



USA SURFING PARENT, GUARDIAN and ATHLETE SUPPORT PERSONNEL CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."¹

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.^{2, 9}
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the youth competition is for the benefit of the youth, not the adults.^{6, 9}
3. I will inform the beach marshal of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.⁹
4. I will learn the rules of competition and the policies of the USA Surfing.^{7, 3}
5. I (and my/our guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all competitors, judges, officials, staff and spectators at every USA Surfing event.¹⁰
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, competitor, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.^{3, 6, 7, 8}
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to compete by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.^{5, 2}
9. I will demand that my child treat other competitors, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.^{6, 9}
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.²
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.²
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.^{2, 5}
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also deemphasize competition in the lower age groups.¹⁰
14. I will promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.⁹
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during events and will never second guess their calls in front of other parents or competitors and will quietly and privately ask for an explanation from

the beach marshal, contest director or head judge, within twenty (20) minutes of the results of the heat in question being made public.^{4, 7}

16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.⁶
17. I will refrain from coaching children other than my own during competition unless specifically asked by the child's parents.⁴
18. I will always leave the beach cleaner than I found it and will educate my children and guests to avoid trampling sensitive plants, dunes and tide-pools.
19. I will teach my child that losing with dignity is just as important as being a gracious winner.

Sportsmanlike Conduct: Sportsmanlike conduct is defined as, but not limited to:

1. respect for USA Surfing Prime Tour, USA Surfing sanctioned events, any event in which the athlete is competing as a representative of USA Surfing and/or the USA, USA Surfing member organizations' Events, Event sponsors, judges, opponents, USA Surfing Management members, spectators, members of the media or any other person within the designated Event site;
2. respect for facilities, privileges and operation procedures at Events;
3. the use of courtesy and good manners at Events;
4. acting responsibly and maturely at Events;
5. refraining from any visible gesture which is commonly understood to be derogatory, profane, and/or highly offensive, or would indicate a sexually explicit act;
6. refraining from intentional and purposeful display and or exposure of nudity;
7. refraining from the use of profane or abusive language (in any language) at Event venues;
8. illegal (e.g. underage) or immoderate use of alcohol at USA Surfing Event venues;
9. no use or possession of illegal or banned drugs;
10. refraining from any conduct that would bring disrepute to USA Surfing.

All parents, coaches and surfer's support team attending any Event shall conduct themselves in accordance with the best traditions of national and international sporting competition. Again, this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of violations of Sportsmanlike conduct but merely a general guideline. Any parent, coach or surfer's support team found in violation of this section shall be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1. 1st offense will receive an official warning and \$100 fine
2. 2nd offense will receive a one event suspension and \$200 fine
3. 3rd offense: Any parent, coach or surfer's support team who is found to have three (3) offenses of this Article in one or more seasons, which clearly efface a pattern of unacceptable conduct, may be subject to suspension and/or expulsion from the USA Surfing Prime Tour and a \$300 fine. Expulsion will last for the remainder of the season. Any parent, coach or surfer's support team who receives notice of a possible suspension will be entitled to a hearing before the USA Surfing Judicial Committee per the USA Surfing Bylaws.

The severity of the offense may alter the penalty, which may include any variation of the following: verbal warning, written warning, fines, probation, suspension, and expulsion. Social media accounts, which are linked to a parent, coach or surfer's support team, will be held to the same guidelines.

The USA Surfing CEO, after consultation with the Contest Director, Beach Marshall and Head Judge, will issue any possible penalty within 48 hours of any misconduct which violates this code or damages the image of the event.

Surfer's name, Printed

Parent/Guardian/Support Team Name, Printed

Relationship to Athlete

Parent/Guardian/Support Team Signature

Date

References:

The Sport Parent Code of Conduct has been compiled from the following national organizations and local youth sports league Parent Codes of Conduct:

1. Arizona Sports Summit Accord
2. Character Counts
3. Heartland Soccer Club
4. Kidsports
5. Mt. Laurel Soccer Club
6. National Alliance for Youth Sports
7. National High School Athletic Coaches Association
8. Pop Warner
9. Rosemont Area Athletic Association
10. USA Hockey

Additional recommended resources for conduct and sportsmanship for coaches and athletes include: Arizona Sport Summit Accord, United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Coaches Code of Ethics, Center for SafeSport, and the Character Counts Coalition.