



***Kids, more than anything, just want to have fun...
and adults want to organize the fun...***

One of the changes that have occurred since the time we played pick-up games in the local park is that adults have imposed order and regimen on sports, organizing teams and scheduling resources with all the vigor that adults bring to any activity.

As adults, we tend to read success or failure by the final score. Kids, on the other hand, are happy when they play hard and judge success or failure by the snacks at the end of the game.

As a volunteer coach, the Eden Prairie Soccer Association asks you to remember that your primary reasons for coaching are to help these children increase their understanding of the game and to help them have some fun. Accordingly, we wish to remind each coach that they are a role model and should always act as an example to the team and for the enjoyment of the game. Please read and sign the following Coaches Pledge.

A Coaches Pledge

I will remember the game is played for and by children.

I will remember that winning effort is more important than winning.

I will show respect for the opponents, for without them there would be no game.

I will show respect for the referees and trust in their impartiality.

I will show admiration for the good play by both teams.

I will remember there are as many lessons in winning as in losing.

I will not show favoritism and will use all players equally, regardless of skill.

I will remember all kids need praise and instruction.

I will ask, "Are you having fun?" often.

I will foster an attitude that stresses teamwork, effort and respect for the game.

I will never engage in or allow abusive or harassing sideline behavior toward my team, opponents, the referee or a parent or guardian.

I will keep the game free of profanity, put-downs and drugs (including alcohol).

I will have fun too!

And I will remember when the season is over, my players will remember me for the way I treated them and the team.

Signed _____

Date: _____



Coach's Code of Conduct

1. Each coach will maintain absolute control over the behavior of those team players who are identified on his/her team roster.
2. Each coach will make an energetic effort to request any and all spectators on the side line where he/she is located to refrain from harassing any other coaches, players, referees or linesmen.
3. Coaches will not tolerate any bad language, abuse, or interference by one player onto another player either on their own team or onto another player either on their own team or onto a player on the opposing team.
4. All coaches will develop and encourage good sportsmanlike behavior and habits in the players on their team.
5. All coaches will watch for any unsportsmanlike behavior by one of their own players including deliberate kicking, fighting, spitting, physical or verbal abuse at any other player, official or spectator and immediately bench that player or players for the balance of the current game or practice.
6. All coaches will accept and support, without question, any and all decisions of the officials at the existing game. Any and all complaints with respect to disagreements on calls made by the officials will be forwarded by the coach in writing to the Coaching Director or the Referee Director who will then respond to the complaint verbally and/or in written format.
7. Although it is a coach's aim and duty to find the most economical way of helping a player to become a better, no coach will use any form of coercion: verbal, physical or discriminatory, to achieve these results.
8. Coaches will make every effort to see that all players on the roster play an equal amount of time in every game.
9. Coaches will see that on the completion of each game, all players will shake hands with the opposing team, thank each player for a good game and then thank the officials and other coach for their participation in the game.
10. Coaches must comply with the meaning and the spirit of the playing rules. Purposely ignoring or willfully violating rules is inexcusable. Those who break the rules degrade not only themselves, but the game, their team and their fellow coaches.
11. The ethics and sportsmanship of the coaches must be exemplary and beyond reproach. Everyone participating must conduct himself so that he or she is a credit to the sport, to fellow coaches, the players and to athletic competition in general.
12. Coaches will lead by example, demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players, coaches and officials.
13. Coaches recognize each player needs to be treated as an individual, remembering the large differences in ability, emotional and physical development among his or her players.

Based on materials and permission from the Eden Prairie Soccer Club, National Youth Sports Coaches Association and USYSA.