

KNOXVILLE FOOTBALL CLUB PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

1. FOLLOW THE GOLDEN RULE: Always treat others (coaches, parents, officials, and players) the same way that you would want you and your child to be treated. Set the example by showing respect, dignity, and total sportsmanship at all times. Avoid profanity, especially when players or younger family members of players are present on the sidelines or at designated team events.

2. ACT YOUR AGE: Youth soccer is for the kids. If you find yourself becoming too emotionally involved in what's happening on the field, take a step back and relax. Remember, your childhood is over. Give the young players the freedom to enjoy themselves without pressure.

3. BE RESPONSIBLE: Get your kids to practice and games on time. Make sure they have their uniform, shin guards, soccer cleats and water bottle, and are well rested. Help them eat and drink right before, during and after the game.

4. BE SEEN, NOT HEARD: Nothing is better for a young player than having their parents on hand to watch them play. And nothing is worse for a player than hearing a parent booing, taunting, screaming or making comments at, or about, players, coaches, fans or officials (that includes your own team as well as your opponent). Offer applause and cheers of encouragement for both teams following a good play or a great effort, otherwise keep quiet.

5. IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FUN: So help make it that way. Keep smiling, and encourage enjoyment and participation over results. If it's not fun, something's wrong, and your player will lose their passion and interest in the sport.

6. MOTIVATE THROUGH CONFIDENCE: Try and identify a positive from every game or practice to help build confidence. A young player's sense of achievement is the greatest motivator.

7. DON'T QUESTION AN OFFICIAL'S CALL: You may not agree with a call, but it's not your job (or the players or coaches either) to officiate the game. Never should an official's call be argued by a spectator. Accept the call and move on, while staying positive.

8. USE THE "24-HOUR RULE" IF YOU MUST TALK WITH THE COACH: Wait until the next day if you have an issue to discuss about how the coach is running the team. Let the heat of the moment pass. Encourage your player to talk with the coach about playing time and their role on the team. Never make a scene in front of the team as it's embarrassing for you, your children and the coach; and chances are nothing will get resolved in that environment.

9. PUT WINNING AND LOSING IN PERSPECTIVE: Games have winners and losers. Keep reminding your child about this reality and the need to deal with both outcomes. Young players should avoid getting too cocky when they win and too upset when they lose. Overcoming adversity is required in life and in sports, so focus on how your player can respond to adversity instead of complaining.

10. AVOID THE POST GAME ANALYSIS: Don't analyze your player's performance following every game. If you do, chances are they will avoid talking to you at all after games, or worse yet, not want you at the games at all. Let your children come to you for advice rather than offering unsolicited criticism. It will have more of an impact than you going to them.

11. LET THE COACH PERFORM HIS/HER JOB: The Club has empowered each coach to make the coaching decisions regarding playing time and positions with the entire team in mind. This means that your son/daughter may not always play in their favorite position or in the parent's preferred rotation. Presume that your coaching staff is making the best possible decisions on behalf of the entire team. Playing time is earned on the field, and is subject to the coach's discretion. Parents are welcome to discuss any and all issues regarding the team with the coach, but should not try to influence the coach's decision.

12. FOLLOW TEAM AND CLUB RULES: Travel and tournaments are important times for team bonding, and may have certain rules for all to abide. Make sure that you and your player know the rules for your team and for the club. Team and club rules will be in force, and parents are expected to know those rules. Players will need to follow the rules even if parents are not present on a trip. Failure to respect the rules might be grounds for suspension of the player, and the player might have to be sent home at the expense of the parents.

13. PAY YOUR BILLS: The Club is a non-profit organization that operates with very little funds in cash reserves. Team and club expenses must be paid by all members in a timely fashion in order for the club and team to function. If families fall behind on payments to the club or team, the privilege of playing with teammates may be suspended until financial obligations are fulfilled and balances are paid.

14. STAY IN CONTROL: Alcohol, illegal drugs and unauthorized prescription drugs shall not be possessed, consumed or distributed before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex.

By Signing below, I certify that I have read and understand the club's expectations for parental behavior.

Parent: _____ Date: _____

Parent: _____ Date: _____

On Behalf of Player Name: _____