



POINT COOK SOCCER CLUB

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

The following code of behaviour has been designed to allow players, parents, coaches and supporters to enjoy their soccer experience whilst at the same time allow players to develop their skills as best possible.

The major focus of the guidelines should be on **letting children play with minimal instruction during play and with plenty of encouragement**. Children do not respond well to adult training methods and attitudes. We believe these guidelines are critical in achieving the objectives of our juniors i.e: **enjoyment and development ... at the same time**.

The club believes these guidelines are critical and therefore the club reserves the right to temporarily or permanently suspend or expel any Player, Parent, Coach or Supporter from the club if they breach any of the guidelines, undermine the club or bring the name of the club into dispute.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

We would like parents to understand what experts believe is the best philosophy for junior soccer. It will be through your support, assistance and positive behaviour that the right environment will be created for your child. It is at home that a child learns a good sense of sportsmanship. As a parent always remember:

- Children participate in soccer for **their enjoyment, not yours**
- Encourage children to participate, **do not force them**. The majority want to play **only for fun**
- Let children play and learn by doing, **limit constant instruction**
- Focus on providing a **good example** as children learn best this way. Your behaviour and comments should always be **positive and supportive**
- **Focus on your child's efforts and performance** rather than whether they win or lose
- Encourage children to **play according to the rules and spirit of the game**
- All young people are deserving of **equal attention and opportunities**
- **Never ridicule or yell at a child or team for making a mistake or losing**. Teach your child that an honest effort is accepted to **avoid any undue disappointment with losing**
- Appreciate (applaud) good performance and skilful plays by all participants. **Show respect for your team's opponents**. Without them there would be no game
- 'Smart supporting' – **not loud and intense but calm, relaxed and at all times positive**
- **Respect officials'** decisions and teach children to do likewise
- Show **appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators**. Without them, your child could not participate
- Respect the **rights, dignity and worth of every young person** regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion. Support all efforts to remove racial and religious vilification, verbal and physical from sporting activities
- **Do not smoke or consume alcohol anywhere near children while they are practicing or playing**
- It is the **parent's responsibility** to allow **sick or injured players to resume training or playing**. The **coach** has the **ultimate say** if he or she believes that the child is not fit to train or play.



PLAYERS

- **Play by the rules.** Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official during a break or after the competition
- **Control your temper.** Verbal abuses of officials, sledging other players or deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- The use of **crude, foul or abusive language** that may be determined offensive or engage in any conduct detrimental to the image of the game when on or off the field **is not permitted**
- **Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team.** Your team's performance will benefit and so will you
- **Be a good sport.** Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. **Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor**
- **Cooperate** with your coach, team-mates and opponents. Without them, there would be no competition
- **Participate** for your own enjoyment and benefit, **not just to please your parents and coaches**
- **Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion**
- **Do not use any banned substance or drugs of dependence**
- **Display good sportsmanship** at all times.



COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS

- **Young people participate for pleasure**, and winning is only part of the fun
- **Children do not respond well to training that is suitable for adults**. They require minimal instruction, little to no refereeing, lots of game time, lots of fun and equipment and ground sizes suitable to their age and size. **If we attempt to go faster than nature, children will reach adulthood prematurely**
- **Encourage good performance** and **don't over highlight the errors**
- **Avoid over instructing**. Let children play with minimal instruction during play and with plenty of encouragement. **The children should be the centre of attention not you**
- **Never ridicule or yell at a young player for making a mistake or not coming first**
- **Be reasonable** in your demands on players' time, energy and enthusiasm. **Children also have other interests**
- Operate **within the rules and spirit** of soccer and teach your players to do the same
- Ensure that the time players spend with you is a **positive experience**. All young people are deserving of **equal attention and opportunities**
- **Avoid overplaying the talented players**; the "just average" need and deserve equal time. Group players according to age, height, skill and physical maturity where possible
- Develop **team respect for the ability of opponents, as well** as for the judgement of **officials and opposing coaches**
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet **safety standards** and are appropriate to the age and ability of all players
- **Display control, respect and professionalism** to all involved with soccer. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage players to do the same
- Show **concern and caution towards sick and injured players**. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition
- Attempt to obtain appropriate qualifications and **keep up to date** with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people. The club will support and encourages you in this regard
- **Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development**
- **Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person** regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
- It is the **parent's responsibility** to allow or not allow **sick or injured players to resume training or playing**. The **coach** can however have the **ultimate say** if he or she believes that the child is not fit to train or play
- And finally remember that **children need a coach they can respect**. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.