Severn Sailing Association Parental Code of Conduct

Preamble:

Sailing is a sport which teaches children several core character building principles including:

* Trustworthiness,
* Respect,
* Responsibility,
* Fairness,
* Caring,
* Good Citizenship and,
* Self-Reliance

The highest ideals of our sport are realized when these principles are met. Parents are ultimately responsible for their children and serve as role models to foster these ideals. Therefore parent’s behavior is an integral part of teaching these ideals.

Sailing in general, and Sailing at Severn Sailing Association specifically, is a privilege which is dependent on striving toward these ideals. As role models, Severn Sailing Association asks that each parent adhere to the following rules to help in this effort.

I (and my guests, spouse) therefore agree:

1. to not force my child to participate in sailing;
2. that children participate in sailing for fun and that it is for children, not adults;
3. to inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others;
4. to be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all sailors, coaches, officials, club volunteers, club members, and spectators at every regatta, practice or other team event;
5. to not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any sailors, coaches, officials, club volunteers, club members;
6. to not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes;
7. to teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence;
8. to demand that my child treat other sailors, coaches, officials, club volunteers, club members, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, or ability;
9. to 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 race or his/her performance;
10. to praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time;
11. to never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition;
12. to emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning;
13. to promote the emotional and physical wellbeing of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win;
14. to respect the race officials and the coaches authority during regattas, and agree to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place;
15. to demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and, as a role model, I will refrain from their use at all sports events;
16. and to refrain from coaching my child or other players during regattas and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in exclusion of your child from participation from practices or regattas at the discretion of the coaches. Repeated failure will constitute grounds for removal of your child, or children, from participation at Severn Sailing Association.

 Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature