



# SOUTHFIELD YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

## PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Our ultimate goal is that your child's soccer experience be safe & fun. Often times, parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. To ensure that our goal is met, it is required that all adult participants agree to abide by this Parent Code of Conduct.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these 'six pillars of character'.

I therefore agree:

1. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
2. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
3. I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
4. I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
5. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
6. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
7. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
8. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
9. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
10. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
11. I will emphasize skill development and practice and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
12. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
13. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
14. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization.
2. Written warning
3. Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by SYSL
4. Parental season suspension