



Kent Youth Soccer Association

“PURSUING VICTORY WITH HONOR”

Parent, Coach and Player Codes of Ethics

It is our belief that the impact of sports can and should enhance the character and uplift the ethics of our community. Therefore we seek to establish a framework of principles and a common language of values that can be adopted and practiced widely. Parents, fans, and coaches who follow this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about...enjoyment for everyone.

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

It is the duty of sports leadership – including coaches, administrators, program directors and game officials – to promote sportsmanship and foster good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling these ethical principles.

Children’s sports are supposed to be fun – for the children. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don’t realize that their actions, whether verbal or non verbal, can have a lasting effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because adults unfairly take the fun away. In addition, participation in athletic programs is a privilege, not a right. To earn that privilege, athletes must conduct themselves, on and off the field, as positive role models who exemplify good character.

Parent Responsibilities:

I/we agree to set a good example to my/our child in his soccer development by adhering at all times to the following:

1. I will let the coaches’ coach: No coaching of any kind from parents or other spectators is allowed! This also includes motivating, psyching your child, after game critiquing, setting goals, requiring additional training, etc. Refrain from offering incentives or bribes: It is the coaching staff’s job to motivate; all others are a distraction, keeping him/her from properly concentrating.
2. I will be a positive role model: Encouraging sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event. I will never ridicule or yell at my child, other participant, coach, referee for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will never criticize the referee or coach openly or directly during or after games. (This should be in writing to the association) Be supportive, cheer, and be appropriate.
3. I will support the program: Get involved by volunteering, being knowledgeable of the game and rooting for my child as well as all players on the team.
4. I will encourage communication between the player and the coach: This promotes growth by helping the player take responsibility.
5. I will let the player think for himself or herself: To perform to the best of his/her abilities, a player needs to focus on the parts of the game that they can control (his fitness, positioning, decision making, skill, aggressiveness, etc). If he starts focusing on what he can not control (the condition of the field, the referee, the weather, the opponent, even the outcome of the game at times) or trying to figure out what someone is telling him to do, he will not play up to his ability.
6. I will emphasize skill development over winning: Give positive feedback to players by finding the “little successes” that the players have during each match.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or head of league organization
Written warning
Parental game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved
Game forfeit through the official or coach
Parental season suspension

Parent/Guardian’s signature _____



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Coaching Responsibilities:

As coach I will set a good example to my players in their soccer development by adhering to the following:

1. I will never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
2. I will impress upon players that they must abide by the written laws of the game and help them understand the core principles of sportsmanship.
3. I will be reasonable in my demands on a young player's time, energy, enthusiasm and performance on the field.
4. I will develop team respect for the ability of opponents and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
5. I will ensure that my players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
6. I will set a good example and be generous with my praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach they can respect.
7. I will keep my attitude and conduct towards officials, players, spectators and coaches controlled and undemonstrative. It is unacceptable for a coach to have any verbal altercation with an opposing coach or bench before, during or after a game. Coaches must use their influence on his/her spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, players, and opposing team members.
8. I will keep informed of sound principles of coaching, growth and child development.
9. I will check my equipment and playing facilities to ensure that they meet safety standards and are appropriate for the age and ability of my players.
10. I will follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.
11. I will communicate to players and parents my philosophy of playing and coaching soccer and my expectations for competition, sideline behavior, practice, and issue resolution.

Coach's signature

Player Responsibilities:

1. Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.
2. Learn and play by the Rules of the Game.
3. Be a positive role model by showing sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators.
4. Control your temper. Most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged. Never argue with or complain about a referee's call or decision.
5. Concentrate on playing soccer with your best efforts. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself.
6. Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it's your team or your opponent's.
7. Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Don't be a showoff or a ball hog.
8. Treat all players, as you would like to be treated.

Player's signature