

# Rochester Youth Soccer League Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct has been established to ensure the principles of sportsmanship, fair play and mutual respect among players, coaches, parents and officials. It is the obligation of all program administrators, coaches, parents and players to create an environment that promotes this objective.

## Players Code of Conduct

- Play for the fun of it. Play soccer because you love the sport and want to play, not just to please your parents or coach. Remember the goals of the game are to have fun and improve your soccer skills.
- Respect the game of soccer and its laws. Learn the laws of the game, and play by them.
- Respect your coaches, referees and fellow players. Never argue with or complain about coaches or referee calls or decisions. Treat all players with the same respect you would hope to be treated with.
- Cooperate and listen to your coaches, referees, teammates, opponents and parents. Do what you are asked to do without complaining during games and practices. Never address remarks at opposing coaches, players, referees and spectators.
- Control your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate even if you disagree with a decision. Show good sportsmanship before, during and after the game. Conduct yourself with honor and dignity at all times.
- Do your best. Concentrate on playing soccer with your best efforts. Work equally hard for your team and yourself. Give a 100% effort at all time.
- Be a good sport. Cheer for all players, whether it's your team or your opponents. Remember to congratulate the other team regardless of the outcome, always shake hands with your opponents before and after each game.

## Coaches Code of Conduct

- Ensure that your player's soccer experience is a positive one. Winning is only part of their playing experience. Players should never be ridiculed for making mistakes or losing games. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved.
- Be reasonable in your demands on a young player's time, energy, enthusiasm and performance on the field. Understand you will be working with players of varied abilities. Coaches must treat all players fairly.
- Know the laws of the game. Impress on your players and parents that they must know the laws of the game and abide by them at all times.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents and the judgment of referees and the opposing coaches. Coaches are directly responsible for the conduct of their players during practices and games. They must set an example of good sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- Coaches should not use offensive or inappropriate language in the presence of their players. Coaches must require that their players, parents and spectators refrain from doing the same. Coaches should not make derogatory or critical comments about opposing players, fellow coaches, parents or spectators and require that their players, parents and spectators refrain from doing the same.

- Coaches must look out for the safety of their players at all times and bring to the attention of the referee any situations that could jeopardize the safety of their players.
- Coaches should introduce themselves to their fellow coaches prior to the start of each. Coaches should also introduce themselves to their referee and discuss their league rules.
- Coaches should look to better themselves as coaches and pursue coaching education opportunities. The RYSL has internal coach's education opportunities as well as access to MSYSA coach's education opportunities. Please take advantage of the RYSL/RSC resource library with books, DVDs, manuals....

### **Parents Code of Conduct**

- Remember your child wants to have fun and that they are the one playing not you. It's very important to let your child establish their own goals and to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them. Don't put a burden on your child to win games. Surveys reveal that 72% of children would rather play on a losing team than sit on the bench of a winning team. Children play for the fun of playing.
- Support your child by giving them encouragement and showing interest in their team. 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.
- Always be positive and serve as a role model for your child. Applaud good play by your child as well as good play by the rest of their team. Support all effort to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.
- 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 it's all a part of learning so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child has accomplished.
- Parents should not bribe or offer incentives. Motivation should be left to the coach. Offering money for scoring goals for example distracts a child from concentrating properly in practice and games.
- Don't be a sideline coach or referee. Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. Coaches volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experiences a positive one. They need your support too. As a volunteer organization there is always an opportunity for you to take your interest of coaching to the next level with the RYSL and be one yourself!

**Those who willfully violate this code jeopardize their participation in the Rochester Youth Soccer League. All Rochester Youth Soccer League coaching assignments are at the sole discretion of the Rochester Youth Soccer League.**

**I have read and understand this Code of Conduct and hereby pledge to abide by it in both my words and actions.**