



United Soccer Athletes (USA) Soccer Club

Code of Conduct for Players, Parents, and Coaches

Soccer is a wonderful sport and a passionate game. We should always remember our attitude is contagious. The referees, the players, the coaches and the fans should come together to match wits and skills. The other team is our opponent, not our enemy, and thus should be treated with respect.

While winning is important, I/we recognize that playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

I will set a good example to those around me by adhering at all times to the following:

1. We will not criticize the referee openly or directly before, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing (to USA or the appropriate League with a copy to USA), not verbally.
2. We will only give positive feedback to players.
3. We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome.
4. We will be mindful in "lopsided" games where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
5. We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
6. We shall find the "little successes" that our players have during each match.
7. We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each and every match and help our players remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.
8. We shall do our very best to have our players prepared for every match.
9. We shall support the learning effort of the players, the coaches and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
10. We understand that improper behavior at a match, practice, or other USA Club sponsored activity may result in the individual(s) being asked to leave the field or the event by a referee, Team Coach (or designee), or USA Board Member in accordance with The Laws of the Game, the specific rules of the League in which your team is a member, or at the reasonable judgment of an above stated official.
11. We understand that (upon review) the USA Soccer Club can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude, disrespectful, or otherwise offensive.
12. We shall leave the coaching to the coach during a match. We shall do our best not to give our players instructions during the match.
13. We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game, as the players should have playing the game.



GRAND VALLEY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Respect – A Game We All Must Play

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in the game. One of the biggest issues within GVSA is the behavior in and around the game. This included the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behavior of over competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sideline.

We ask our coaches to play their part and observe GVSA's Respect Code of Conduct in everything they do. Therefore we ask you to take the following pledge:

On and off the field, I will:

1. Show respect to others involved in the game including match officials, opposition players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators.
2. Adhere to the laws and spirit of the game.
3. Promote Fair Play and high standards of behavior.
4. Always respect the match official's decision.
5. Consistently display high standards of behavior and appearance.
6. Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
7. Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
8. Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior.
9. Always seek ways of increasing professional development and continuing coaching education.

When working with players, I will:

1. Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning.
2. Explain exactly what I expect of players and what they can expect from me.
3. Ensure all parents/guardians of all players under the age of 18 understand these expectations.
4. Never engage in or tolerate any form of bullying.
5. Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self-esteem.
6. Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance.
7. Encourage Captains to take a leadership role on the field in aiding the referee in maintaining control of the game.
8. Ensure all activities I organize are appropriate for the players' ability level, age and maturity.
9. Co-operate fully with others in soccer (e.g. officials, managers, parents) for each player's best interests.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club and or GVSA:

- Required to meet with the club, league.
- Required to meet with a club committee.
- Monitoring by another club coach (?).
- Required to attend an MSYSA education course.
- Suspended by the club from attending matches.
- Suspended or fined by the GVSA.
- Required to leave or be sacked by the club.

Name: _____

Signed _____

Date: _____