

PARENT'S CODE OF ETHICS

As a parent I play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of children. Through my encouragement and good example, I can help assure that all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship, and self-discipline. In soccer young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat – all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

Support Your Athlete

Support your athlete by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important. Help your athlete work toward skills improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your athlete that hard work and honest efforts are often more important than victory. Winning isn't everything, developing is.

Always Be Positive

Parents serve as role models for their athletes. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your athlete's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities. Remember lead by example.

Remember That Your Athlete Wants to Have Fun

Remember that your athlete is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let athletes establish their own goals – to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them. Athletes play for the fun of playing.

Reinforce Positive Behavior

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your athlete achieve their goals and their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your athlete does make one, remember it is all part of learning, so encourage your athlete's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.

Don't Be a Sideline Coach or Ref

Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you and they volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experience a positive one. They need your support too. That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there's usually always an opportunity for you to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!