

CODE OF CONDUCT

For SYSA Spectators

SYSA has adopted the following Code of Conduct, expected of all spectators at SYSA-sponsored recreational events, to create the best possible environment for our children and to foster sportsmanship by positive example.

CONDUCT TOWARD PLAYERS:

I RECOGNIZE:

- Children participate in soccer to have fun. The game is for the players, not the spectators.
- Younger egos are fragile and are greatly and negatively influenced by criticism, ridicule and pressure.
- The attitudes, actions and words of parents and spectators have significant impact on the child and the playing atmosphere of the match.
- The benefits of development, teamwork and fun far outweigh the benefits of or emphasis on winning.

I PLEDGE:

- I will be a positive role model, encouraging sportsmanship by my example at all times.
- I will make soccer a positive experience for all players, including my child, encouraging and supportive whether the team wins or loses.
- I pledge unconditional support for my child. I will not force my child to participate in soccer and I will never modulate my level of affection or attention based on my child's performance.
- In the excitement of the matches, I will control my emotions and my words. I will refrain from all criticism and negative comments, limiting my participation to cheering and applauding good play from both teams.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of the children above my personal desire to win.

CONDUCT TOWARD COACHES:

I RECOGNIZE:

- The coaches are unpaid volunteers, making a substantial commitment to SYSA and my child.
- The coaches have earned the right to direct all coaching of the children during practices and matches.
- During matches, even well intentioned direction from parents will confuse and distract players, conflict with coach's direction and put unnecessary pressure on the children.

I PLEDGE:

- I will not coach or yell instructions to any player, including my child, from the touchlines. I will let the children play and have fun.
- I will show respect for all coaches and support them in any way that I can.

CONDUCT TOWARD REFEREES:

I RECOGNIZE:

- Refereeing is a difficult job, requiring physical endurance, constant attention and split-second decisions.
- Many referees are our own children. They are developing skills on-the-job. Since they are human, they will make mistakes.
- Our referees have undergone considerable training to earn the right to officiate the match. They are under constant evaluation by those knowledgeable of the Laws of the Game in order to improve the skills.
- By the Laws of the Game – The referee is given the full and sole authority to judge the match.
- Any issues with referee may be conveyed to the coach, the Referee Assignor or a Referee Mentor.
- Each year SYSA loses good young referees due to abuse by players' parents and spectators.

I PLEDGE:

- I will not address the referee during the match.
- I will not openly show dissent, question the judgment or otherwise undermine referee authority during or after a match.
- I will not use sarcasm, verbal harassment and intimidation or pose physical threats.
- I will respect and support the referee, accepting his/her judgment in a sporting manner.

I understand that unsporting conduct of parents and spectators is not tolerated by SYSA, the VYSA or USYSA and may result in my suspension and the suspension of my child. Physical assault of any kind will result in banishment from SYSA events.

