



ONE KNOX YOUTH CLUB

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents, players, coaches, and spectators represent One Knox Youth. The actions of each one of us affect the image of all of us and the Club. This Code of Conduct encourages good sportsmanship, which means in part, treating all parents, players, coaches, and referees with respect, dignity, and good sportsmanship regardless of the situation. Parents must set an example for their children by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. The game is for the children and their participation in and enjoyment of the game is important.

1. At all games, parents and spectators are to stand back at least 10 feet from the sideline. This allows the players to play on the sidelines and everyone to see the game. No parent or spectator may stand behind either goal line. Parents and spectators should be on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players (except where there is only one side available).
2. Parents coaching from the sidelines is unacceptable conduct. It is counterproductive because it distracts the players from their decision-making on the field and their enjoyment of the game. While cheering and positive encouragement are a natural part of soccer, parents must not coach their children from the sidelines during matches and training. Players may suffer consequences if this can not be followed.
3. Parents and spectators may not criticize their own players and coaches nor the opposing players, coaches, and parents. Only positive comments are permitted. Cheer in a way to reward the good play of both teams and promote fair play. Applaud good plays by your team AND by members of the opposing team.

4. Parents should show respect for the coach and any assistants. Parents should never criticize a coach or trainer in a public manner. If a parent has an issue with their child's coach or trainer, the issue should be raised in a setting away from the field, the players, and the game. It should be raised privately. The "24-HOUR RULE" IF YOU MUST TALK WITH THE COACH: Wait until the next day if you have an issue to discuss about how the coach is running the team. Let the heat of the moment pass. Encourage your player to talk with the coach about playing time and their role on the team. Never make a scene in front of the team as it's embarrassing for you, your children, and the coach; and chances are nothing will get resolved in that environment.
5. Parents are expected to respect the authority of the referee and any assistants. No Room for Ref Abuse. Any physical or verbal abuse is unacceptable as physical and verbal abuse to a player is unacceptable. If referee abuse happens, the parent/player could face suspension. Ignorance of policies does not excuse any form of verbal/physical abuse. Parents should avoid profanity, not harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the match. Parents should not disagree with, question, or criticize the referee. This applies even if the referee makes a mistake. Be tolerant of the referee's calls, whether you agree with them or not. Parents should not enter the field of play without the center referee's permission. If a parent is kicked out of a game, both the parent and his/her kid (player) COULD be suspended for two weeks including training and games. If a parent is issued a red card during a TSSA game, the club is fined therefore the parent will be held responsible for this cost incurred.
6. Do not make negative comments about the game, the coaches, the referees or teammates in your child's presence. This can negatively influence your child's motivation and overall experience. Also, let the Coach perform his/her job: The Club has empowered each coach to make the coaching decisions regarding playing time and positions with the entire team in mind.
7. Redefine what it means to be a "Winner" in conversations with your child. A Winner is someone who exerts maximum effort, continues to learn and improve, and does not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes, stop them. Mistakes are an inevitable part of any game. Children learn from their mistakes. If you only judge the success of a game by whether your child's team wins, you should expect to be unhappy about half of the time.
8. The enjoyment of the children playing the sport they love is much more important than the outcome of the game. Encourage your child to play hard, to play fair, to respect the referees and other officials, and to congratulate their opponent at each and every game. Overcoming adversity is required in life and in sports, so focus on how your player can

respond to adversity instead of complaining. If it's not fun, something is wrong, and your player will lose their passion and interest in the sport.

9. **AVOID THE POST-GAME ANALYSIS:** Don't analyze your player's performance following every game. If you do, chances are they will avoid talking to you at all after games, or worse yet, not want you at the games at all. Let your children come to you for advice rather than offering unsolicited criticism. It will have more of an impact than you going to them.
10. Parents should learn the laws of the game and appreciate the spirit of the game. Soccer is the world's #1 sport!
11. **PAY YOUR BILLS:** The Club is a non-profit organization that operates with very little funds in cash reserves. Team and club expenses must be paid by all members in a timely fashion in order for the club and team to function. If families fall behind on payments to the club or team, the privilege of playing with teammates may be suspended until financial obligations are fulfilled and balances are paid. We do offer scholarships for those who demonstrate need. Please contact your registrar for more information.
12. Consumption of alcohol is prohibited at practices and/or games. You are there to support your player. If caught in violation, there will be consequences that could lead to suspension/dismissal of parent and player.

By Signing below, I certify that I have read and understand the club's expectations for parental behavior.

Players Name:

Team Name:

Print Parent/Guardian Name:

Signature Parent/Guardian:

Date:
