

# AYSA – ASTON UNITED

## 2018-2019 Code Of Conduct

### Club Principles

The goals and objectives of our youth soccer program are to collectively seek to instill and/or strive to attract:

- Committed and Respectful Players
- Qualified Volunteer Coaches and Trainers
- Supportive and Respectful Parents
- Energetic and Motivated Volunteers
- Organized Board and Team Managers
- Family Atmosphere

These principles are the foundation of AYSA and our Members are the pillars of that foundation. Conversely, we want to eliminate influences which create a negative atmosphere. As a member of the club it is up to each of us to call this out and demand a higher standard from ourselves. This does not require confrontation, but diplomacy and positive intent.

### Member Behavior and Attitude

Fostering the highest level of sportsmanship is essential to reaching our goal of individual character development. All players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive and respectful attitude at all times. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermines the ideal of sportsmanship and encourages behavior contrary to the spirit of the game, and moreover, the mission and guiding principles of the AYSA.

### Setting a good example

Each Member of AYSA is accountable for his/her behavior at all times on or off the field of play and whether at practice, game or attending any tournament. Parents, coaches and other adults affiliated in any way with the club should remember that children learn by example and it is up to you to set the highest example of integrity, respect for our club and love of the game. Whenever attending an AYSA related event, your conduct reflects on the reputation of the entire club. AYSA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the club, the participants, or the community. We require discipline and self-restraint by all of our members (Players, Parents, Coaches, and Volunteers). Teams must exercise immediate and appropriate control over those individuals who fail to control themselves and fail to adhere to these principles of sportsmanship.

### Maintaining good relationships

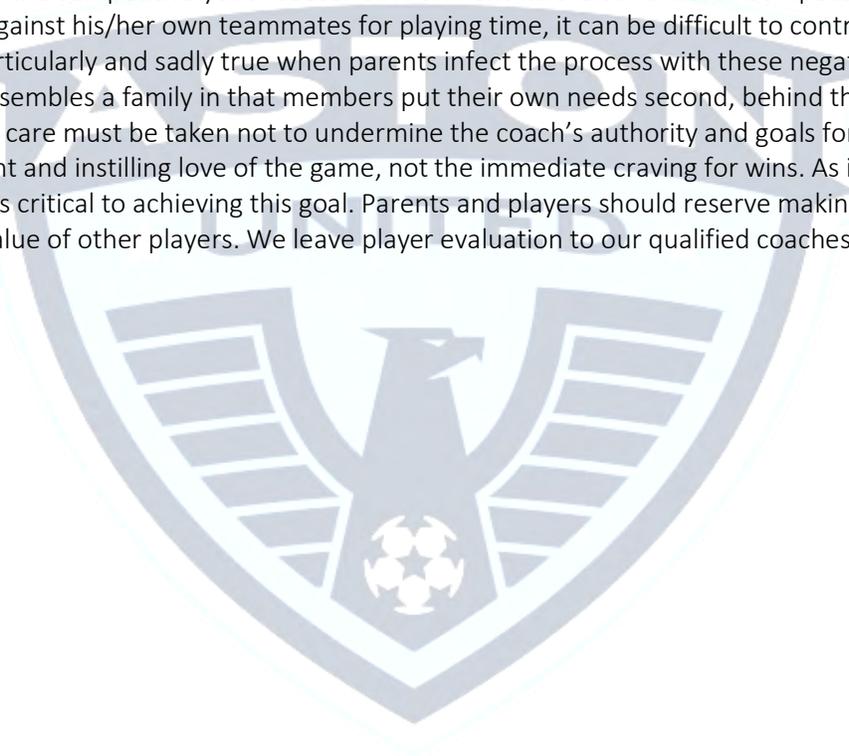
**Officials** - The referee or assistant referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and therefore make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or have been assigned an unqualified referee, should only direct their concerns to their coach. Coaches should inform the appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. Managers should make reports through appropriate channels. Any official complaints about referees in match reports should be prepared by the coach with the utmost integrity and professionalism.

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In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection of the offending player, coach, parent, or anyone else associated with a team or its players. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters. More importantly, there is no instance where any player other than a captain should directly address the referee. No parent should ever address the referee before, during or after a match (including the parking lot).

