

PARENT'S CODE

Why a Code? Parental evaluation carries a great deal of weight with a child. The attitude exhibited by a parent at games, towards their child, the opposing team, the officials, and the coaches, will influence their child's values and behaviour in sports. Criticism and disrespect for opponents and officials (by parents bent on immediate success rather than long range benefits) undermines the purpose of sport and often brings into the game stresses that a child cannot cope with effectively, and which may contribute to behaviour not in keeping with the spirit of the game.

- Children have a greater need for example than for criticism.
- Make athletic participation for your child and others a positive experience.
- Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition, not increase it.
- Be kind to your child's coach and to officials. The coach is a volunteer giving his or her personal time to provide a recreational opportunity for your child. Their volunteer time is a valuable community service and a valuable service for your family.
- Remember that a coach's responsibility is to work on behalf of every member of the team, and on behalf of the team as a whole.
- "Opponents" are necessary friends. Without them there is no game. Be respectful. Also, next year they may be your child's teammates.
- Applaud good plays by your team and good plays by members of the opposing team.
- **Do not openly question an official's judgment, and never question their honesty. They are a symbol of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship. They are calling the game to the best of their ability. Also, at micro and mini, they are typically just 12 and 13 years old.**
- Accept the results of each game, and encourage your child to be gracious in victory. Help your child to take pride in doing their best and working towards improvement. The goal is for all players to have a fun physical activity and to develop a love for the game.

If your child and his or her teammates are having fun, we are all on the right track.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Make sure your child arrives at, and is picked up from practices and games on time.
- Ensure that your child is properly equipped (uniform, shoes, socks and shin guards).
- Come to the games and practices to support your child and his or her team.
- If you cannot come to a game, arrange for another adult (not the coach) to be responsible for your child.
- As necessary, coordinate with the other team parents to ensure that at least one adult in addition to the coach is at each practice in case of an emergency, and to help supervise the behaviour of the children.
- Help the coach wherever possible – with the coach's agreement.
- Inform your coach ahead of time if your child cannot attend a practice or game.
- Do not allow your child to insult or be rude to a teammate, the opposition, a coach, or a referee.
- Be enthusiastic, not critical.
- Acknowledge the opposition's good plays.
- Be sociable with opposing teams' parents.
- Support the coaches and any referee. Do not criticize them.
- Use mechanisms in the Club if you think a coach or an official is not suitable (start by talking to your age group coordinator).
- Be positive. Do not let winning or losing change your attitude.
- **Review the Player's Code and Responsibilities and Rights (you will be given) with your child.**

COACH'S CODE

- Soccer is a game. Children should have fun playing it. They can only do that if they are allowed to express themselves, and to make mistakes and to learn from them.
- An overriding responsibility of coaches in the early years is to allow and help the children develop a love of the game.
- Both the letter and the spirit of the rules of the game should be respected.
- Opposing teams, coaches and spectators should be respected and treated with courtesy. No advantages should be sought.
- Winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
- Losing can be a triumph when the team has given its best.
- All the players on your team should be treated fairly and respectfully.
- **The role of the officials should be accepted and supported and decisions of the officials should be accepted without anger, no matter how unfair they may seem.**

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Learn and follow the rules of the game.
- Instill in your players a positive attitude towards competition.
- Encourage your players to always do their best.
- Provide equal opportunity for all to participate.
- Be well prepared for practices and games.
- Emphasize positive individual feedback for each of your players at practices and after games.
- Lead by example. Players should be modest in victory and “good sports” in defeat.
- **Do not allow rude or disrespectful conduct by any of your players towards a teammate, a member of an opposing team, or the referee.**
- Plan and organize practices with safety in mind and inspect the practice and playing fields for safety hazards before each session.
- Maintain a complete first-aid kit for your team.
- Keep track of and return at the end of the season your assigned equipment and balls.
- Communicate in a timely fashion with your team about practices, game times and locations, and any changes.
- You are responsible for setting up and clearing the field (and leaving it litter free) when your team is the home team.

**You are not responsible for babysitting your team.
Parents should ensure their child is picked up and dropped off on time.**

PLAYER'S CODE

- Play the game for the sake of the game and for fun.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be graceful when you lose.
- Be fair no matter the cost.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Work for the good of your team.
- Accept the decisions of the referees with good grace.
- Believe in the honesty of your opponents.
- Conduct yourself with honour and dignity.
- Honestly and wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of your teammates and opponents.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- Do the best you can and perform up to your potential – by your standards, not those of adults.
- Listen to your coach and do not be disruptive in practices or games.
- Be respectful and supportive of your teammates and the players you play against.
- Get to practices and games on time (explain the importance to your parents).
- Come dressed in your uniform to each game and with appropriate raingear or warm weather clothing in bad weather for the sidelines and for the field (for example, a toque and gloves).

RIGHTS OF THE MICRO AND MINI PLAYER

- To have equal playing time and the opportunity to play all the different positions.
- To enjoy without undue pressure from the coach or parents the world's most popular game.

I have read (or have had read to me) all of the above and will do my best to play by the Code and the List of Responsibilities and Expectations for Players

Date

Player's Signature