

Category: Code of Conduct
Section: Behavior
Policy Name: Code of Conduct
Effective date: June 2016

Contents:

- **Policy Statement**
- **Responsibilities**
- **Definitions (if needed)**
- **Policy History**

Overview

BWSA promotes the idea of fair play, good sportsmanship, and fun through soccer. Fair play is playing within the rules and with respect for others. Good sportsmanship is being generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat. BWSA wants all participants to enjoy the experience of youth soccer by accepting limitations in play, coaching, officiating, and venues while those who play, coach, officiate, and manage learn and grow. BWSA has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of physical, mental, verbal, or sexual abuse; it is not condoned nor will it be tolerated.

General Code of Conduct

- Respect all participants, spectators, fields, and neighborhoods at all times.
- Support the referee by not challenging their calls. Coaches can respectfully request some clarification.
- Do not use abusive or profane language, taunting or humiliating remarks, and obscene gestures.
- Learn the official Laws of the Game of soccer and the rules of PA West (for Travel) and BWSA (for In-house) and abide by them.
- Promote the concept that soccer is a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.

Coaches

- Promote sportsmanship, fair play, and maturity at all times through example and assist league and game referees in maintaining control of spectators during games.
- Guide players using positive techniques, including redirection, positive reinforcement and encouragement as opposed to comparison and criticism.
- Use physical restraint **only** when necessary to protect the child or other children from harm.
- Consider the player's safety and do not:
 - Leave them unsupervised during practices and games.
 - Leave them alone after games or practice with no one picking them up.
 - Leave them alone with an adult during a game, practice or other event where they cannot be seen or observed by others.
 - Touch them in a way that makes them uncomfortable.
 - Enter the field of play unless beckoned by the referee.
- Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating.
- Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.

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- Do not use or possess tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs before or during a BWSA-sponsored event.
- Do not form social media relationships of any type between BWSA adults and children.

Players

- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and display kindness and humility at the conclusion of a game regardless of the outcome.
- Show respect and courtesy to referees and coaches by following their instructions and directions.
- Be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat. Remember that soccer is a game; treat players and coaches on other teams as opponents, not enemies.
- Work for the good of the team and give their best efforts at all times.
- Attempt to win by using skills, effort, and tactics.

Referees

- Enforce the laws of the game and promote good sportsmanship through example.
- Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the rules and Laws of the Game by attending clinics and training sessions.
- Be in good physical condition and wear the required uniform.
- Explain calls to players and coaches in the younger age groups where appropriate or when asked. Do not instruct, but explain a call for better understanding by the player and coach.
- Follow all rules and regulations as required through certification or training.

Parents and spectators

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by encouraging fair play through your words and actions before, during, and after the game whether you win or lose.
- Support the players, coaches, and referees through attendance at games, practices, and tournaments.
- Remain on the sideline. Do not enter the field unless beckoned by the referee or coach.
- Notify the coach if the player will not be able to attend any games or practices.
- Drop off for practice or game only when there is adult supervision.
- Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team.
- Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating.

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Drafted and approved XX/XX/XXXX