



Conduct 1st Environment at 2020 GSTC

Youth Sports Done Right by putting our Youth 1st.

Welcome to the 2020 Gopher State Tournament of Champions presented by Dick's Sporting Goods! We are excited that your team is able to participate in this premier baseball event this weekend!

It is more important than ever to provide a sports experience where kids feel safe, get exercise, have fun and can interact with others. The Minnesota Youth Athletic Services, Inc. / Youth 1st strategic partnership creates a Conduct 1st Environment and recognizes teams (players, coaches, parents and fans) that play the game the right way by displaying positive conduct and good sportsmanship AND compliance with the Safe Play; Back to the Diamond – COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.

A Conduct 1st Environment is defined by 3 points of emphasis:

- **Remember it's about the kids.....**

- The purpose of youth sports is to provide our kids an opportunity to learn and become their best selves.
- Sports participation has many lasting benefits – physical, social, mental and spiritual (intrinsic).
- Adult behavior – good or bad – is teaching the kids. This includes sportsmanship as well as adhering to the return to the “Back to the Diamond” guidelines.

- **I will keep my competitive energy in check.....**

- Zoom out – keep proper perspective – be grateful for the opportunity to play sports.
- The true value in competing has very little to do with the win or loss, so keep the focus off the score and on the process of development.
- Kids already put enough pressure on themselves to do well, and with the current situation may very well have added anxiety. Stay positive and encourage them to simply “play”.

- **I will always treat officials and opponents with respect.....**

- We need each other (too much division in the world)
- Treat others and you would like to be treated
- Respect yourself, respect others, respect the game = sportsmanship
- Respect yourself, respect others, respect the game = compliance

Nelson Mandela quote: “Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”

2020 Gopher State Tournament of Champions:

At the completion of each game, the Umpire will provide a yes/no on the scorecard, voting on the following criteria:

1—Did your team (players, coaches and parents/fans) meet the Youth 1st Sportsmanship Criteria?

2—Did your team (players, coaches, parents/fans) adhere to the Safe Play: Back to the Diamond guidelines created in collaboration with MYAS/Gopher State, Metro Baseball, Minnesota Softball and reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Teams that receive exemplary marks on both questions will be recognized after the tournament with Youth 1st Team Awards.

GOOD LUCK, HAVE FUN, AND ALWAYS REMEMBER TO PUT YOUTH 1ST!

Yours in Baseball,

Dawson Blanck, MYAS Executive Director

Mark Arjes, Youth 1st Executive Director

