



Cosmo Stars Soccer Club (CSSC): *Code of Conduct*

PURPOSE:

The club's policies related to player/parent's behavior during the games and practices are provided upon registration/contract agreement and posted under each program in our website. As a player/parent on any Cosmo Stars soccer team, you are expected to comply with the code of conduct to maintain a fun and safe environment for all kids within our club and the rest of the Cosmo Stars Soccer Club family, but also applicable for kids, parents, and referees external to the club.

We are fully affiliated with the US Youth Soccer (USYS) and Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) and implement the behavior expectation policy from each of the associations. This code of conduct is a tool for assisting coaches and parents for maintaining a safe and fun environment while enhancing the positive player's social, psychological, and overall health benefits from participation in sports.

PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT - SIDELINES, GAME AND TRAINING

Parents and players are expected to adhere to the following guidelines and policies:

- Learn and respect the rules of soccer and abide by them at all times. If unfamiliar with the rules, please respect all decisions made by referees and coaches, or any authority present at games or training sessions.
- Show respect and courtesy to officials and coaches, by following their instructions and directions.
- Respect the game officials/referees and refrain from addressing them, commenting or questioning their decisions in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner during or after the game. Only the coaches and the team's captain can address any of their decisions during the game. The referees are human and can make mistakes. They are the ultimate authority during the game and all his/her decisions should be respected.
- Spectators/parents must not stand or sit behind the goals or end lines, or in the field areas assigned to coaches and players for league and tournament games, or scrimmages. Parents must be all times away at least 6-7 feet away from the sideline opposite side of the field where the players and coaches are located.
- Please refrain from coaching from the sidelines as kids will be distracted during games and/or practices. Positive cheering is encouraged. Examples of positive cheering are "Good job!" or "Good Safe" or "Amazing Goal". "Stay back on defense!" "Attack", "Defend", "Run to the ball", or "Go back to your position" are examples of coaching from the sidelines. Any type of coaching from the sidelines may cause conflicts against instructions given by coaches during games and/or practices. Our objective is to strengthen confidence and improve personal and team skills so the players can adapt and isolate directions from spectators during the games and apply skills learned during the practices.
- Any criticism of players, coaches, and referees is strictly forbidden. No negative comments are allowed during or after games. Any criticism or complaint can be sent via email to club's officials within 24 hours after the conclusion of the game.
- Parents are not allowed near the coaches or on the field during practices or, as noted above, they must sit in the assigned spectator's area in the far side from the coach and player's area. Only parents identified as assisting coaches can be on the field with the approval from the coaches. Parent(s) will be notified who the assisting coaches are.
- Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive, profane language, or aggressive behavior, taunting and humiliating remarks, and/or negative gestures and physical assault upon another player and/or parent(s) at any time.
- Please, refrain from any conflicts, or negative remarks and comments between parents within our club or external to the club during and after practices and games. This is strictly forbidden in front of the kids. These types of behaviors can lead into a negative and hostile environment for the kids. Any complaints should be submitted to the club's officials via email within 24 hours after the incident. We strongly recommend that any remarks are sent after 2 hours of the incident.



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- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team, and display sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, and be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- Follow all Association rules (rules can be found only under MSYSA/USYS). Please, request a copy to club's officials if unavailable.
- Respect the property of others at all times.
- Remember that soccer is a game. Parents shall treat players and coaches as opponents rather than enemies. Parents and spectators are to support the players and coaches and enjoy the game.
- Parent(s) must not engage in "coaching" from sidelines or provide any direction to the kids.
- Parent(s) are not allowed to criticize any players, coaches and/or game officials during practices and/or games. Please, hold your comments until you are away from the field.
- Parents(s) must not attempt to influence the lineup or makeup of a team at any time. It is the coaches' discretion who and how much time each player gets to play on the field based on attendance, performance, and observations made from practices and previous games, and adherence to the player's code of conduct specified in this document. Be aware that misconduct from either a player or parent may be a disciplinary action against travel team players.
- As noted earlier, parents must cheer for their child's team in a positive manner, always refraining from making negative or abusive remarks about any of the team players from our teams or the opposing team. Parents must maintain control of their emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating.

PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

An "affiliation" to US Soccer, US Youth Soccer (USYS) and Maryland State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) is a cooperative relationship in the interests of long-term player development. Our club abides to all rules of conduct from the affiliation to protect the wellbeing of our players and parents. Any misconduct from either a recreational or travel player will be report to club's officials for disciplinary actions.

Although players in recreational soccer will play at least 50% of the game per the U.S soccer guidelines, travel team players must follow more stringent rules that could be considered elements in the decision-making for playing time. Time on the field depends not only on the performance and observations made by the coach during practices and games, but also based on compliance to code of conduct.

All travel team players must adhere to the following rules:

- 1) **Attendance:** all players must attend all practices and games and arrive on-time, expect players participating in high school sports/activities. Parents/players must notify the coach beforehand. All excuses will be evaluated by the coaches as part of player's performance to determine playing time. Parents/players must not expect to more playing time if effort and attendance are low compared to other players. It is unfair to allow players to play equal or more time on the field if not attending practices. Priority will be given to players who not only perform at their best of their abilities with significant effort and dedication, but also attendance.
- 2) **Teamwork:** soccer is a team's sport. As such, all players must demonstrate appropriate respect to their peers/teammates. The club will not tolerate any inappropriate behavior in and outside of the field from any player. All players and parents must act in accordance with the non-discriminatory rules described below. All players must support each other and create a positive environment for the development of all players. All violations, specially those discriminatory, will be reported to the MSYSA and USYS for disciplinary actions and potential separation from the team. A maximum of 3 warnings will be communicated to the parents/players before a disciplinary action is taken. This will be recorded in player's profile for future involvements in travel teams. Thus, all players must demonstrate sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose, and teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
- 3) **Effort:** As a sport, a players must put their best effort in all games and training sessions. It is a key element for the development of the player to achieve a winning team culture and lead to success. Effort is about the commitment,



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hustle, and determination players display on the field during practices and games. Great players give their all in every play and drill, regardless of their role on the team, whether they are the star or starting players or not. The club's commitment is to track progress and reevaluate goals, if necessary. Coaches will evaluate performance based on effort plays, not the end results. The biggest recognition a player can get is from the effort he/she put out.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Cosmo Stars Soccer Club (CSSC) will not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

The Club is fully committed to setting the standards and values to apply throughout the institution/organization at every level. Soccer belongs and should be enjoyed by everyone, equally. Our commitment is to confront and eliminate discrimination in all Club's activities or to treat anyone less favorably by reason of sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnicity, color, religion, or disability.

This includes all the following Club's activities:

- Team's selection, as well as selection of coaches and volunteers
- Soccer development activities
- Coaching and education activities and awards
- Courses and training development

The club will not tolerate any sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behavior, whether physical or verbal and will work to ensure that such behavior is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs. The Club is committed to the development of programs and training opportunities that raises awareness in order to promote the eradication of discrimination within its own organization and in the wider context within soccer as a whole.

Cosmo Stars Soccer Club commits itself to the immediate investigation of any claims of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice cease forthwith, and an investigation be held of any member accused of discrimination. Any member found guilty will be instructed to resist and will be removed from the Club. Since discrimination in its many forms against the Club's policy, any members offending will be dealt with under disciplinary procedure.

The Club also commits itself to the disabled person whenever possible and will treat such members, in aspects of their recruitment and membership, in exactly the same manner as other members, the difficulties of their disablement permitting assistance will be given, wherever possible to ensure that disabled members are helped in gaining access. Appropriate training will be made to such members who request it.



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For questions regarding the affiliation guidelines, please contact the Executive Director and Club Manager.