

# CODE OF ETHICS & BEHAVIOR FOR PARENTS

A parent attending their child's game is, and should only be, a spectator. The referee is there to referee the game; the coach is there to coach the game. A parent is there to watch the game and cheer for their child and the child's team.

The following **CODE OF ETHICS AND BEHAVIOR** is offered here to exemplify the ideal Parent/Spectator.

## I WILL:

**Remember SAY's motto: KIDS HAVING FUN!** If they're not having fun, find out why and seek to change it.

**Know the game.** Play soccer with your kids at home, even if it's just for five minutes a day. Take a referee or coaching course. Read about soccer & watch games on TV with your kids.

**Encourage fair play.** Teach your child the "Golden Rule" (do unto others as you would have them do unto you) and apply it to all games and practices.

**Be supportive of all activities.** Bring your child to games and practices on time and ready to play. Have them bring a ball, water, shinguards & cleats.

**Refrain from using drug, alcohol and tobacco products at all youth soccer events.** Request other adults present to refrain from their use as well.

**Communicate any safety concerns.** Inform the coach, officials or administrators of anything you feel is, or may create, a dangerous situation for anyone attending games or practices.

**Be positive or be quiet.** Encouraging words make soccer more fun. Words like "Don't" and "Can't" are four-letter words and shouldn't be yelled in public.

**Be respectful and expect my children to be respectful.** This pertains not just to the coaches and referees, but also to other players and parents. Do not create an incident that would be cause for your removal. Suzie does not understand why Mommy or Daddy has to leave the game; and, frankly, neither do we!

**Promote good nutrition.** Before each game and practice, ensure that your child has had something nutritious to eat, but not so much that they will feel weighed down. Have them pre-hydrate by drinking water before they arrive, as well as during the activities.

**Volunteer to assist the coach or team.** Be a "team player!" If you have soccer skills or knowledge, or are just good working with kids, offer to help at practice. If not, make

calls, bring snacks, collect money for events, collect paperwork or do anything else that needs doing. The coach is busy coaching; don't make him/her do all the management as well.

**Support the coach's and referee's decisions.** They are both doing a difficult job to the best of their abilities. If you have real concerns, speak with the coach in private.

**Communicate with my child.** Recognize your child's individual performance. Ask, "How did you do?" not "Did you win?" Then listen to their reply. Be honest; don't use flattery. Be sure to address any concerns they may have. Do not belittle their fears or opinions.

**Give praise freely.** When someone, anyone, is doing a good job at what they're doing, don't be afraid to let them know! Whether it's your child, another child on the team, a child on the opposing team, the coach or, yes, even the referee!

**Remind others, when necessary, of the Parent's Code of Ethics.** Do so gently, politely and with respect.

**I hereby pledge to follow this Parent's Code of Ethics.**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

# **MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING COACHES' OR PARENTS' CODE OF ETHICS**

The following are examples of violations of the Coaches' and Parents' Code of Ethics. These unsporting behaviors will result in specific penalties to be issued by the SAYArea Review Board, District Representative and/or the SAYArea Board.

Every coach is hereby instructed to make all parents' aware and knowledgeable of the following penalties for breeches of the Parents' Code of Ethics. Please make copies of this page and review them with your parents.

1. Entering the field of play without permission of the referees  
**WARNING/CAUTION/EJECTION, 1 GAME SUSPENSION**
2. Threatening actions or words towards officials, players or spectators –  
**EJECTION/TWO GAME SUSPENSION**
3. Abusive language to an official – **EJECTION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE 2 GAME SUSPENSION**
4. Aggressive physical contact with the referee or a player, i.e. grabbing the arm, turning individual around, poking, bumping or pushing – **EJECTION WITH TWO GAME SUSPENSION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE EJECTION/EXPULSION** (Expulsion must be approved by the National Board of Directors)
5. Striking an official, player or spectator – **EJECTION/EXPULSION** (Must be approved by the National Board of Directors)
6. Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection – **ONE GAME SUSPENSION AND FORFEITURE OF GAME, REGARDLESS OF LENGTH OF GAME PLAYED**
7. Constant and excessive verbal harassment of the referee or players –  
**CAUTION/EJECTION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE 1 GAME SUSPENSION**
8. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsporting manner –  
**CAUTION/EJECTION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE 5 GAME SUSPENSION**
9. Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsporting manner with deliberate intent to harm – **EJECTION WITH 2 GAME SUSPENSION/2<sup>ND</sup> OFFENSE, EJECTION/EXPULSION** (Expulsion must be approved by the National Board of Directors)

**10. Playing an illegal player – GAME FORFEITURE** If it can be proved that the coach deliberately and with full knowledge used an illegal player – **SEASON SUSPENSION** (Must be approved by National Board of Directors)

Spectators can often be guilty of one or more of the actions described in items 1 through 9 above, but a team may not be punished for the actions of those people who are not formally a part of either team. For all actions calling for a caution as a penalty, the spectator is to be given a verbal warning. Repetition of this action will lead to ejection from the area of the field (out of sight and hearing distance).

Actions calling for a coach or parent suspension or expulsion will result in ejection from the field, with a written report to the SAYArea Board, who will decide on punishment or legal action against that person.

