

Duneland Soccer Club Code of Conduct for Parents/Spectators

The Duneland Soccer Club (DSC) board members and other DSC volunteers are committed to delivering a quality youth soccer program. We all know that children's sports are supposed to be fun and a positive experience for the children involved. Unfortunately, there are some parents, fans, and coaches who don't realize how their behaviors and words can impact the kids and take the fun out of the game. For this reason DSC has adopted the following Code of Conduct for parents and spectators to abide by during DSC events. By signing your child's registration form, you are acknowledging your support of this policy.

- I will remember that children participate in sports to have fun and youth soccer is for the kids, not the parents and coaches.
- I will be my child's best fan and praise my child for competing fairly and trying his/her best.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her individual performance.
- I will de-emphasize competition and "winning" at lower age groups.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or another player for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will be mindful of "lopsided" games where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood by the opponent.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players from the sidelines during the game unless I am one of the official coaches of the team. *Coaching from the sidelines distracts the players and prevents them from learning to make their own decisions on the field.*
- I will respect the coaches and their authority during practices and games. I will refrain from criticizing or confronting coaches in front of my child or other parents. *If you are unhappy with a coach, you should arrange to discuss the issue with the coach at an appropriate time and place, or contact someone on the DSC board for assistance.*
- I will make every effort to have my child arrive on time for team practices and games and to arrive prepared to play. If I am not in attendance, I will make every effort to promptly pick up my child or make arrangements for his/her safe return home.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games. I will be tolerant of the official's calls whether I agree with them or not. *Complaints against an official may be reported to the DSC board for follow-up.*
- During the course of a game, I will not enter the field of play without the permission of the referee.
- While attending Duneland Soccer Club events, I will model good sportsmanship by showing respect for my child's teammates and fellow parents as well as the players, parents, and coaches from opposing teams. I will refrain from using inappropriate or foul language or gestures. I will refrain from criticizing or engaging in disparaging dialogue or taunting behavior.
- Coaches and team parents are collectively responsible for the behavior of their team's spectators.