

# *Missoula Youth Soccer Club*

## *Code of Conduct*

Adopted by the Board 6.3.2010

### **Background**

The Missoula Youth Soccer Club Inc. (MYSC or the Club) is concerned about the conduct of players, coaches, spectators, referees, and parents or legal guardians at all Club sponsored events. We want practices and games to be fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences for all involved, but especially for the youth. Every player, coach, spectator, and parent or legal guardian, must agree to follow the Code of Conduct (the Code). The Code is more than dos and don'ts, it is an attitude and if adhered to, it will enrich the lives of everyone.

The player's code of conduct is set forth in MYSC's Laws of the Game. The referee's Code of Conduct is commensurate with certification. Coaches and parents or legal guardians and spectators codes are listed below. Adherence to the Code is binding with registration or participation in the Club. Failure to comply with the standards set forth in this document can lead to forfeiture of the right of participation and membership. Any violations of this code should be documented by multiple witnesses and sent to the President of MYSC.

### **Coaches**

Coaches and assistant coaches are responsible for ensuring proper behavior and sportsmanship of themselves, their players, and the parents of players during games and practices. MYSC has established the following guidelines which coaches must follow as a mentor of our youth.

As a MYSC coach, I agree to the following:

- (1) I will know and uphold the Bylaws and Laws of the Game. I will understand and correctly teach the Rules of the Game and basic soccer fundamentals, skills, and strategy.
- (2) The safety and emotional and physical well-being of the players will always be my top priority.
- (3) I will have two or more adults at all Club sponsored events.
- (4) I will demand a sports environment free of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and never conduct a game or practice under the influence of these substances.
- (5) As a coach, I understand that I am the CEO of the team; it is a position of trust. I will set a high standard. I am a mentor and a role model to the youth and will exhibit integrity and dignity at all times. I will be prompt, dependable, and communicate effectively with parents and players.
- (6) I will teach self-discipline, self-confidence, sportsmanship, and team-work and remember the most effective way to teach is by example. I will respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every player.

(7) I will not use improper language, ridicule, or yell at players for making mistakes. I understand that mistakes are an opportunity for learning not punishment. I will strive to be positive, praise the youth, and be constructive in my coaching.

(8) I will remember that my players are enrolled to have fun and learn the game of soccer. I will be reasonable in my expectations. I will be fair in playing time and know the strengths and weaknesses of my players.

(9) I understand that winning is the objective of the game, but not the only goal nor the most important one. I will encourage the players to play to the best of their ability and place the youth's physical and emotional well-being above my own personal desire to win. I will teach my players how to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

(10) I will respect the referees and game officials and their authority during every game. I will be particularly understanding and supportive of youth referees. I will never threaten a referee or excessively argue any call made on the field.

(11) I will be respectful to spectators, parents, opposing coaches and players, and referees and remember we are all volunteers. I will never make obscene gestures or engage in inappropriate behavior.

(12) I recognize as a coach I am not perfect and will strive to improve my teaching abilities. If an apology or reconciliation is in order, I will do so quickly and sincerely.

(13) I acknowledge that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct can result in a warning, game or season suspension, or forfeiture of my membership in MYSC.

## **Parents & Spectators**

Parents, legal guardians, and spectators can be a very positive influence on an individual player and a team. We encourage you to attend as many events as possible. Great joy can come from seeing your child play soccer, as well as your child seeing a supportive parent. However, being a spectator is not without responsibility. To the extent to which spectators can be a positive influence, they can equally be a negative, hurtful, and counterproductive force.

As parents and spectators of the MYSC, I agree to the following:

(1) I will be familiar with the Code of Conduct for Coaches and the Laws of the Game so that I will have correct and realistic expectations of players, coaches, referees, and the Game.

(2) I will show respect, courtesy, and good sportsmanship to game officials, coaches, players and spectators at all times. I will teach good sportsmanship by my example.

(3) I will remember that my child's enjoyment of the game is more important than mine. I will encourage my child to do their best and understand that my child may not be the best player on the field and that is okay.

(4) As a parent I am a cheerleader; I will let the coaches manage their team and the referees officiate the game.

(5) I recognize that coaches are volunteers and sacrifice their time and energy to teach my child. I will be supportive, appreciative, and constructive in my criticism.

(6) I will listen to what the coach is telling my child and be limited in my coaching from the sideline so that my council to players is not counter to the coaches' instruction and does not undermine players' communication with the coach and each other.

(7) I will refrain from making negative or abusive remarks about any player, coach, spectator, or referee and avoid improper actions, language, and gestures that are or may be interpreted as humiliating or hostile.

(8) I will drop off and pick up my child on time from practices and games.

(9) I acknowledge that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct can result in a warning, game suspension, season suspension, removal from the program, and forfeiture of my membership in MYSC.

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Signature & Date – Coach

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Signature & Date – Parent/Guardian