

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS IN SPORTS

A Shared Standard for Every Child in Southeast Michigan

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS IN SPORTS

PROJECT PLAY
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Community
Foundation
FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

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Amplifying the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports

The Children's Bill of Rights in Sports (CBORIS), developed by the Aspen Institute's Project Play initiative, names eight fundamental rights every child deserves through sports and play — a baseline standard, not just an aspiration. Already endorsed by more than 500 national organizations, including UNICEF USA and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, it's now gaining momentum here at home through Project Play: Southeast Michigan, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

You don't have to work in youth sports to help make this movement real. If you're a parent, coach, neighbor or just someone who cares about kids in southeast Michigan, this guide gives you simple language and easy openings to share the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports wherever you already show up.

Get to Know the Rights



To play sports: Organizations should make every effort to accommodate children's interests to participate, and to help them play with peers from diverse backgrounds.



To safe and healthy environments: Children have the right to play in settings free from all forms of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual), hazing, violence and neglect.



To qualified program leaders: Children have the right to play under the care of coaches and other adults who pass background checks and are trained in key competencies.



To developmentally appropriate play: Children have a right to play at a level commensurate with their physical, mental and emotional maturity and their emerging athletic ability. They should be treated as young people first, athletes second.



To share in the planning and delivery of their activities: Children have the right to share their viewpoints with coaches and for their insights to be incorporated into activities.



To an equal opportunity for personal growth: Programs should invest equally in all child athletes, free of discrimination based on any personal or family characteristic.



To be treated with dignity: Children have the right to participate in environments that promote the values of sportsmanship, of respect for opponents, officials and the game.



To enjoy themselves: Children have the right to participate in activities they consider fun and which foster the development of friendships and social bonds.

Four Things to Remember When You Amplify

You don't need to memorize a script. If you remember these four ideas, you can talk about the Children's Bill of Rights in any room, in your own words.

- **This is about what kids deserve — not what organizations promise.**

The Bill of Rights isn't a corporate pledge. It's a plain statement of what every child deserves from sports and play: safety, belonging, good coaching, and fun. Keep the focus on kids, not on logos.

- **It's a regional movement, not a one-time sign-up.**

Endorsing is a first step, not the finish line. Organizations across Southeast Michigan — teams, schools, park districts, nonprofits — are aligning around one shared standard. The more people who know that, the stronger it gets.

- **It takes the whole community, not just "sports people."**

Parents, coaches, teachers, faith leaders, neighbors, and employers all touch a child's experience in sport and play. Anyone can be the person who brings this into a room.

- **Small actions count.**

You don't have to organize a rally. Sharing a post, bringing a flyer to a meeting, or mentioning it to a coach all move the movement forward.

Ready-to-Use Messaging

Copy, adapt and use whatever fits the moment. Swap in your own team, school, or community name wherever you see brackets.

Elevator Pitch

Say this out loud:

"There's a regional effort here in southeast Michigan called the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports. It's a simple, eight-point standard for what every kid deserves from sports and play — things like safety, good coaching and just having fun. Organizations across the region are endorsing it and putting it into practice, and I think [our school/team/organization] should be part of it."

Social Media Caption Template

Post this (adjust the bracketed parts):

Every kid deserves to feel like they belong on the field. That's why [I'm / our team is] standing behind the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports — a shared standard for youth sports here in southeast Michigan. Take a look, and learn more about the movement. [link] #ProjectPlaySEMI

Group Chat / Text to Other Parents or Coaches

Send this:

Hey — wanted to share something short. It's called the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports, a regional list of what every kid deserves from youth sports. Takes two minutes to read. Thought it was worth passing along: [link]

Newsletter or Email Blurb

Drop this into your next newsletter:

Southeast Michigan organizations are coming together around the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports — a shared standard for what every child deserves from youth sports and play. Project Play: Southeast Michigan, an initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, is leading this work regionally, connecting schools, municipalities, youth sports organizations and pro sports teams around one shared vision for quality youth sports experiences. Already endorsed by more than 500 national organizations including UNICEF USA and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, the Bill of Rights is now gaining momentum in our region.

Learn what it says, see who's already on board as a founding endorser and find out how [I am/our organization] is getting involved — plus what comes next once you endorse: welcome packets, toolkits, workshops, and a growing regional network committed to putting these rights into practice. [link]

Where to Spread the Word

This movement grows one room at a time. Here are places you likely already go — and simple ways to bring the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports into the conversation.

Where	How to Bring It Up	A Line to Open With
PTA & school meetings	Ask for two minutes on the agenda. Bring one printed copy of the 8 Rights and a QR code to the endorsement page.	"Our school already believes every kid deserves to play — here's a regional effort putting that in writing."
Coach & team meetings	Share it at a pre-season parent meeting or team kickoff, right alongside your usual ground rules.	"Before we talk schedules, I want to share something short that shapes how we'll treat every kid on this team."

Where	How to Bring It Up	A Line to Open With
Faith communities & youth groups	Mention it during announcements or family ministry events — it pairs naturally with messages about caring for kids.	"This lines up with what we already teach our kids about dignity and belonging — now it has a regional name behind it."
Park & recreation boards / municipal meetings	Ask to have it added as an informational item; invite the board to endorse as an organization.	"This is a chance for our department to publicly stand behind what we already try to do every season."
Workplaces & employee groups	Share in a newsletter, break room or parent employee resource group — especially where staff coach or volunteer.	"A lot of us are coaches, refs or sports parents outside of work — this is worth five minutes of your attention."
Youth sports banquets & award nights	Ask organizers for thirty seconds at the mic, or add the Rights to the program insert.	"As we celebrate this season, here's a reminder of what every one of these young athletes deserves next season too."
Community events & tabling (festivals, farmers markets, back-to-school nights)	Set up a simple table with the one-pager, a sign-up sheet and the QR code.	"Got thirty seconds? Here's something every parent and coach in this room should see."
Social media & group chats	Post the graphic or share the caption templates; tag your league, school or team.	"Sharing this because every kid on our team — and every kid in this region — deserves this."

Where to Point People

- PPSEMI landing page and local endorsement: projectplaysemi.org/cboris
- National framework and the eight rights: projectplay.org/childrens-rights-and-sports
- Questions on messaging or this guide, contact Brittany Thomas at bthomas@cfsem.org.

Thank you to our **founding champions** who have already endorsed. Visit projectplaysemi.org/cboris to join the call and become a proud endorser.

