

TAOS YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE

Recreational Teams: Codes Of Conduct

SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER

- **TRUSTWORTHINESS:** Honesty, Integrity, Promise-Keeping, & Loyalty
- **RESPECT:** Autonomy, Privacy, Dignity, Courtesy, Tolerance, & Acceptance
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** Accountability, Obligation, Pursuit of Excellence, & Dependability
- **CARING:** Compassion, Consideration, Giving, Sharing, Kindness, & Loving
- **FAIRNESS:** Procedural Fairness, Impartiality, Consistency, Equity, Equality, & Due Process
- **CITIZENSHIP:** Law Abiding, Community Service, & Protection of the Environment

PLAYER'S CODE

- Play for fun, not just to please your parents or coach.
- Always play by the Laws of the Game.
- Never argue or complain about referees' calls or decisions.
- Control your temper. Most of all, resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing soccer with your best efforts. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself.
- Be a good sport by cheering on all good plays, whether your team or your opponent's.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Remember that the game aims to have fun, improve skills, and feel good.
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents, and referees.

COACHES CODE

- Enthusiastically support and practice the "everyone plays," "good sportsmanship," and "positive coaching" philosophies.
- Be reasonable in your demands on young players' time, energy, enthusiasm, and soccer performance.
- Impress on your players that they must always abide by the Laws of the Game.
- Develop respect for opponents' abilities and the judgment of referees and opposing coaches. Ensure that your players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach they can respect.
- Keep informed of sound principles of coaching, growth, and child development.
- Check your equipment and playing facilities. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for your players' age and ability.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

REFEREE'S CODE

- Always remember the game is for the players. Player safety and fair play come first.
- Study and learn the Laws of the Game and understand the "spirit" of the Laws. Help fellow referees do the same.
- Encourage and enforce the philosophies of "everyone plays," "positive coaching," and "good sportsmanship."
- Respect other referees' decisions and do not publicly criticize another official.
- Wear the proper uniform and keep it in good condition.
- Maintain good physical condition so you can keep up with the action.
- Stay calm when confronted with emotional reactions from players, coaches, and parents.
- Honor accepted game assignments. In an emergency, find a replacement.
- Support good sportsmanship with a kind word to players, coaches and parents of both teams when deserved.
- Always be fair and impartial, avoiding conflicts of interest. Decisions based on personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.

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PARENT'S CODE

- **SUPPORT YOUR CHILD:** It's important that you support your child by encouraging him or her and showing interest in his or her team.
- **HELP YOUR CHILD:** work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory. Your child will be a winner, even in defeat.
- **ALWAYS BE POSITIVE:** Parents are not participants on their child's team. However, they do contribute to the success experienced by their child and the team.
- **PARENTS SERVE AS ROLE MODELS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.** Become aware of this and work to be positive role models.
- **APPLAUD GOOD PLAYS:** by your child's team and opposing team members. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.
- **BE ENTHUSIASTIC AND SUPPORTIVE:** Remember that your child is playing soccer. It's important to let children establish their own goals to play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your standards and goals on your child.
- **DO NOT BE A HEAVY BURDEN:** on your child to win games. Surveys reveal that 72 percent of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. Children play for the fun of playing.
- **REINFORCE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR:** Positive reinforcement is the best way to help a child achieve goals and reduce the natural fear of failure. No one likes to make a mistake. If your child does make one, remember that he or she is still learning. Encourage your child's efforts and highlight the good things your child has accomplished.

LET THE COACHES COACH AND THE REFS REF: Coaches and referees are usually parents. They volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experience a positive one. They need your support, too. What coaches and referees don't need is your help coaching from the sidelines. So please refrain from coaching during games and practices. Referees are not the "bad guys." They are volunteers, too, and they need your support and encouragement. Treat them and their calls fairly and respectfully.