

CODE OF ETHICS & BEHAVIOR FOR PARENTS

SAMPLE

A parent attending their child's game is, and should only be, a spectator. The referee is there to referee the game; the coach is there to coach the game. A parent is there to watch the game and cheer for their child and the child's team.

The following **CODE OF ETHICS AND BEHAVIOR** is offered here to exemplify the ideal Parent/Spectator.

I WILL:

Remember SAY's motto: KIDS HAVING FUN! If they're not having fun, find out why and seek to change it.

Know the game. Play soccer with your kids at home, even if it's just for five minutes a day. Take a referee or coaching course. Read about soccer & watch games on TV with your kids.

Encourage fair play. Teach your child the "Golden Rule" (do unto others as you would have them do unto you) and apply it to all games and practices.

Be supportive of all activities. Bring your child to games and practices on time and ready to play. Have them bring a ball, water, shinguards & cleats.

Refrain from using drug, alcohol and tobacco products at all youth soccer events. Request other adults present to refrain from their use as well.

Communicate any safety concerns. Inform the coach, officials or administrators of anything you feel is, or may create, a dangerous situation for anyone attending games or practices.

Be positive or be quiet. Encouraging words make soccer more fun. Words like "Don't" and "Can't" are four-letter words and shouldn't be yelled in public.

Be respectful and expect my children to be respectful. This pertains not just to the coaches and referees, but also to other players and parents. Do not create an incident that would be cause for your removal. Suzie does not understand why Mommy or Daddy has to leave the game; and, frankly, neither do we!

Promote good nutrition. Before each game and practice, ensure that your child has had something nutritious to eat, but not so much that they will feel weighed down. Have them pre-hydrate by drinking water before they arrive, as well as during the activities.

Volunteer to assist the coach or team. Be a "team player!" If you have soccer skills or knowledge, or are just good working with kids, offer to help at practice. If not, make

calls, bring snacks, collect money for events, collect paperwork or do anything else that needs doing. The coach is busy coaching; don't make him/her do all the management as well.

Support the coach's and referee's decisions. They are both doing a difficult job to the best of their abilities. If you have real concerns, speak with the coach in private.

Communicate with my child. Recognize your child's individual performance. Ask, "How did you do?" not "Did you win?" Then listen to their reply. Be honest; don't use flattery. Be sure to address any concerns they may have. Do not belittle their fears or opinions.

Give praise freely. When someone, anyone, is doing a good job at what they're doing, don't be afraid to let them know! Whether it's your child, another child on the team, a child on the opposing team, the coach or, yes, even the referee!

Remind others, when necessary, of the Parent's Code of Ethics. Do so gently, politely and with respect.

I hereby pledge to follow this Parent's Code of Ethics.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Information compiled from North Carolina Soccer website, SAY "Touchline" magazine and NYSCA.