



EastSide Soccer Association

Rec Soccer Parent Code of Conduct Form

The parents' role is one of support to the players and coaches. Parents should not engage in "coaching" from the sidelines, criticizing players, coaches or game officials or trying to influence the makeup of the team at any time. Every parent and spectator is expected to:

1. Learn and respect the rules of soccer and the rules of ESSA.
2. Show respect and courtesy to game officials, coaches, and players at all times.
3. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
4. Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team. Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
5. Ensure that your child is at all games and practices at the required time or provide the coach with an appropriate excuse beforehand.
6. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.
7. Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
8. 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!
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Reinforce Positive Behavior - Positive reinforcement is 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 its all part of learning, so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.
12. Don't Be a 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 to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!

Please sign and turn in at the concession stand prior to the first game. By signing you agree to and will abide by the above rules at all times while on the ESSA fields.

Date

Parent/Guardian #1 Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian #2 Signature
