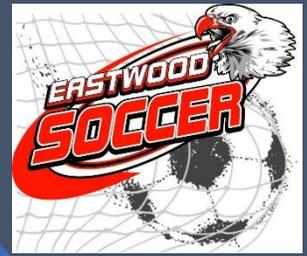


# EASTWOOD YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION PHILOSOPHY & CODE OF CONDUCT

Players, Coaches, Parents/Guardians, Fans & Board Members



The Eastwood Youth Soccer Association (EYSA) is a recreational soccer program located in Luckey/Pemberville, Ohio with majority of players attending Eastwood Schools. EYSA belongs to the East Suburban Soccer League (ESSL) which is affiliated with the national organization Soccer Association for Youth (SAY). EYSA & ESSL adhere to SAY's philosophy and code of conduct for players, coaches, parents/guardians, fans and board members.

## Philosophy

SAY philosophy: *To provide an opportunity for all youth to learn and play recreational soccer.* EYSA encourages Eastwood students, coaches and parents to follow the Eagle Way by doing what's right, doing the best we can, and treat others the way we want to be treated. Good sportsmanship is expected between athletes, coaches, game officials, opposing teams, and spectators. Judgment calls made by officials, players, coaches, and board members are made in good faith and should be respected.

The EYSA Code of Conduct gives all participants, including players, parents, coaches, fans, and board members guidance toward appropriate ways of conduct to ensure a positive soccer experience.

## Code of Conduct

In order to uphold the philosophy and promote community spirit, the EYSA adopts the following Code of Conduct/Ethics for all players, parents/guardians, coaches, board members and fans:

### PLAYERS

- Demonstrate and example good sportsmanship while encouraging it from fellow players at all times.
- Play by the rules of the game.
- View playing soccer as an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- Remain respectful toward other players, coaches, referees and spectators.
- Never argue or complain about referees' calls or decisions.
- Make every effort to attend all practices and games, arriving on time.
- Maintain an even temperament and resist retaliation.
- Give 100% effort at practice, and during games.

## COACHES

- Follow the *SAY Coach Code of Ethics* located in the SAY Coach Manual.
- Provide a positive model for their players and parents, by consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of an EYSA coach at all times.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship while encouraging it from players, parents and fans.
- Refrain from open arguments & negative comments with referees, other coaches and parents.
- Ensure equitable playing time and adhere to SAY's Player Registration/Reconciliation Process (Risk Management) as specified in SAY, ESSL and EYSA rules/by-laws.
- Discipline players in a fair and consistent manner.

## PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Provide a positive model for their children and fellow parents by consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of an EYSA parent.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and self-discipline while encouraging it in their children, their team's coach and fellow fans at all times.
- Make athletic participation for their child and others a positive, fun experience.
- Attempt to minimize the pressure of competition and place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of a desire to win.
- Be respectful toward coaches, referees, your child, other parents and their children.
- Alert coaches of any players' health conditions.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.
- Refrain from coaching and refereeing "from the sidelines."
- Make every effort to ensure players are at designated practice and game events on time.
- Understand what the registration fee provides:
  - ESSL & SAY League Participation
  - Accidental Injury Insurance
  - Equipment
  - Referee Costs
  - Volunteer Background Checks
  - Tournament Participation Fees
  - T-Shirts for U4, U6 and Coaches
  - Grounds Maintenance

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Provide a positive model for players, parents, coaches and fellow board members by consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of an EYSA board members.

- Strive at all times to serve the best interests of EYSA as a whole, regardless of their personal interests.
- Use sound judgment to make the best possible decisions for the EYSA, taking into consideration all available information, circumstances and resources.
- Maintain loyalty to the interests of the EYSA program. This accountability supersedes any conflicting loyalty such as that to advocacy or interest groups and membership on other boards or staffs. This accountability supersedes the personal interest of any Board member acting as an individual participant of the program.
- Board members may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization except as explicitly set forth in Board policies/by-laws.
- Board members' interaction with the players, coaches, parents, public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the similar inability of any Board member or Board members to speak for the Board. The Board, on matters of policy, shall speak with one voice (President). On matters of opinion, any individual expressing such opinion shall state clearly that it is that member's opinion or comment, and not the Board's opinion or comment.
- Board members will participate in required scheduled meetings to serve effectively as members EYSA Board.
- When EYSA participants express an opinion to an EYSA board member, the board member clarifies what the reporter wants done with the information. See "Actions" below for procedure.
- Uphold the EYSA, ESSL and SAY's Code of Conducts for all participants and provide due process for reviews and discipline(s).

## FANS

- Provide a positive model for their team consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of an EYSA fan.
- Refrain from making inappropriate and critical comments towards the officials, coaches, players and other spectators.
- Be respectful toward coaches, referees, children, parents and other spectators.

## Communication/Actions

### COMMUNICATION

The key to team success is communication.

- Players can expect coaches to communicate what is expected from them. Players are strongly encouraged to communicate issues directly with their coaches whenever possible.
- Parents can expect coaches to communicate what is expected from their child, team requirements and when practices/games are held.

- Coaches can expect players/parents to express concerns directly and privately to them as well as notification of schedule conflicts within reasonable time.
- Players, parents and coaches can expect board members to communicate all programmatic information and expectations in a consistent, open manner. Initial contact with board members can be made to the EYSA email.

## ACTIONS

All EYSA participants shall abide by the association's Code of Conduct at all times. Inappropriate behavior determined to violate this Code of Conduct may result in immediate suspension until the EYSA Board can evaluate such act. EYSA expressly reserves the rights to revoke any and all privileges in respect to playing, coaching or watching any games.

EYSA & ESSL have a "0" tolerance policy in regards to language, fighting and unsportsmanlike conduct. 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. Verbal abuse toward officials, players, and coaches will not be tolerated. Any form of alcohol, tobacco or drugs are strictly prohibited at any soccer field. All players, coaches and spectators are accountable for their actions.

Any type of ejection from a game, whether player, coach or spectator, will result in a review by the EYSA Board. The individual ejected will require reinstatement by the EYSA Board prior to any additional participation. Any review by the EYSA Board may result in a penalty up to and including expulsion from the program. Additionally, players, parents/guardians, and coaches may also be subject to sanctions from the ESSL and SAY organizations.

When EYSA participants express an opinion to an EYSA board member, the board member clarifies what the reporter wants done with the information. All requests are to be composed and sent to the EYSA email to formally be addressed. If the participant wishes the information to be provided to the board, the participant will be invited to the next board meeting to do so. If the participant does not wish to attend, the board members will ask permission to report on their behalf. The issue will be placed on the agenda and included in the meeting minutes along with any actions taken. Anonymous reports are not permitted to foster trust and integrity.

## Closing

EYSA's commitment to a fun and rewarding soccer program is through all participants. Information provided outlines expectations and provides accountability to all involved.

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