

AYSO Code of Conducts For Volunteers - Players, Parents, Coaches, Referees and Assessors

An Important rule on the field and off

AYSO has always encouraged good sportsmanship in all its programs. "Good Sportsmanship", in fact, is one of the [five philosophies](#) listed in our National Bylaws. We strongly recommend and encourage all individual Regions to promote good sportsmanship through dynamic programs.

The following Codes may vary from Region to Region, however, all define the fundamentals of good behavior - which is simply being courteous and respectful to everyone involved in the game. The way we figure it, players, volunteers and parents who understand what is expected of them in regards to good sportsmanship will probably act with good sportsmanship. Remember, it just doesn't happen - **being a good sport needs to be taught by example, encouraged at all times and taught at every opportunity!**

Player's Code

Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.

Play by the Laws of the Game.

Never argue with or complain about referees' calls are decisions.

Control your temper. Most of all resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.

Concentrate on playing soccer with your best efforts. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself.

Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it's your team or your opponent's.

Treat all players, as you would like to be treated.

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.

Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents and the referees.

Parent's Code

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of youngsters.

Through your encouragement and good example, you can help assure that all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. In AYSO, young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat - all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Supporting your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important.

Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory - that way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game!

ALWAYS BE POSITIVE

Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team.

Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.

REMEMBER: YOUR CHILD WANTS TO HAVE FUN

Remember that your child is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let children establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them.

Don't put too heavy a burden on your child to win games. Surveys reveal that 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winning team.

Children play for the fun of playing.

REINFORCE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your child achieve their goals and their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your child does make one, remember it's all part of learning, so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.

DON'T BE A SIDELINE COACH OR REFEREE

Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experiences a positive one. They need your support too.

That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there's usually always an opportunity for you to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!

Coaches Code

Enthusiastically support and practice the *"Everyone Plays," "Good Sportsmanship" and "Positive Coaching"* philosophies of AYSO.

Be reasonable in your demands on a young player's time, energy, enthusiasm and performance on the field.

Impress on your players that they must abide by the Laws of the Game at all times.

Develop team respect for the ability of opponents and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.

Ensure that your 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.

Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach they can respect.

Keep informed of sound principles of coaching, growth and child development.

Check your equipment and playing facilities. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of your players.

Follow the advice of a physician when determining when and injured child is ready to play again.

Referee's Code

Always remember that the game is for the players. Player safety and fair play come first.

Study and learn the laws of the Game and understand the "spirit" of the Laws. Help fellow referees do the same.

Encourage and enforce the AYSO Philosophies of "Everyone Plays," "Positive Coaching" and "Good Sportsmanship."

Respect other referees' decisions and do not publicly criticize another official.

Wear the proper uniform and keep it in good condition.

Maintain good physical condition so you can keep up with the action.

Stay calm when confronted with emotional reactions from players, coaches and parents.

Honor accepted game assignments. In an emergency, find a replacement.

Support good sportsmanship with a kind word to players, coaches and parents of both teams when deserved.

Always be fair and impartial, avoiding conflicts of interest. Decisions based on personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.

Assessor's Code

I will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.

I will conduct myself honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of my position.

I will honor all assignments.

I will attend clinics to become more proficient in the Laws of the Game and their proper interpretation.

I will never knowingly criticize my fellow assessors.

I will be courteous and considerate when critiquing official during the post game.

I will do my utmost to help the officials become better and more professional.

I will not make statements about any game official except in my official capacity

All my assignments are confidential and are to be shared only on a “need to know” basis.

The AYSO Referee Assessor’s Creed

When performing my duties as a Referee Assessor, I will evaluate referees based upon the standards established, approved and set forth by AYSO National Referee Program. My assessment will take into account the refereeing performance I am witnessing only and I will endeavor, to the best of my ability to not be influenced by my own biases and expectations or the views of others.