

CODES OF CONDUCT

The Codes of Conduct establish a clear set of guidelines for coaches, players, parents, guardians and spectators. The primary goal is to ensure that soccer is a fun, positive and enjoyable experience for all involved.

The Codes are based on the concept of fair play, defined by four basic principles:

- Respect for the rules;
- Respect for the referees and their decisions;
- Respect for all participants, including teammates, coaches and opponents; and
- Maintaining self-control at all times.

It is a condition of club membership that all members follow the Codes of Conduct at all times. Failure to comply with a will result in action being taken.

PLAYERS:

Players must:

- Play by the rules of the game;
- Respect the referees and officials and to accept their decision without criticism;
- Be fair to your opponent and to treat them well;
- Encourage your teammates and help them to succeed;
- Treat your coach/manager with respect and listen to what he/she says;
- Speak respectfully, openly and honestly in private to your coach should a dispute arise;
- Accept zero tolerance for profanity, temper tantrums, violent behaviour, drugs or alcohol on the field of play or sidelines;
- Shake hands with the other team and referee either at the beginning or end of the game; and
- Be generous and gracious in victory or loss.

PARENTS, GUARDIANS and SPECTATORS:

Parents, guardians and spectators must set an example for the players. Good sportsmanship is not just for players and coaches; so those on the sidelines must:

- Always respect the match officials' decisions and never criticize the officials - nothing positive will result (Note: referees can have an offensive parent or person on the sideline removed from the field, and if they refuse, the game may be forfeited to the opponent);
- Accept zero tolerance for offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour or physical threats;
- Remain outside the field of play and within the designated spectator area (where provided);
- Avoid conflicts with other teams' parents;
- Let the coach do their job, and avoid yelling out instructions from the sidelines that can be confusing and frustrating to the players;
- When cheering, try to cheer all the players, and offer encouragement when they try something or succeed at something - remember that children play for FUN;
- Communicate with your coach if you have ideas or problems;

- Encourage the players to respect the opposition and the match officials; and
- Never criticize a player for making a mistake - mistakes are part of learning.

COACHES and OTHER TEAM OFFICIALS:

All team officials must:

- Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, and spectators;
- Adhere to the Laws of the Game;
- Always respect the match officials' decisions;
- Accept zero tolerance for offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour or physical threats on the field of play or sidelines;
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission;
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials; and
- When working with players:
 - Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning;
 - Explain exactly what is expected of players and what they can expect from the team officials;
 - Ensure the parents/guardians of all players understand expectations from the team officials;
 - Refrain from, and refuse to tolerate any form of bullying;
 - Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem;
 - Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance;
 - Ensure all activities are appropriate for the players' ability level, experience, age and maturity;
 - Teach players to act fairly and respect the rules, referees and our opponents;
 - Be selective in the amount of instructions given to players during the game;
 - Be responsible for ensuring that substitute players, bench personnel and the team's spectators do not interfere with the match;
 - Make sure that equipment/facilities are safe;
 - Not ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or for performing poorly; and
 - Inform parents of any injuries their child might have suffered.