



## Churchland Soccer League Parent Code of Conduct

To the parents of players participating in our programs While watching from the sidelines during your children's soccer game:

1. Let the coaches' coach. If you are telling your son or daughter to do something different from what the coach is telling them, you create distraction and confusion.
2. It is very unnerving for many young players to try and perform difficult tasks on the field on the spur of the moment when parents are yelling at them from the sidelines. Let the kids play. They have been coached and if they make a mistake on the field, chances are they will learn from it.
3. Do not discuss the play of specific players in front of other parents. Negative comments and attitudes are hurtful, totally unnecessary and kill parent harmony, which is often essential to youth team success. Discourage such toxic behavior by listening patiently to any negative comments that might be made, then address issues in a positive way. Speak to the positive qualities of a player, family, or coach.
4. Do your level best not to complain about your son or daughter's coaches to other parents. (As an aside, if you have what you truly feel is a legitimate concern about your child's coach – either regarding game strategy or playing time, arrange an appointment to meet privately with the coach and a Board Member).
5. Make positive comments from the sideline. Be encouraging. Young athletes do not need to be reminded constantly about their perceived errors or mistakes. Their coaches will instruct them, either during the game or at halftime, and during practices. You can often see a young player make that extra effort when they hear encouraging words from the sideline about their hustle.
6. Avoid making any negative comments about players on the other team. We are talking about youngsters, not adults who are being paid to play professionally.
7. Try to keep interaction with parents on the other team as healthy and positive as possible.. Be courteous until it hurts; avoid the 'tit for tat' syndrome. Parents on the 'other' team are not the enemy. Neither are the boys or girls on the other team.
8. Do not criticize the referees. There are times when calls are missed and that can, unfortunately, directly affect the outcome of a game. Those who officiate at youth soccer games are hardly overcompensated, and put forth an honest and competent effort. At worst, they at least try to be fair and objective. Outbursts from parents on the sideline made toward the referees only signal to our own children on the field that they can blame the refs for anything that goes wrong.

All players, parents and spectators are expected to act in a manner that promotes good sportsmanship during the game and practice sessions. Anyone not acting in such a manner will be requested to withdraw from Churchland Soccer League with no refund. As a parent, I represent Churchland Soccer League and will do this honorably and ethically, in the spirit of the game on and off the field.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This parent code of conduct has been electronically incorporated into the registration process.