

Wayzata Soccer Club

Code of Conduct

Parents:

The number one concern with all youth sports today continues to be the behavior of parents, coaches and players. In an effort to clearly define the expectations of the Wayzata Soccer Club in this regard, a Code of Conduct has been developed for players, coaches and parents.

The following is an excerpt from an edition of Soccer Times, which reflects the Club's philosophy:

Game Day: How to keep the experience positive and fun for you as a parent and for your child

- Your only role as a parent on game day is to get your child to the game at the time specified by the coach [usually 30 or 45 minutes before game time].
- Set an example with positive encouragement for the team, the coach, your child, and the opponents. Refuse to yell at the referee, the coach, the players, parents, etc. Appreciate good play, no matter who makes it.
- Respect the referee and remember that no one is perfect. In any given game, the referee may be called upon to make hundreds of decisions. It stands to reason they will make a few questionable calls. Referee turnover is very high, nearly 25 percent turnover per year. Much of that is directly attributed to abusive treatment from the parents on the sidelines. Give up your right to make the calls. If you are convinced you could do a better job, suit up. The organization is always looking for referees.
- Remember that players rarely benefit from parents shouting instructions from the sidelines. Your instructions may be counter to the coach's instructions, or even worse, your instructions may be wrong. Allow the players to think and play on their own, without the benefit of your instruction. Soccer is a game of improvisation – allow it to happen.
- Resist the urge to yell at the kids for game day mistakes. Soccer is a game made up of mistakes. Keep it positive. Allow your child and his/her teammates the right to make mistakes and learn from them. Few kids are encouraged to play up to their potential when they are consistently and heavily chastised for mistakes on the field. Praise your child and his/her teammates for their efforts and allow the coach to correct those areas he or she deems significant.

- Encourage team playing and good sportsmanship to your child. Refuse to succumb to the temptation to tell your child the “take the ball the length of the field,” “kick it hard,” or even “just run him over” and otherwise exhibit poor sportsmanship during game situations. The best support parents can provide on the sidelines is their presence – calm, cool and encouraging.
- Give the players some room. Many fields do not provide seating areas for parents. When standing on the sidelines, stay well back from the field and don’t crowd the sideline.
- In the case of injury to your child during the game, wait for the signal from your child’s coach to alert you that your presence on the field or at the bench is necessary.

- *Minnesota Soccer Times, April 2001*

Parents, let’s all work hard to present a positive attitude that reflects positively on the Wayzata Soccer Club and our teams. Make your child proud of you! Attached is a Parent Code of Conduct form that must be completed by all parents and returned to the team manager.

Thank you in advance for your support:

Scott Grinde
Vice President, WSC
Risk Management Coordinator