

YFL PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Soccer is an exciting, fast moving and fun game. Coaches, players and fans should remember that the objective is to have fun and enjoy our fellowship through the sport of soccer. It is important to our soccer program that all participants conduct themselves in a positive and responsible manner in support of these objectives.

The Youth Football League Association Inc. will not tolerate behavior which brings the Club, team, or game into disrepute. The Club believes that the attitude shown by parents toward the coaches, the referees, the opposing players and the importance of winning vs. losing are of paramount importance. Inappropriate comments or actions by adults bent on short-term success rather than the long range benefits undermines the essence of competition and introduces stresses which are inappropriate for our players. Instead we should always:

- Encourage players to have fun at all times.
- Focus on praise and encouragement rather than on criticism and negative yelling.
- Encourage your player by word and example. The athlete is counting on you as their primary teacher – in soccer and in life!
- Applaud good plays by players on both teams.
- Let soccer be fun! Nothing is better than seeing a player celebrate and enjoy the beauty of this wonderful game.
- Encourage fair play and good sportsmanship.

Parents must remember that every player on the team is a contributing member. Soccer is a team sport and without each player, there is no team.

After the game is over, ask your player “Did you have a fun?” and not “who won?” or “who scored?”

Attempt to reduce the pressure of competition, not increase it. A player is easily affected by outside influences. Parents are to remember that this is a “learning experience” for players, and to support this experience, just as you would any other sport and school related activity.

Be respectful to our coaches. Parents will support the coach and his or her decisions and will refrain from verbal criticism during any game. Remember, the coach makes the final decision regarding players on the field.

Do not publicly question the referee’s judgment, and never his or her honesty. The referee is a symbol of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship. Please remember, many of these referees are young adults learning how to referee the game, so please treat them with respect. They are there to do an honest job which few others are willing to undertake.

NEVER enter the field to speak with a referee. Speak to your coach or the team manager if you have a concern.

Accept the results of the game. Encourage your player to be a good sport in victory and in defeat. Many times a player will not remember the results of a game an hour later but they will remember how they felt because of their own – and your actions.

Parents will only sit in designated areas around the field. It is important to follow the rules and guidelines for spectators in all tournaments and venues. Special needs such as photography should be discussed with the team manager in advance, if special arrangements are required.

Parents will treat other fans, coaches, players, and officials with respect, regardless of race, sex, or ability.

Drinking, smoking, foul language and firearms are not allowed around the fields during games or practices. If you need to smoke, please find an area a significant distance away from all other parents, players, and coaches.

Failure to comply with the Parent Code of Conduct could result in removal from the fields, sanctions, and/ or police involvement.

The YFL has a Technical Committee to address violations of our Code of Conduct. Recommendations for sanctions against players and/or parents can include suspensions of parents, even up to removal of players from the team. Thus we urge parents to take this code seriously and follow its guidelines carefully.

If any member of our Club wishes to complain about conduct which they believe is contrary to our Codes of Conduct, they must:

- 1) Address the issue with the person directly, either verbally or in writing, within one week of the incident or issue at hand.
- 2) If there is no satisfactory resolution, then the complainant must, within one week and in written form, notify the YFL Technical Committee via our Team Manager.
- 3) All matters which are directed to the Committee will be responded to within two weeks of the receipt of the complaint.

Decisions and actions by the Committee to address the complaint may be appealed to the full Board of Directors. Decisions by the full Board are final.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT. I PLEDGE TO ABIDE BY ITS RULES AND GUIDELINES. I WILL ACCEPT DECISIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE/BOARD AND ABIDE BY THOSE DECISIONS, SHOULD NEED ARISE.

SIGNED:

FATHER

MOTHER

for player: _____

DATED: _____