

Parent Code of Conduct

The mission of Highland Scots Soccer is to promote the defined Core Values in an environment where all levels of players will enjoy their soccer experience. We choose to focus on the longevity of a player's development as opposed to short-term results and performances. Highland Scots Soccer will provide youth with the opportunity to participate in a soccer experience where they can develop positive self-esteem and build character by learning the virtues of hard work, fair play, respect, honesty, self-control, teamwork, and sportsmanship. This high-quality experience begins with providing our youth with high-quality coaches. It is our duty to ensure our coaches have the necessary tools and training to succeed as a positive coach. While our goal is to build the best young athlete on and off the field, we hope to also build lasting, positive relationships with parents and members of the community who are ultimately the foundation of Highland Scots Soccer.

Responsibilities of the Parent or Guardian:

Commitment:

- Ensure your child has all of the necessary equipment in order to play soccer. Supply them with water, an appropriate-sized soccer ball, shin guards (worn under socks) and cleats.
- Please try your best to ensure your child makes all the practices and games and to be on time to all scheduled events. If your child is sick or unable to make a game/practice, please notify your coach as soon as possible.
- Please ensure your child comes to practice/games prepared (visited the bathroom, shoes tied, fed). We are happy to assist when needed, but taking care of these things prior to the practice/game will help tremendously.
- Remember our environment is tobacco and alcohol free. Please refrain from these activities while engaging in any event sponsored by our organization. Also, please refrain from using inappropriate or threatening language. There is never a place in youth sports to use vulgarities, threaten, intimidate, or use physical aggression.

Sportsmanship and Excellence:

- As parents and guardians you have the great opportunity to lead by example. If you make it common practice to show proper respect for all players, opponents, coaches, officials, and other spectators, your child will follow your lead. There is grace in not only winning, but also losing.
- It is your duty to be the parent. We are providing the coach. Please refrain from coaching on the sidelines. Understand that you are to cheer the team on as encouragement only. Providing your child or teammates with instruction such as, "shoot," "pass the ball," etc. can confuse the player, especially if the coach is instructing something different at the time.
- If you have issues or concerns from a game, please do not approach the coach during or directly after the game. Plan to have that conversation after the next practice.
- Realize that our coaches are volunteers, and they are doing their very best to provide a fun, instructional environment for your child. Do not criticize your child's coach in front of your child. This jeopardizes the safe environment we are trying to promote.
- Know that if you are feeling a desire to coach there are many opportunities for you within our organization. There is no place for criticism and negative behaviors towards our coaches.
- Understand that our referees are not perfect. Instead of focusing on everything the referee is doing wrong, teach your child that it's important to continue playing with integrity just as much as it's important for you to spectate with the same level of integrity.
- At no times should you engage the referee or the opposing team's players, coaches, or parents. Remember, there is a zero tolerance for negative behavior and engaging in conflict. We rise above this behavior and choose to be a positive reflection of our team, school, and community.

Praise and Support:

- Your child needs your love, support, and encouragement. We are promoting an environment that should not only be instructional, but safe and fun as well.
- Using positive reinforcement will help your child overcome their fear of failure. Mistakes are necessary in learning. By focusing on the effort and positive aspects of the game, your child will be successful and not fearful to make a mistake.
- It is important to remember your child needs to play the game for themselves and have goals that are their own, not ones that are enforced by mom and dad. Remember, children play soccer for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Don't add extra pressure for your child to win games or score goals. It is proven that those players whose parents add extra pressure and criticism to their child are more likely to quit before they reach their potential because all of the fun has been taken out of a sport they used to love.

Players Code of Conduct

As a player of Highland Scots Soccer, I will understand the Core Values as they apply to me and adopt them as my own. This will help me become the best athlete I can be, both on and off the field.

TEAMwork:

- I will adopt the attitude, "Together Everyone Achieves More."
- I will put the success of the team before any individual success.
- I will do my best to always cooperate with my team.
- I understand that it requires zero talent to give effort. I will strive to give my team 100% effort whenever I step onto the field.

Respect:

- I will respect parents, coaches, officials, opponents, and teammates.
- I will treat others the way I would like to be treated.
- I will show kindness and encouragement to those around me and accept others for who they are.
- I will be thankful and listen to those who are offering instruction and guidance.

Sportsmanship:

- I will show proper respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- I understand there is grace in not only winning, but also losing.
- I will not engage in negative behavior towards any teammate, opponent, coach, official, or spectator.
- I will choose to be a positive reflection of my team, school, and community.
- My attitude will not have a negative impact on a teammate's enjoyment.

Enjoyment:

- I will play soccer for my own enjoyment, not just to please my parents and coaches.
- I will not allow the competitiveness of the sport to be more important than the enjoyment I have for soccer.
- I will continue to enjoy activities other than soccer so I don't experience athlete burn-out.
- My attitude will not have a negative impact on a teammate's enjoyment.

Integrity:

- I will do what is right, even in difficult situations.
- I will adopt the philosophy of "doing the right thing even when nobody is watching."
- I understand that doing this will teach me patience, honesty, responsibility, dependability, accountability, and caring.
- I understand all of these qualities are necessary to become a great athlete.

Competitiveness:

- I will show persistence, hard work, and a positive attitude on and off the field.
- I will ensure my competitiveness never stands in the way of our other Core Values.
- I will learn how to be competitive and still reflect sportsmanship, teamwork, respect, and integrity.
- I will not forget that I can still have fun while being competitive.