



## Code of Conduct

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure a positive, respectful, and supportive environment for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators involved in our youth soccer organization.

### 1. Respect for All:

- Treat everyone, including coaches, players, referees, and other parents, with respect and courtesy.
- Refrain from using foul language, making derogatory comments, or engaging in any form of harassment or bullying.

### 2. Positive Encouragement:

- Encourage your child and their teammates in a positive manner.
- Avoid criticizing players, coaches, or referees. Remember, everyone is doing their best and learning.

### 3. Sideline Behavior:

- Remain outside the field of play and within designated spectator areas.
- Avoid coaching from the sidelines unless you are an official coach.

### 4. Sportsmanship:

- Applaud good plays, regardless of which team makes them.
- Teach your child to play by the rules and to respect the decisions of referees and coaches.

### 5. Communication:

- Please wait at least 24 hours before addressing any concerns or issues with coaches. Voice concerns in a respectful manner.
- Avoid discussing individual players, coaches, or referees in a negative way in public forums, including social media.

### 6. Attendance:

- Ensure your child arrives on time for practices and games and is picked up promptly afterward.
- Inform the coach in advance if your child cannot attend a practice or game.

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### 7. Safety:

- Ensure your child has all the necessary equipment and that it's in good condition.
- Respect all facility rules and regulations.

### 8. Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco:

- Refrain from the use or possession of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco at all youth soccer events and facilities.

### 9. Conflict Resolution:

- If a dispute arises, address it calmly, privately, and constructively.
- Always seek mediation or intervention from the organization's leadership.

### 10. Support:

- Volunteer your time or resources when possible, to support the organization and its events.
- Stay informed about the organization's policies, schedules, and events.

### Staff/volunteers of the organization must not:

- Engage in any sort of physical contact with a child that may make the child or a reasonable observer feel uncomfortable, or that may be seen by a reasonable observer to be violating reasonable boundaries.
- Engage in any communication with a child within or outside of duties with the child, that may make the child uncomfortable or that may be seen by a reasonable observer to be violating reasonable boundaries.
- Engage in any behavior that goes against (or appears to go against) the organization's mandate, policies, or Code of Conduct to Protect Children, regardless of whether or not they are serving the organization at that moment
- Conduct their own investigation into allegations or suspicions of potentially illegal or inappropriate behavior – it is a staff/ volunteer's duty to report the matter to the designated person, Child Welfare Agency, or law enforcement, not to investigate. Inappropriate behavior includes:

11. Inappropriate Communication. Communication with a child or his/her family outside of the context of duties for the organization, regardless of who initiated the exchange. For example:

- Personal phone calls not tied to duties with the child
- Electronic communications (email, text message, instant message, online chats, social networking including "friending", etc.) not tied to duties with the child

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- Personal letters not tied to duties with the child

12. Inappropriate Contact. Spending unauthorized time with a child outside of designated duties with the organization.

13. Favoritism. Singling out a child or certain children and providing special privileges and attention. (For example, paying a lot of attention to, giving or sending personalized gifts, or allowing privileges that are excessive, unwarranted or inappropriate.)

14. Taking Personal Photos/Videos. Using a personal cell phone, camera, or video to take pictures of a child, or allowing any other person to do so, as well as uploading or copying any pictures you may have taken of a child to the Internet or any personal storage device. Pictures taken as part of your job duties are acceptable, however, the pictures are to remain with the organization and not be used by you in a personal capacity. Inappropriate behavior also includes:

15. Telling sexual jokes to a child or making comments to a child that are or is in any way suggestive, explicit or personal.

16. Showing a child material that is sexual in nature, including, signs, cartoons, graphic novels, calendars, literature, photographs, screen savers, or displaying such material in plain view of a child, or making such material available to a child

17. Intimidating or threatening a child

**Consequences for Breach of Code:** Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in a warning, temporary suspension from attending games or practices, or permanent removal from the organization, depending on the severity and frequency of the violation.