

# **Mahwah Youth Sports Parent Pledge**

**Please initial each item and sign**

1. I Pledge to get my child to practice and games on time. I understand that it can be embarrassing for my child to be late and that I may be putting him/ her at risk by not providing adequate time for warm up. I also know that tardiness and absenteeism will affect my child's playtime. I will be on time to pick up my child from all games and practices. This shows respect for the coaches, and it tells my child that they are my top priority. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I pledge to use positive encouragement to my child and her teammates because athletes perform at a higher level when positive reinforcement is practiced. I understand that fewer than 1% of all youth sports participants receive college scholarships and that the top three reasons kids play sports are a)to have fun, b)to make new friends, and c)to learn skills. I understand the game is for Players, and I will keep sports in the proper perspective. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I pledge to "to honor the game". I understand setting a good example for my child. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including, coaches, players, opposing fans and officials. I understand officials make mistakes. If the official makes a "bad" call against my team, I will honor the game and be silent.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Winners are people who make the maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes stop them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that children are born with different abilities and that the true measure is not how my child compares to others but how he/ she is doing in comparison to his/ her best self. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions to my child or any of his/ her teammates. I understand that this is the coach's job. I understand that games are chaotic times for children trying to deal with fast-paced action and respond to opponents, teammates and coaches. I will limit my comments during the game to encouraging my child and other players for both teams. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my child's coach and other teammates in my child's presence. I understand that this plants a negative seed in my child's head that can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I pledge to refrain from using profanity or harsh language during games or in the presence of any child. I understand the use of this type of language by any player will not be tolerated. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Gossip is not an effective form of communication. Any questions, concerns or suggestions should be communicated to the head coach of your team. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Parties are a wonderful way for the children to enjoy time together off the court. We ask that no invitations of any kind (written or oral) be given out during any team event unless the entire team is being invited. Please remind your child not to talk about gatherings that do not include all team members. Let's be sensitive of each other's feelings. Sleepovers the night before a game or practice are strongly discouraged. Basketball is a team sport and the entire team is counting on your child. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I understand that failure to comply with the any of the above may negatively influence my child's playing time. I will honor the parent pledge in my words and actions. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Print Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_