



# Kentucky Youth Soccer Association

443 South Ashland Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Voice: 859 268-1254 - Fax: 859 269-0545

Email: [StateOffice@kysoccer.net](mailto:StateOffice@kysoccer.net)

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## Code of Conduct

### Coaches, Players, Parents/Spectators and Referees

It is a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation, United States Youth Soccer Association, and Kentucky Youth Soccer Association. My action shall always reflection credit upon these organizations and their affiliates.

#### Coaches:

Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to maintain a higher level of sportsmanship, professionalism, and integrity both off and on the field. Coaches' primary responsibility is for his/her players to have fun, to develop soccer players, and to instill a passion for the game. Your performance as a coach is not measured in wins and loses but rather in what you teach your players in terms of technique, sportsmanship, and fair play. Coaches must maintain respect for the game as well as the referees. Coaches are charged with the responsibility of controlling their players and parents at all times during a match. Coaches lead and teach by example; your players will be a reflection of you.

- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to have a basic knowledge of the game and to pursue coaching education that will allow them to better develop their players.
- Coaches and assistant coaches should use positive reinforcement when dealing with players, never use foul or abusive language, and never abuse a player mentally, verbally, or physically.
- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to have respect for the authority of the referee and his/her assistants. They will not harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the match. They shall not enter the field of play with out the referee's permission.
- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship both off and on the field. They are to teach his/her players the rules of the game, rules of fair play, and proper match behavior.

#### Players:

Players play soccer to have fun, to learn and develop a passion for the game, as well as to improve their skills. Players have a responsibility to their team, coach, and soccer organization. They are a representative of the club as well as the team, coach, parents, and the community. Players must maintain a high level of sportsmanship and fair play. Players must have respect for their coach, opponents, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.

- Players will play within the laws of the game and spirit of the game.



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- Players are expected to be on time and prepared for matches and training sessions.
- Players will display self-control in all situations and will not use foul or abusive language at any time before, during, or after a match or training session.
- Players shall train and play to the best of their ability, have a positive attitude, and encourage others to do the same.
- Players will show respect towards the referee and his/her assistants as well as towards the opponents. They will not harass, abuse, or berate a referee for any reason.

## Parents/Spectators:

Parents/Spectators must set the example for the children by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. Parents/Spectators participate in a match by watching, cheering, and supporting the efforts of all participants of the match. Soccer must be Fun. The game is for the children; their participation and enjoyment of the game is the most important element.

Parents have responsibilities to the coach, team, and soccer organization they are a part of. Parents/Spectators must have respect for their coach, all children on the team, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.

- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for the authority of the referee and his/her assistants. They will not harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the match. They shall not enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for the coach and his/her assistants; they should never criticize a coach in a public manner. Do not coach from the sideline; let the coach do his/her job no matter how much you may disagree. If there is a problem talk to the coaching director or a director of your organization.
- Parents/Spectators are expected to have respect for all players. Cheer in a positive manner not negative. Encourage your team, don't berate the other team. Cheer in a way to reward the good play of both teams and promote fair play.
- Parents/Spectators are not to use foul or abusive language towards any one for any reason.
- Parents/Spectators have a responsibility to learn the laws of the game, and the spirit of the game.
- Parents/Spectators are encouraged to get involved with the organization and promote the game in a positive way.
- Parents/Spectators must demonstrate the utmost in sportsmanship and integrity; they are the role models for their children.

## Referees



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Referees (including Assistant Referees) are responsible for the safety of the players and coaches during a match. Referees must know the laws of the game and enforce them fairly. They have the responsibility for upholding the laws and spirit of the game. Referees must show respect for the players, coaches, and the game itself.

- Referees are expected to always maintain the utmost respect for the game.
- Referees are expected to conduct themselves honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of his/her position.
- Referees are expected to always honor an assignment or any other contractual obligation.
- Referees are expected to attend training sessions, meetings, and clinics so as to know the Laws of the game, their proper interpretation, and their application.
- Referees are expected to strive to achieve maximum teamwork with fellow officials.
- Referees are expected to show respect for other referees, coaches, and players and never promote criticism of them.
- Referees are expected to be in good physical shape.
- Referees are expected to control players, coaches, and Parents/Spectators effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing fairness.
- Referees are expected to do their utmost to assist fellow officials to better themselves and their work.
- Referees are expected to not make statements about any game except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
- Referees are expected to not discriminate against nor take any undo advantage of any individual group on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

\*Referee section taken in part from the National Referee Handbook, Policy 531-11, Part II