

Brooklyn Youth Soccer – Player and Parent Code of Conduct

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The following standards of conduct outline a philosophy that is paramount to the game of soccer. Soccer is a sport which belongs to the players. While watching one's child compete can be exciting for parents and spectators, parental and spectator enthusiasm should be both positive and controlled. In the same sense, while vigorous competition is expected and encouraged by the players, teaching responsibility, sportsmanship, teamwork and clean play is the primary goal of Brooklyn Youth Soccer ("BYS"). The following standards of conduct outline what is expected from parents and players in the BYS program:

1. ABUSIVE CONDUCT

1.1 REFEREE ABUSE is "verbal abuse" or "physical abuse", as defined below, directed towards any referees. REFEREE ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!! The coaches are in control of the game. Do not use any foul or abusive language towards any referee, and do not make any physical or verbal threats towards any referee. This applies before, during and after a game. *A parent has never overruled a referee, and never will!!* Please keep this in mind, because this is a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** as directed by the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association ("CJSA") – Northeast District ("NED"). *In short, no parent or player should ever address any referee about any game-related issue. That is a coach's job, and they have strict rules they must adhere to as well.* Any player or parent who engages in "referee abuse" will be subject to the penalties in **Section 1.5** below.

1.2. COACH ABUSE: "Coach abuse" is "verbal abuse" or "physical abuse", as defined below, directed towards any coach, meaning a BYS coach or one from an opposing team. COACH ABUSE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!! Coaches are volunteers and are giving their time to teach children the game of soccer and to challenge them physically and mentally. Where a parent has concerns about a coach's conduct, the parent obviously has the right to address those concerns with the coach at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner. A parent may also contact the BYS Board of Directors to ask that the matter be looked into, if the issue(s) cannot be resolved by rational conversation. Please understand, however, that coaches are absolutely in control of playing time and playing position and the Board will not generally intervene in matters that do not involve player safety or a violation of the CJSA or BYS rules. Any parent or player who engages in "coach abuse" will be subject to the penalties in **Section 1.5** below.

1.3. "Physical abuse" means any intentional act of violence intended to cause physical harm, or any intentional act intended to result in the damage or destruction of personal property, and includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, head butting, kicking or throwing an object that could inflict injury, grabbing or bodily running into, or damaging, destroying or defacing personal property

1.4. "Verbal abuse" means any verbal statement, or physical act not resulting in bodily contact, but which implies or threatens physical harm, or damage, destruction or defacing of personal property, and includes, but is not limited to foul or abusive language, using language that implies or threatens physical harm, spewing any beverage or liquid on personal property, or spitting at (but not on). "Verbal abuse" also includes "back talk" from players to coaches or referees.

1.5. PENALTIES FOR "ABUSIVE CONDUCT": (A). Player Violation: Players who engage in "abusive conduct" are subject to dismissal from their team and/or suspension from play under the CJSA and/or BYS rules. **(B). Parent Violation: (i):** for a *first violation*, the offending parent may be directed by the referee (or coach, under Section 2) to leave the field where the offending conduct has taken place, **(ii):** for a *second violation*, or for a refusal to comply with a direction to leave the field after a first violation, the parent will be barred from all future BYS events (i.e., practices, games, special events, ect.), and the child of the offending parent will be suspended from participation in the BYS program for such time as the BYS Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and appropriate under the circumstances.

2. OTHER PROHIBITED CONDUCT: In addition to Sections 1 above, other uncontrolled conduct (i.e, public intoxication, *unlawful* use of drugs or alcohol at any BYS event) or verbally or physically abusive behavior (i.e, physical assaults or threats towards other players, parents or spectators) by players or parents at any event in which a BYS team is participating will not be tolerated. Any such conduct will subject the player or parent, as the case may be, to such penalties as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and appropriate for the safety and security of BYS, its members, players, coaches, and spectators, which may include, but is not limited to, the penalties set forth in **Section 1.5** above.

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3. YOUR PLAYER: BYS coaches are volunteers; they coach to the best of their abilities. Keep this in mind when encouraging your player and their teammates during a match or practice. BYS wants and needs the support and enthusiasm of the parents, family members and friends who come to watch our teams play, but only in an encouraging manner. Enthusiasm and encouragement is welcome and needed, but continuous yelling and overt criticism is often distracting for both teams, and embarrassing for the child. A parent's duty is to encourage and support, NOT to coach. Let the children have fun and enjoy watching them play.

4. THE LAWS OF THE GAME: Soccer refers to its rules as the "laws" of the game. In order to be a supportive parent, and a more competitive player, you must have an understanding of the game. Familiarize yourself with the basic laws: offsides, non-penal fouls (such as those resulting in penalty kicks and free kicks), and penal fouls (those resulting in yellow or red cards). Don't be afraid to ask questions. The Laws of the Game are available at: <http://www.cjsa.org> under the "Coaching" heading.

5. PRACTICES, GAMES and TEAM MEETINGS: Players are expected to make all team practices, games, and, where applicable, team meetings. The player or parent is expected to contact the team coach prior to any practice, game or meeting when the player will not be able to participate. Players who miss practices, games or meetings may be subject to having their playing time limited at the next scheduled competition, the extent and severity of which shall be within the sole discretion of the team coach.

6. INJURIES: All physical injuries must be reported immediately. Failure to do so may result in denial of coverage by our insurance carrier.

7. EQUIPMENT: All players must wear shin guards during all games and practices. Shin guards should be made of rubber or plastic and may NOT contain any metal.

Generally, ethical behavior and respect for your team, opponents, referees, spectators and coaches is required at all times. Any violation of this Code of Conduct will subject the offender(s) to immediate dismissal from any game, and to being prohibited from further participation in BYS events, and without any right to a refund of any portion of the fees or dues paid.

NOTE: By registering your child and signing the Brooklyn Youth Registration form, each parent acknowledges that they have read the PARENT AND PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT and accept the codes, conditions and potential penalties for violation as part of my, and my child(ren)'s, involvement in the BYS program. By signing the registration form, you also acknowledge that you have reviewed the codes, conditions and potential penalties with your child(ren), that s/he/they understands them. By signing the registration form, you also acknowledge that it is your responsibility to make sure that your significant other/spouse and other family members who participate in BYS events are aware of these codes and conditions. Finally, you acknowledge and understand that your failure to meet your responsibilities to assure that your child(ren), spouse/significant other or other family members are aware of these conditions SHALL NOT provide a defense to you or your child(ren) against any action taken by the BYS Board for any violation.