

OLE MISS YOUTH PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent/guardian I understand the role I play in supporting my child, his/her teammates and their coach.

I realize that youth are watching me and that I play a critical role in modeling respectful behavior that will teach youth that violence never equals strength. Respectful relationships are based on affection, friendship, trust, good communication and equality for everyone in the relationship. Each individual in a respectful relationship feels supported and connected, but also independent. Though participants in respectful relationships may agree to share many things, each deserves to have their own thoughts, opinions, interests and friends. I am supportive of the efforts of the Ole Miss Youth sports programs intentional focus on respectful behaviors and modeling and will assist in this initiative by developing my own actions.

I believe in the philosophy of Ole Miss Youth sports and will reinforce these expectations at home with my child(ren) in a healthy competition environment.

- 1) **TAKE A CLEAR STAND:** I will make sure players and player's parents/guardians/caretakers know how I feel about disrespect, use of abusive or inappropriate language, controlling behavior or any forms of violence.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURE AND THE RISKS THAT YOUTH FACE:** Preteens and teens, in particular, face new and increasing pressure about sex, substance abuse, bullying and dating. While they may not express it young teens want to have their parents and role models take time to listen – and help them sift through situations that they face.
- 3) **KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “BYSTANDER and UPSTANDER”:** Teach your players how to speak up when they see or hear something that's not OK. They may defend their silence by explaining that they don't want to be a “snitch” or get involved. Explain that there are often safe way to call out bad behavior and that the lack of action can sometimes lead to even greater dangerous outcomes and abuses.
- 4) **ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE:** *Conversations about relationships do not have to focus solely on risky, negative behavior. Take time to give positive feedback too, when they make healthy choices in dealings with friends and family.*
- 5) **YOUR LANGUAGE MATTERS:** If your players hear you using slang or derogatory terms to describe women and girls, they are very likely to model your behavior and your vocabulary. Put downs and derogatory jokes may seem harmless, but in the grand scheme of things

they're not. Do your best to respect others by using language that is empathetic, positive and appropriate.

- 6) **BE PREPARED TO MAKE MISTAKES:** You will make mistakes. Accept that, but continue to help young people make responsible, smart choices while trying to maintain that delicate balance of being sensitive but firm.
- 7) **NO MEANS NO:** Pressuring someone to do something they don't want to do is not OK. This applies to both in-person situations, as well as digital correspondence. Teach young people that forcing someone to send provocative embarrassing or nude photos is wrong.
- 8) **MAKE THE MOST OF "TEACHABLE MOMENTS":** If a professional athlete is found guilty of abusing their partner, for example, take the time to reinforce the message that even famous people are responsible for their actions.

I have read and understand the objectives listed above and will do my best to work in partnership with Ole Miss Youth programs. I understand that if at any time my behavior is in direct violation to the code of conduct, it will be addressed by an the Ole Miss Youth Board president, coach or referee and that depending upon the extent of my inappropriate behavior I may be asked to leave or banned for the season.

Signed by Ole Miss Youth Parent

Date

Witnessed by Ole Miss Youth Coach

Date