpires in a friendly and professional manner. Unresolved matters should be directed to the convener for resolution.

These games are played at a recreational level with minimum written rules.

We enforce rules which ensure that all players have equal playing time and the opportunity to play at all the various fielding positions.

Sportsmanship

All players, coaches, assistants, umpires, officials, parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to abide by the city ordinances, league rules, and behave in accordance with our guidelines, codes of conduct and philosophy. **All players and coaching staff have to sign a contract agreeing to such before being allowed to participate.**

Sportsmanship supervisors (“managers”) help administer the program and intervene as necessary to promote good sportsmanship. Managers (pre-designated and in-uniform) are permitted on the field at any time to monitor behaviour.

Our officials have a ‘zero tolerance for abuse’ and enforce it to ensure that all participants enjoy the games and practices. There is “**No Smoking – No Tobacco**” permitted on or by the diamonds during our permit times (which cover the warm-up and post-game activities.) Drugs and alcohol are obviously forbidden. Abusive language and swearing are not acceptable. Persons who cannot comply are required to immediately leave our permit area.

