

Wayzata Soccer Club

Code of Conduct

Managers:

This packet includes all of the materials required to administer the WSC Code of Conduct Program. Attached you will find Code of Conduct forms for players, coaches and parents. Each participant in the WSC program must read and return to you a signed Code of Conduct. These forms are to be maintained by you for the entire soccer season.

Attached to your copy of the Parents Code of Conduct you will find a letter prepared for copying and distribution to the parents on your team. Parents' conduct continues to be the number one topic of discussion at all levels of youth soccer. Unfortunately, in the past the Wayzata Soccer Club has not always enjoyed the best reputation for sideline sportsmanship. As with all perceptions, some of this is justified and some is not. The WSC looks to team managers to be the eyes and ears of the club and your help is required to maintain appropriate behavior on the sidelines at all times.

This is not always an easy task; here are some suggestions that may help.

- Have a team meeting to discuss the topic of appropriate sideline behavior with team parents.
- Ask everyone to police themselves and others, and to speak up when someone appears to become agitated. Try to stop it before it escalates and help others recognize the actions that could lead to inappropriate behavior.
- Ask your team for ideas on how to diffuse potential behavior issues. A few examples that have worked for others:
 - Bring Tootsie Pops and hand them out when things get tense. It's hard to yell with a sucker in your mouth! Don't be surprised if there are occasions when you'll need two Tootsie Pops per person per game.
 - If parents become influenced by others, game play, refs, etc., have them separate themselves from the group until they feel calmer.
 - Sitting helps. Bring a chair to sit in; sometimes that's enough to take the stress off – literally and figuratively.
 - Think about how embarrassed a child might be if he/she knows his/her parent is out of control on the sidelines, or sees him/her ejected from the field.
 - The team could select a monitor who would have the responsibility to watch for signs of inappropriate behavior.

This is not an easy assignment, but a few moments spent when heads are cool could prevent a meltdown later on. Our goal as a club is to not only being known for quality soccer but also for having a sideline of parents who understand the game and the concept of sportsmanship.

Thank you for your help.

Scott Grinde
Vice President, WSC