**CHESTER BASKETBALL S.A.G.E. Philosophy:**

**S**etting **A G**ood **E**xample (S.A.G.E.) is more important than winning. Reading and signing this document each year reminds us that the game is for the kids, and that Respect is a lesson we can and must help teach.

We require that each and every player, coach and parent read, understand and commit to our S.A.G.E. pledge of good sportsmanship. This pledge summarizes the important elements of the youth sports experience and sets out your commitment to Sportsmanship and Fair Play. Having the player and his or her parents **all** sign it is a condition of your child’s participation in Chester Basketball.

**Important information about youth sports**

Kids participate in sports primarily because it is fun. Kids need to know that if they are trying their best, they have already won. Adults need to keep that in perspective and remember that the game is about the kids. Fans are there merely to observe and cheer. Parents can help most by relaxing, enjoying these fleeting years and letting the kids just play without parental pressure. Placing too much pressure on kids to perform well creates stress that detracts from the fun and can affect their self-esteem as well as the experience of other participants.

**My pledge to Set A Good Example**

* I will not be loud or negative towards players, referees, coaches or spectators. I acknowledge that failing to show respect for people who are doing their best sets a poor example for our children and can result in my **expulsion from the gym**. If someone else makes an inappropriate or inflammatory comment, I will hold my tongue since my response is likely to escalate rather than diffuse the situation.
* When I coach, I will remember that encouragement and praise for every child, not just the best athletes, is critically important to their self-esteem and their ability to achieve the most they can.
* I recognize that striving to win rather than winning itself is what’s important in sports and in life. Striving to win means doing the best you can. I will always provide my maximum effort.
* I recognize that players must get playing time to improve and gain the confidence that helps them develop. I acknowledge that this is more important than winning games.
* I acknowledge that making mistakes and losing are a part of life. I pledge that I will be tolerant of the mistakes of players, coaches, referees and others.
* I understand that respect for the referees and accepting their decisions even if I don’t agree is an important example to set for the kids.
* I acknowledge that winning with grace is as important as losing with grace and overly enthusiastic celebration is as unattractive and insensitive as being a sore loser.
* I recognize that, within the parameters of competition, sportsmanship and fair play are paramount. I pledge that I will commit to promoting an atmosphere of healthy competition for all participants.

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| Signed:  |  Print Name  | Signed:  |  Print Name:  |
| Circle one: Player Parent Coach  | Circle one: Player Parent Coach  |
| Signed:  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name | Signed:  |  Print Name |
| Circle one: Player Parent Coach  | Circle one: Player Parent Coach |