**Opponents (other clubs)** - 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 self-respect and respect for one another. Without it, the positive competitive environment we strive to instill (which should be a player's outside classroom for learning the values of soccer and ideals of sportsmanship) 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.

**Our Own Team** - In the competitive youth soccer environment where our children compete against other teams, and even against his/her own teammates for playing time, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. This is particularly and sadly true when parents infect the process with these negative emotions. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coach's authority and goals for long-time player development and instilling love of the game, not the immediate craving for wins. As in most cases, parental example is critical to achieving this goal. Parents and players should reserve making public judgment of the value of other players. We leave player evaluation to our qualified coaches and trainers.



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### Player's Code of Conduct

#### Player Expectations

It is a privilege to play for the Aston United (AYSA). At all times, I will:

- Play because I love playing soccer
- Be respectful to myself, my parents, teammates and coaches
- Be modest and generous when I win and gracious when I lose
- Respect the game of soccer and its laws, learn these laws, follow them, and play the game fairly
- Work for the good of my team and the club. I will give my best effort at all times
- Show respect for the authority of the referee, even though I may sometimes disagree with his / he calls
- 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.
- Shake the opposing players hands after every match.
- Shake the opposing coaches hands after every match.
- Shake the referees hands after every match.
- Conduct myself with honor and dignity and treat other players as I would like to be treated
- Control my temper and not retaliate, even if I believe I have been wronged.
- Be responsible for my own equipment (ball, uniform, water, etc) when going to training or games and not rely on my parents to pack and carry my equipment
- Come to games and training prepared and with the proper attitude and focus
- Not use or possess tobacco, alcohol, or illegal or performance-enhancing drugs
- Not use foul or profane language

#### Player Consequences

Players will be held accountable for their actions. Depending on the severity of misbehavior, misconduct or descent, and the discretion of the AYSA Board of Directors, the player may have the following imposed:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence: Suspension – 1 week from training, and 1 Game
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence: Suspension – 3 weeks from training, and 3 games
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Occurrence: Expulsion from AYSA
- \* All/any disciplinary occurrences will be cumulative over your AYSA career.

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Player Signature

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Date

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### **Parent's Code of Conduct**

As a parent of a player and a member of Aston United (AYSA), you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. You have entrusted his/her soccer development to the experienced Trainers, and volunteer Coaches of AYSA. Your enthusiasm, encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. While winning is important in competitive soccer, playing well and fairly is the true essence of the game. The expectation as a member of this club is that you will set an example for your children, the coaches, the referees and the opposing team as to what it means to be Aston United. In the excitement of it all, take a moment to stop and think about the right choice, for you, your player and the club.

We expect you, as a parent of an Aston United player, to do the following:

#### **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 training session and every match. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

#### **Always be positive**

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. The best thing that you can tell your child is how much you enjoy watching them play. Focusing on the negative is not productive. It is the role of the coach and trainer to drive development. Let them do it.

#### **Don't be a sideline coach or referee**

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream instructions 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 your child on the field of play. First and foremost, your child should be looking to their coach for teaching moments during the game, not to a parent for approval or disapproval. Inevitably, your son or daughter will look to you for your reactions to good and bad things that happen to him/her on the field of play. How you respond could have an indelible effect on his/her development. Be prepared for this moment.

Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty. There is no cause or reason for you to have any negative interaction or communication with the referee or assistant referee before, during and after a match. Our collective experience at AYSA games over the last decades has proven that parents screaming at or questioning a referee has never positively influenced a match. It has only set a bad example for our players and reflected poorly on our Club's reputation. Communication with the referee during the match should only come from the Coach and Team Captains. These types of negative engagements with officials, coaches, opposing teams or team members are all things that are entirely within our control.

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### 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 Aston United in a positive way when visiting 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 and making their own decisions on the field.

