

WILMINGTON YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY



THE AIM OF WILMINGTON YOUTH SOCCER IS TO ENCOURAGE AND ENGAGE IN ATHLETIC RECREATIONAL SOCCER GAMES THAT FOSTER AND PROMOTE THE QUALITIES OF PHYSICAL FITNESS, COMPETATIVE AND SPIRITED TEAM PLAY AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BY PROVIDING SOCCER INSTRUCTION TO ITS MEMBER FAMILIES AND BY MAKING AVAILABLE TO THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN TEAM COMPETITION BOTH ON AN INTRAMURAL AND COMPETATIVE BASIS AGAINST TEAMS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES. OUR PROGRAM DEPENDS UPON VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR MEMBER FAMILIES AND OTHER LOCAL PERSONS RECOGNIZED AS KNOWLEDGABLE IN THE RULES AND GUIDELINES OF THE GAME OF SOCCER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A REWARDING AND FULFILLING EXPERIENCE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PROGRAM. PROVIDING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS OUR HOPE IS TO FURTHER THE INTEREST IN SOCCER TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS IN OUR PROGRAM AND PROMOTE PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH TEAM PLAY AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP MODELED BY THE COACHES, PLAYERS, FAMILIES AND DIRECTORS OF WILMINGTON YOUTH SOCCER. A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY TOWARDS VIOLATIONS OF THIS INTENT IS EXPECTED AT EVERY FUNCTION THAT IS SPONSORED BY WILMINGTON YOUTH SOCCER.

To clarify expectations of conduct, we jointly expect all coaches, players, and member families to conform to this Code of Conduct:

- Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- Before a game, coaches introduce yourself to the opposing coaches and players.
- During the game, coaches are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- During the game, coaches are responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. Family members are expected to respect supporters of an opposing team. Do not allow them to engage in any conversation that is derogatory or insulting. Explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.
- Applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Yelling at opposing players and the referee by member families or WYSA supporters will not be tolerated at any time
- Coaches, if you have an issue with the referee discuss it with him/her calmly and patiently after the game. Yelling at a referee will not be tolerated at any time.
- If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same. Member families are encouraged to congratulate both teams on a game well played.

We stress two points:

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like players in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, everyone will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, everyone will also notice. Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Massachusetts and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches, players and member families who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed from the field of play as deemed appropriate by a WYSA board member or by consensus of the WYSA board upon review of the incident.