



South Middleton Soccer Association

COACH – PLAYER – SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

(ADOPTED FEBRUARY 2004)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY

1. It is the intent of the South Middleton Soccer Association (SMSA) to provide a pleasurable experience for all persons involved in our program, especially our players. This can be a daunting task at times, as situations arise at every game/practice. Coaches/players have different abilities and will make mistakes. Players will make good or even great plays. Referees will make calls that you feel are questionable or bad. It's all part of the game of soccer. Ultimately, there will be a winner and a loser. This is a part of life and we should accept losing as graciously as we accept winning and instill this quality in our players, regardless of the actions of others.
2. Spectators attend games/practices to support a particular player(s). You may be the parent, stepparent, grandparent, etc. of a particular player(s). As such, you become a representative of that/those player(s) and by extension, a representative of SMSA.

As our representative, you are expected to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner. Appropriate can be defined as any action that impacts positively on the whole soccer experience. Inappropriate behavior, such as negative actions or comments toward a player, coach, referee, opponent, or other spectator, is embarrassing and does not set a good example of true sportsmanship to the player(s) you are representing, or to teammates.

3. Players registered with SMSA are expected to conduct themselves appropriately in all situations. Regardless of age level, players are expected to maintain a positive attitude and show due respect to their coaches, teammates, referees, opponents, parents and spectators.
4. Officers, Coordinators, Coaches and any other person representing SMSA in a position of authority are expected to take this Code of Conduct Pledge to an even higher level. Your influence and example as a mentor to our players is of extreme importance. Our players will respond according to how we handle ourselves in any given situation. Please accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative. If you must take action against a player, or assist a referee in enforcing an action, do so in a calm manner. The situation will be discussed later, when tempers have cooled. Remember, "Praise in public. Criticize in private."
5. Negative or any other inappropriate behavior by players and spectators, and/or Officers, Coordinators, Coaches, or any other person(s) representing SMSA in a position of authority will not be tolerated by SMSA. Each incident will be reviewed by SMSA and dealt with accordingly. First time and minor incidents as deemed by SMSA will result in a reprimand to the involved individual and an apology if appropriate. Subsequent and severe incidents as deemed by SMSA, may lead to the dismissal of a player from a game/practice, and/or being barred from membership in SMSA, without a refund. In addition, subsequent and severe incidents by a player's representative(s) may result in the representative(s) and the player himself/herself being barred from membership in SMSA, without a refund. These same standards also apply to Officers, Coordinators, Coaches and any other person(s) in a position of authority within SMSA.
6. By signing your child's registration form, you agree to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner and will abide by the conditions of this Code of Conduct Pledge. In addition, you also agree to make your child/children and representatives aware of the conditions of this Code of Conduct Pledge. Officers, Coordinators, Coaches and any other person representing SMSA, who may not have a child or children registered with SMSA, agree to abide by the conditions of this Code of Conduct Pledge by accepting a position within SMSA.