

**BAY AREA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
**PARENT'S CODE OF ETHICS**

**Preamble**

As a parent I play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of children. Through my encouragement and good example, I can help assure that all the boys and girls learn good sportsmanship, and self-discipline. In soccer young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat – all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, they have fun.

**Support Your Child**

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important. Help my child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach my child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory – that way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game!

**Always Be Positive**

Parents serve as role models for their children. Become aware of this and work to be a positive role model. Applaud good plays by your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.

**Remember That Your Child Wants to Have Fun**

Remember that your child is the one playing soccer, not you. It's very important to let children establish their own goals – to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them. Children play for the fun of playing.

**Reinforce Positive Behavior**

Positive reinforcement is the best way to help your child achieves their goals and their natural fear of failure. Nobody likes to make mistakes. If your child does make one, remember it's all part of learning, so encourage your child's efforts and point out the good things your child accomplished.

**Don't Be a Sideline Coach or Ref**

Coaches and referees are usually parents just like you and they volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experience a positive one. They need your support too. That means refraining from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. As a volunteer organization, there's usually always an opportunity for you to take your interest in coaching or refereeing to the next level and become one yourself!