



S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer Parental Code of Conduct

Revised 7/2016

S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer (SYS) Code of Conduct is a document that gives all participants, including players, parents, coaches, fans, and board members, in SYS guidance toward appropriate ways of conduct to ensure that our players are having a positive experience in soccer. Below we have outlined the roles of different relationships within the soccer community, how to resolve disputes using the proper channels of communication, and the steps taken by the SYS Executive Board when situations of detrimental conduct arise.

Sportsmanship Statement:

Good sportsmanship between athletes, coaches, game officials, opposing teams, and spectators is one of the most important parts of youth sports. Judgment calls made by officials, coaches, and athletes are made in good faith and should be respected. Spectators are encouraged to support your team, but asked to refrain from making inappropriate and critical comments towards the officials, coaches, players and other spectators. SYS hopes you will enjoy the games and show positive support for all athletes. Please remember that good sportsmanship creates winners for life.

Definition of Appropriate Relationships and Communication in SYS:

Athlete/Coach Relationship

As your child becomes more involved in soccer, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand, however, that there may be times when things do not go the way you or your child wishes. At these times, discussion between the coach and athlete is encouraged.

Parent/Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefits to our players. As parents, when your child becomes involved in SYS, you have a right to understand the expectations placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach of your child's team.

Communication Parents Can Expect From the Coach

- Philosophy of the coach.
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as all members of the team.
- Location and times of all practices and games.
- Team requirements; i.e.: equipment, practices, etc.
- Procedures should your child be injured during practices or games.

Communication Coaches Can Expect From Parents

- Concerns by the parent(s) expressed directly and privately to the coach.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance.
- Specific concerns regarding a coach's philosophy and/or expectations.

Appropriate Concerns to Discuss with Coaches

- The treatment of your child mentally and physically.
- Ways to help your child improve.
- Concerns about your child's behavior.

As a parent, it is very difficult to accept that your child is not playing as much as you may hope or playing an undesired position. Coaches are not professionals. They make judgments based on what they believe to be best for all players involved. As you can see from the list above, certain things can be and should be discussed with your child's coach. Other issues must be left to the discretion of the league division commissioner or Executive Board.

Issues Not Appropriate to Discuss with Coaches

- Playing time and/or position, unless specific recreational rules are being violated
- Team strategy
- Game strategy
- Other players and their families

There are situations that arise that may require a conference between the coach and parent. This dialogue is encouraged. It is important that both parties have a clear understanding of the others position. When a conference is necessary, the following procedure should be used to help promote a resolution of the concern.

Procedure to Use in Discussing Concerns with a Coach

1. Call (or email) to set up an appointment. Please keep in mind that most SYS coaches are volunteers and have careers outside of soccer. Therefore, meeting times during the daytime hours may be limited. Make sure at the beginning of the season that you have contact information for both coaches, as well as the commissioner for your child's division.
2. If the coach cannot be reached, or does not reply in a timely manner, please call or email the designated league commissioner.
3. Please do not attempt to initiate a discussion or confront a coach before, during or after a game or practice. This can be an emotional time for all parties. Meetings in this setting usually do not promote a resolution.

What can a parent do if the meeting with the Coach or league commissioner did not respond or provide a satisfactory resolution? What can a parent do if the Coach/League Commissioner did not respond or the meeting did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

- Call and set up an appointment with the commissioner or Director of Coaching to discuss the situation further with you, your child and the coach. At this meeting, further appropriate steps can be discussed and determined, including a review by the SYS Executive Board if appropriate.

Appropriate conduct for SPORTS Youth Soccer:

SYS will hold all participants, players, coaches and spectators accountable for any actions that may be deemed detrimental to either the safety of play or the safety of anyone present. Good sports make soccer fun for all! We are working together to teach our kids valuable life lessons! Respect our officials, coaches, players and spectators. If it's not a positive comment, it's probably not a good one. Profanity, degrading remarks, acts of violence, or any form of intimidation will not be tolerated. Anyone using profanity will be asked to leave the field immediately.

Any form of alcohol, tobacco or drugs are strictly prohibited at any soccer field

All players, coaches and spectators are part of the SYS community and are accountable for their actions. Verbal abuse toward officials, players, and coaches will not be tolerated. Anyone in violation of this policy is subject to discipline by the SYS Executive Board.

* S.P.O.R.T.S. Youth Soccer expressly reserves the rights to revoke any and all privileges in respect to playing, coaching or watching any games. If an act is considered in violation of our "code of conduct", immediate suspension may occur until the SYS Executive Board can evaluate such act. Any type of ejection from a game, whether player, coach or spectator, will result in a review by the SYS Executive Board. The individual ejected will require reinstatement by the SYS Executive Board prior to any additional participation. Any review by the SYS Executive Board may result in a penalty up to and including expulsion from the league. We are hopeful that the information provided in this document will enhance both player and parent participation in our soccer program.