



WMYSL CODE OF CONDUCT

for Players & Parents

One of West Marin Youth Soccer League's goals is to provide children an opportunity to develop superior life skills through team play, sportsmanship, competition, and hard work. Our mission is "Enriching lives and connecting communities through the sport of soccer." An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club's mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all WMYSL players, parents, and coaches.

These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between WMYSL players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our core values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles:

- (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude;
- (2) Setting a good example; and
- (3) Maintaining good relationships with all youth soccer participants
 - including officials, opponents, and our own team's players, parents, and coaches.

1. DEMONSTRATING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for teammates, officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of WMYSL.

2. SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Each person associated with WMYSL is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples. WMYSL will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone during practice, before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents.

3. MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

Officials - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate league or tournament officials about blatant officiating problems. In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection for the player, coach or parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters.

Opponents - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of soccer, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

BE SUPPORTIVE AND YOUR CHILD'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

DON'T BE A SIDELINE COACH OR REF

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment.

DEMONSTRATE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD YOUR OPPONENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent WMYSL in a positive way when playing other clubs. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHILD WANTS TO HAVE FUN

Your child is the one playing soccer, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

Violations of the Parent Code of Conduct may result in:

- A Parent may be suspended and/or removed from a game/tournament by a referee for misconduct.
- A Coach may be suspended and/or removed from a game/tournament by a referee for a misconduct.
- A Player may be benched by the team's coach for parent misconduct before, during, or after a game.
- A Member or Family could be released from the Club for misconduct.

I agree to the above Code of Conduct.

Parent signature

Parent Printed Name

Date: _____



PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

It is a privilege to play soccer for WMYSL. As a WMYSL player, I will:

1. Play the game for the game's sake, and not just to please my parents or coach.
2. Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose.
3. Respect the game of soccer and its laws, learn these laws and try to follow them, and play the game fairly.
4. Work for the good of my team and give my best effort at all times.
5. Show respect for the authority of the referee, even though I will sometimes disagree with his/her calls.
6. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. I understand that soccer is a game, and that the players on the other team are my opponents, not my enemies.
7. Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated.
8. Help my parents and fans understand the laws of the game so they can watch and enjoy the game better. I will be sure they understand that dissent is not appropriate or permitted at league or tournament games.
9. Control my temper and not retaliate, physically or verbally, even if I believe I have been wronged.

Player consequences will be determined by the team coach, Director of Coaching, and/or WMYSL Board for violations of the player Code of Conduct. Consequences can include player being suspended or released from WMYSL.

I agree to the above Code of Conduct.

Parent signature

Parent Printed Name

Date: _____