

South Parkland Soccer Code of Conduct

Our philosophy is that “players play, coaches coach, referees officiate and parents positively encourage their team”. The following rules and guidelines are in place to help ensure that all involved in South Parkland soccer have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Players

- Play the game fairly by the rules.
- Treat your teammates, coaches and referees with respect.
- Refrain from using foul or abusive language during practice and games.
- Soccer is a game and opposing players are opponents, not enemies. Show good sportsmanship during and after games.
- Give your best effort at all times and respect your coach by listening to their instructions.

Coaches

- Keep the game safe and enjoyable. Understand that as a youth coach, the game is for the children, not the adults.
- Have a positive attitude and always praise players for trying hard, playing fair and doing their best, regardless of the outcome of the game.
- Place the safety and well-being of every player above the desire to win.
- Understand that coaching is a position of trust. Be a positive role model.
- Never criticize or yell at any player for making a mistake.
- Do not tolerate any physical abuse, verbal abuse or bullying.
- Soccer is a game, and the players on the other team are opponents, not enemies. Take all reasonable steps not to run up the score. Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games.
- Encourage respect and fair play from players, opponents, fans, and referees. Coaches are responsible for fan behavior.
- Teach your players basic skills, team play and proper team behavior. Develop the confidence/self-esteem of your players.
- Do not excessively dispute referee decisions. Referees never change their calls, no matter how much you protest.
- Take the time to calmly and rationally discuss issues with referees during the game. Do not confront referees after a game.
- Be the example for proper soccer behavior for your players and parents. Provide appropriate feedback to the club.

Parents

- Keep the game safe and enjoyable. Understand that the game is for the children, not the adults.
- Display a positive attitude and praise players for trying hard, playing fair and doing their best, regardless of the outcome of the game.
- Place the safety and well-being of every player above the desire to win.
- Do not tolerate any physical abuse, verbal abuse or bullying.
- Soccer is a game, and the players/parents on the other team are opponents, not enemies. Show good sportsmanship before, during and after games.
- Parents will refrain from coaching their child or other players from the sideline during a game. Praise and encouragement are encouraged, but sideline coaching can be confusing and counter-productive to a player development.
- Referees never change their calls, no matter how much you protest. Do not dispute their calls. Never confront a referee after a game.
- If you know your child is unable to attend a practice or game or will be late, please give the coach advance notice to enable proper planning. Send your child ready to play in proper uniform.
- If you do not agree with a coaching or referee decision, reserve your feedback until 24 hours after the game.
- Do not enter the field of play or visit the player sideline without obtaining the permission of a coach.
- Address any issue/grievance first with your player’s coach. If that approach is not productive, or if you do not feel comfortable discussing the issue with the coach, send your concern via email to the SPYA Soccer Commissioner (soccer@spya.org).

Failure to abide by the above will result in corrective action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- Warning
- Suspension or removal from the program. We never want to get here. This is a game and we're involved because we love our kids and the game.