

## Parent's Code

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of youngsters.

Through your encouragement and good example, you can help assure that all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. Young people need to learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat – all while becoming physically fit and healthy. *Best of all, they have fun.*

### **SUPPORT YOUR CHILD**

Supporting your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important.

Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory – *that way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game!*

### **ALWAYS BE POSITIVE**

Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your child's team *as well* as good plays by the opposing team.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.

### **REMEMBER: YOUR CHILD WANTS TO HAVE FUN**

Remember that your *child* is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let children establish their own goals – to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them.

Don't put too heavy a burden on your child to win games. Surveys reveal that **72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winning team.**

Children play for the fun of playing.

### **REINFORCE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR**

Positive reinforcement the best way to help your child achieve their goals and their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your child does make one, remember it's all part of learning, so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.

### **DON'T BE SIDELINE COACH OR REFEREE**

Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experiences a positive one. They need your support too.

That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there's usually always an opportunity for you take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!

Parent's Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TURN OVER →

## Player's Code

**Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.**

**Play by the Laws of the Game.**

**Never argue with or complain about referee's calls or decisions.**

**Control your temper.** Most of all resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.

**Concentrate on playing** soccer with your best efforts. Work equally hard for you team as for yourself.

**Be a good sport** by cheering all good plays, whether it's your team or your opponent's.

**Treat all players,** as you would like to be treated.

**Remember that the goals of the game** are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Don't be a showoff or a ball hog.

**Cooperate with** your coaches, teammates, opponents and the referees.

**Player's Printed name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Today's Date Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# A Parent's Rights & Responsibilities:

## RIGHTS:

- To have a safe and fun experience for your child.
- To have accurate and comprehensive information on programs.
- To be part of a quality program.
- To know about the complaint procedure.
- To be protected from revenge if a complaint is filed.

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ✓ To have a part in the supervision of your child.
- ✓ To bring forward valid complaints.
- ✓ To be a good spectator.
- ✓ To educate your children about abuse.
- ✓ To help your child find the right sport and program.
- ✓ To assess the philosophy of the coach and organization.
- ✓ To provide physical and emotional nurturing and guidance.
- ✓ To be an advocate for all children participating.
- ✓ To equally support your sons and daughters as athletes.
- ✓ To understand that all children are gifted, but not in equal ways.
- ✓ To support the individual needs and interests of children.
- ✓ To provide unconditional love and support, not based on performance.
- ✓ To ensure fun, learning and improving as opposed to just winning.
- ✓ To create a safe and fun environment.

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## 17 TIPS TO BE A BETTER SPECTATOR

Last year members of Massachusetts's chapters of national sports and medical associations educational organizations, and professional associations developed a sport parent code of conduct for the state. Following is their 17 – point plan.

1. I will not force my child to participate
2. I will remember that kids play to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the league policies.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model and encourage sportsmanship.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct.
7. I will not encourage anything that would endanger the athletics.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts peacefully.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
11. I will offer praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or others for a mistake or losing.
13. I will emphasize skill development & practice and de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletics.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority and the coaches for their decisions.
16. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
17. I will refrain from coaching (unless I am one) my child or others during games and practices.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_