

Southwest Jackson Soccer League Parents' Code of Conduct

Youth sports are supposed to be constructive, rewarding and fun for the players. Unfortunately, many parents, fans, and coaches don't realize that their actions can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because adults unfairly take the fun away. That is why the **Southwest Jackson Soccer League (SWJSL)**, has adopted the following **Code of Conduct** for parents and spectators to abide by at every game. The **Code of Conduct** can also be found at www.swjssl.org

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and these core principles: respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good sportsmanship.

Parents therefore agree to:

1. Not force a player to participate in soccer.
2. Remember that players participate to have fun and that the game is for players, not adults.
3. Inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my player or the safety of others.
4. Refrain from coaching my player or other players during games and practices from the sideline, unless I am designated as one of the official coaches of the team.
5. Be a positive role model for my player and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every SWJSL event and will never ridicule or yell at any player for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike **conduct** with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, or using profane language or gestures.
7. Teach my player to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence and will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of any of the players.
8. See that my player treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
9. Teach my player that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my player will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance and praise them for their effort.
10. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my player over winning.
11. Deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups and in the Instructional League.
12. Provide a sports environment for my player that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and refrain from their use at every SWJSL event.

13. Learn the rules of the game and the policies of SWJSL and MYSA.
14. Respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
15. Not entering the playing field unless directed by coaches or game officials.
16. Abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines and if they fail to abide by the rules and guidelines that they shall be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (a) Verbal warning by an official, head coach, and/or President of SWJSL or MYSA;
 - (b) Written warning;
 - (c) Probation with written documentation of the incident kept on file with SWJSL;
 - (d) Game(s) suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file with SWJSL;
 - (e) Season suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file with SWJSL; or
 - (f) Such other action as the Disciplinary Committee shall determine in necessary and/or proper with written documentation of the incident kept on file with SWJSL.