

FAIR PLAY CODES

For Soccer players, coaches, parents and spectators

WHAT IS FAIR PLAY?

Integrity, fairness and respect - these are the principles of fair play. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fuelled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results.

COACH'S CODE

A Fair Play Coach believes and teaches that sport is an ethical pursuit, one which builds character and shapes attitudes. As a coach, your fair play aims should be to:

- help your athletes develop a positive self image
- promote respect for the rules, officials and their decisions, and opponents
- encourage a constructive attitude toward competition
- develop a sense of dignity under all circumstances
- provide an equal opportunity for all to learn skills
- encourage these individuals to continue participation in sport.

YOU are one of the most influential people in a child's life. Your job is not only to teach how to hit a ball or block a spike, but also to teach how to win and lose graciously. You must also remind them that sport is meant to be fun. The athletic skills these young people learn from you may only be used for a few years. The attitudes they develop toward themselves and others will last a lifetime.

PLAYER'S CODE

- Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach
- Play by the rules
- Never argue with the official's decisions. Let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions
- Control your temper - no mouthing off or throwing equipment
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether your own or your opponents'
- Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of any player

- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Don't be a show-off or always try to get the most points or penalties.
- Co-operate with your coach, teammates and opponents, for without them you don't have a game.

PARENT'S CODE

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports
- Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours
- Encourage your child always to play by the rules
- Teach your child that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment
- Turn defeat to victory by helping your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition
- Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team
- Do not publicly question the officials' judgement and never their honesty
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities
- Recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.

SPECTATOR'S CODE

- Remember that children play organized sports for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you and they are NOT miniature adults
- Be on your best behavior. Don't use profane language or harass players, coaches or officials
- Applaud good plays by your own team and the visiting team
- Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no games
- Never ridicule or scold a child for making a mistake during a competition
- Condemn the use of violence in all forms
- Respect the officials' decisions
- Encourage players always to play according to the rules

reproduced with permission: The Commission for Fair Play
365 Laurier Ave W, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0X6

reprinted from: Every Coach's Planner and Idea Book