

ARTICLE 5.0 Character Development Initiative

- A. Athletics can be exciting and enjoyable for all. The feelings of being excited and having fun are closely tied to individual and team character. The following are examples of good character concepts:
- a. **Respect Yourself:** You need to believe in yourself and see yourself as an important part of the team. You may not be the best at everything but use your strength to make the team better as a whole.
 - b. **Respect the Opponents:** You need your opponents or the game wouldn't take place. So you need to show respect for your opponents by treating them as needed partners, not as enemies. When competing against a strong opponent, you usually play a better game.
 - c. **Respect the Coaches:** The coaches are volunteering their time to our community to help each player he or she coaches. These coaches are needed to have a quality athletic program. Show respect to all, as they are here to do their best and be servant leaders.
 - d. **Cooperation with Officials:** Rules are in place for a reason while also providing you with a structured game. You need to respect the officials as they are here to help and provide you with the opportunity to play.
 - e. **Building the Team:** Everyone has different abilities and skills. Therefore, if you are listening to each other, sharing ideas, and helping each other increase strength, then you will be more likely to achieve your goals. You win as a team and you lose as a team. More importantly, win with humility and lose with humility.
 - f. **Learning to Win and Lose:** Every game has a winner and a loser. We all want to be competitive and win each game, but we have to learn to deal with losing/failure in order to grow character as a team, fundamentally get better as a team, and ultimately be successful as a team. If you have the "winning is everything" mentality, this could lead to ignoring the positive reason why you join any athletic sport in the first place. The best competitors learn from their loss and strategically apply it to the future and build character.
- B. The Character Development Initiative is effective for all youth athletic league programs. During the athletic league season, volunteer coaches are required to take part in this initiative before each team practice is conducted. Davie County Recreation and Parks will provide coaches with different scenarios (related to the sport) to share and discuss with the team. Coaches may elect to share a scenario of their own related to past experiences or a recent practice/game scenario, so long as the example(s) shared with the team are appropriate and centered on quality character development. The essential key ingredient of the Character Development Initiative is to allow participants the opportunity to respond individually or as a group to what the best solution(s) are in the given scenario which represents good character. This allows our youth to be more receptive and retain information, which can ultimately transition onto the court, the field, at home, in the classroom and in the general public. **THIS CREATES AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF OUR YOUTH!**