

# Code of Ethics

The codes of ethics below are being communicated to clarify and define standards of behavior expected from players, coaches, parents, spectators and officials who make up the Missouri Youth Soccer Association. When we all follow these ethics, the game will be more enjoyable for all. Failure to abide by these codes could result in sanctions being imposed against individuals and/or teams.

## Players

- Play by the rules
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviors in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## Parents and Spectators

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rule and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decision and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

## Coaches

- Remember that young people participate for please and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the laws and spirit of soccer and teach your players to do the same.
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Ensure that all players receive an appropriate amount of playing time; the just-average players need and deserve equal time.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training and competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Coaches shall give opponents the respect expected by the FIFA Laws of the Game and the spirit of US Youth Soccer competition. Encourage players to do the same.
- Coaches shall accept the responsibilities of team leadership and shall be accountable for the conduct of the players, team officials, parent and spectators affiliated with their teams.
- Coaches shall extend respect and courtesy to match and competition officials.

## Officials

- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behavior and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasize the spirit of the game rather than the errors.
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behavior and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
- Give all young people a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Officials shall extend respect and courtesy to players, coaches, parents and spectators.