



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

The Sunfish Swim and Water Polo Club, the Coaches and the Executive/Board expect that all parents abide by this code at all times: If children are to grow and develop in their sport or physical activity, an environment of positive communication and respect must exist. Parents should observe the following Code of Conduct with their child athletes. The following code is taken from a resource manual developed for community coaches by the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport

Children enrolled in the Sunfish participate in the program for fun, exercise, and competition. The skills they learn go well beyond what is taught in the pool. The children will take these experiences with them for the rest of their lives. How parents behave is also a learned lesson. When swimmers, coaches, officials, and other parents are not treated with the respect they deserve, we unfortunately pass these attitudes on to our children. It is this type of lesson the Sunfish Swim Club does not wish to teach. Therefore, like the athletes, parents must also abide by a Code of Conduct.

- I will remember that my child plays sport for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
- As a parent, I agree not to go on the pool deck. I will refrain from coaching any swimmer (from stands or any other area) during practices and meets. Parents are not allowed on pool deck at anytime due to BCSSA insurance and Delta Parks and Rec. policies unless there is an emergency or the coach invites you.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resort to hostility or violence
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or event
- I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good players' performances by both my child's team and their opponents
- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public
- I will respect coaches by voicing my concerns in private and at an appropriate time. If I cannot resolve my concerns with the coach, I will speak to the Coordinator of the appropriate Discipline or the Club President.
- I will respect and show appreciation for volunteers who give their time to provide sport activities for my child. I will voice my concerns to the Executive rather than confront other volunteers.

Initial: _____

24 Hour Rule

Youth sports can be an emotional experience. The physical activity of the kids can often spill onto the sidelines and into the stands and create strong reactions in coaches and parents.

For parents, it is important to separate their child's sports development from emotions. For this reason, North Delta Sunfish has adopted the "24 Hour Rule" which simply states that coaches will not discuss a situation until at least 24 hours after the fact. This important rule does two things. First, it moves the discussion away from the presence of the athlete. Second, it allows all parties to have time to put things in perspective and "cool off", if necessary.

When parents and coaches respect the 24 hour rule, their concerns are more likely to be fully addressed in reasoned discussion. More importantly, the kids' enjoyment of the sport won't be marred by an ill-timed confrontation.

If parents have concerns about any of the coaches or any aspect of coaching, they should first speak with their child's coach to discuss the issue in private. If parents have further concerns or if they feel the issues that had been discussed have not been dealt with adequately, they should then contact the Head Coach and/or the VP of Coaching to resolve the problem. Issues that arise need to be dealt with immediately, as the summer season is very short.

The BC Summer Swimming Association, (BCSSA), of which the Sunfish is a member, has a harassment policy. The Sunfish support and abide by this policy. Harassment incidents will be treated seriously. All incidents must be reported to the VP of Coaching. Due consultation will be held with the families involved, the Board of the Sunfish, the Sunfish Coaches, and if necessary the Regional Harassment Officer and the BCSSA.

If a parent is found to have mistreated a Sunfish swimmer or water polo player, harassed competitors from another team, or harassed another parent or child (depending upon the severity of the incident) the parent at fault may be asked to provide a verbal apology or a written apology to be produced in a timely fashion. In extreme cases, or in cases of multiple infractions, the family who has caused the harassment will face suspension of their membership or even expulsion from the club. No refund of fees will be granted.

Athlete Name(s): _____

Print Name of Parents: _____

Parent(s) or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____