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his/her soccer development by adhering at all times to the following:

- We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my team manager/coach and my club VP representative, not verbally.
- We will give only positive feedback to players.
- We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in “lopsided” game where cheering our own “winning” team might be misunderstood.
- We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
- We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.
- We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
- We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
- We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee, or a club official so the coach does not receive a yellow card caution or a red card ejection due to the action of the parent spectator.
- We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
- We understand that the leagues can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
- We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.
- We will do our best to have our child to training and games at the time specified by the Coach/Manager

### Parent Consequences

Parents will be accountable for their actions. Depending on the severity of misbehavior, misconduct or descent, and the discretion of the AYSA Board of Directors, the parent may have the following imposed:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence: Suspension – 1 week from training, and 1 Game
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence: Suspension – 3 weeks from training, and 3 games
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Parent Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Guardian Signature

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### Coach's Code of Conduct

Coaching youth players at Aston United (AYSA) should be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. It is a privilege to play a part in the development of a child in sport. With that privilege also comes a significant responsibility. This Code of Conduct enumerates basic requirements of your position, organized under four principles. They are: **Setting a good example; Keeping players safe; Ensuring that all participants have a positive experience; and Relating to officials in an exemplary manner and encouraging players to do the same.**

#### Setting a Good Example

The coach's example is powerful. If a coach insists on fair play, concentrates on players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and supports the referee, players and parents will notice. If a coach discourages (or allows) players to play outside the rules, are overly concerned about the results, and/or criticize the referee or opposing coach, players and parents will also notice. Above all, children deserve a coach they can respect.

- Coaches, in all contact with players, parents, officials and other coaches, should strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. Before, during, and after the game, they should be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before games, opposing coaches should meet and exchange greetings to set the proper tone for the game. After games, the teams and coaches should meet and congratulate each other in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Coaches should ensure that their players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment, and improvement in skill (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at, lectured or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game. Coaches should be generous with praise when it is deserved.
- Coaches will wear Aston United coaching attire when coaching games. You should look the part when representing Aston United.
- Coaches should avoid any conduct which could be construed as physically or verbally abusive.
- Coaches should completely refrain from verbal dissent during a game with an opposing coach's bench and should never negatively address an opposing player.
- Coaches should honor all professional relationships with colleagues, associations, the media, officials and the public. Conflicts of interest and exploitation of these relationships must be avoided.
- Coaches should never utilize their position with the Club for his/her secondary gain.

#### Keeping Players Safe

Coaches should have the safety of the players in their charge as their first priority at all times. Coaches should be familiar with the facilities and fields on which their teams practice and play and be mindful of the levels of fitness and skill of each one of their players. Coaches should also be familiar with the Laws of the Game, current with principles of age-appropriate coaching, aware of applicable existing rules and regulations, and informed of the affairs of the Aston United and their league.

- Coaches should check players' equipment and playing facilities frequently. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of players.
- Coaches should follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again. During a game, and in an absence of medical advice, coaches should err on the side of caution in permitting an injured player to return to play.

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### Creating a Positive Experience

AYSA wants to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees, and spectators. Coaches should require all players and spectators to adhere to the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. During the game, the coach is responsible for the sportsmanship of the players. If a player is carded or is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, the coach should remove the player from the game at least long enough for the player to calm down. Coaches should explain acceptable behavior to players and parents at a preseason meeting. Encourage parents to make positive comments about good play by either team. Prohibit them from yelling at players and the referee.

### Relating to Officials

Coaches should demonstrate respect for the official and their role. Coaches can help referees improve by letting them concentrate on the game, accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes, and offering constructive post-game comments.

- Before a game, coaches should introduce themselves to the referee. During the game, they should never address the referee except to request a substitution. After the game, they should thank the referee and ask players to do the same.
- A small disagreement should be discussed with the referee calmly after the game. For major complaints, or if the referee appeared to be unfair, biased, unfit, or incompetent, report opinions to the Director of Referees. Have VP of Club teams contact Ref Assignor, and or League officials
- This rule applies to dealings with league officials in addition to match officials.

### Coach Consequences

Coaches will be accountable for their actions. Depending on the severity of misbehavior, misconduct or descent, and the discretion of the AYSA Board of Directors, the coach may have the following imposed:

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Coach/ Trainer Signature

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Date

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Coach/ Trainer Signature

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Date