

# USA SURFING EVENT 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." I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.<sup>2, 9</sup>
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.<sup>6, 9</sup>
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.<sup>9</sup>
4. I will learn the rules of competition and the policies of the USA Surfing.<sup>7, 3</sup>
5. I (and my 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.<sup>10</sup>
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.<sup>3, 6, 7, 8</sup>
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.<sup>5, 2</sup>
9. I will demand that my child treat other competitors, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.<sup>6, 9</sup>
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.<sup>2</sup>
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.<sup>2</sup>
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.<sup>2, 5</sup>
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.<sup>10</sup>
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.<sup>9</sup>
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, before the results of the heat in question are made public.<sup>4, 7</sup>
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.<sup>6</sup>
17. I will refrain from coaching children other than my own during competition unless specifically asked by the child's parents.<sup>4</sup>
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: respect for USA Surfing Prime Tour and Event sponsors, judges, opponents, USA Surfing Management member, spectators, member of the media or any other person within the designated Event site; respect for facilities, privileges and operation procedures at Events; the use of courtesy and good manners at Events; acting responsibly and maturely at

Events; refraining from any visible gesture which is commonly understood to be derogatory, profane, and/or highly offensive, or would indicate a sexually explicit act; and refraining from intentional and purposeful display and or exposure of nudity; and refraining from the use of:

- (a) profane or abusive language at Event venues (in any language);
- (b) illegal (e.g., under age) or immoderate use of alcohol at USA Surfing Event venues; and
- (c) the use of illegal or banned drugs.

All Surfers, Parents and Coaches 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 Surfer found in violation of this section shall be subject to the following disciplinary action:

(i) Suspension and Expulsion. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense will receive an official warning, and \$100 fine. 2<sup>nd</sup> offense will receive a one event suspension and \$200 fine. Any Surfer 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. Expelled party may interview with USA Surfing President petition reinstatement into the program.

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. Competitors are held responsible for any unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, and after the event. Coaches, parents, and team managers will be held responsible under the same guidelines and will be the responsibility of the competitor. Social media accounts, which are linked to a competitor or parent, will also be held to the same guidelines. After consultation with the contest director and head judge a penalty will be released within 48 hours for any misconduct which damages the image of the event.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Competitors 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.