

## Methuen Youth Soccer Association

### Parent's Zero Tolerance Policy

#### Code of Conduct

As some of you may know, inappropriate conduct by parents and other spectators has become an increasing problem for youth sports organizations. To deal with this problem in an effective manner, Methuen Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) has adopted the Parents' Code of Conduct which is detailed below. This Code of Conduct goes beyond our existing Zero Tolerance Policy to protect Officials. We have also adopted the Zero Tolerance Policy for violators of the Code of Conduct. The Board of MYSA urges all of you to take these policies to heart so that we will all have a safe, enjoyable and successful season.

#### Parents' Code of Conduct

1. Applaud good plays; don't dwell on bad plays.
2. Kids imitate their parents. If you are disruptive or act like a jerk, your kid, and possibly others, will act in a similar fashion.
3. The stands are not a place to shout personal instructions.
4. There is more to life than soccer. Encourage your child to participate in other activities.
5. Respect the coach's decision and abilities. Don't force your kids to decide whether to listen to you or to the coach.
6. Stress fair and sensible play. Nobody needs to get hurt because someone is not playing by the rules.
7. Stress the long-term importance of practice over the short-term excitement of games.
8. Stress the importance of teamwork.
9. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model.
10. Don't yell if your kid makes a mistake. Point out what they do well. Positive reinforcement goes a long way.
11. Take time to learn the rules of the game.
12. Remember that coaches and administrators are usually volunteers. A "thank you" every once in a while is often a nice reward.

All parents and guardians of MYSA players are subject to the Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy:

1. Any parent/guardian that attempts to cause physical injury or makes the threat thereof to any individual associated with MYSA shall be subject and his/her children shall be subject to immediate suspension from MYSA play and/or other league involvement, for up to one year at the sole discretion of the MYSA Board.
2. A second instance of an attempt to threaten or cause physical injury shall result in up to a three year suspension for the player(s) and the parent/guardian from any involvement with MYSA.

All individuals associated with MYSA are expected to uphold the values of honesty, good sportsmanship, and respect for the integrity of team participation and team play within MYSA and other related sports organizations.

The game will be stopped by referees or MYSA administration if and when parents, guardians, or spectators displaying inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfere with coaches, players, or other spectators during the game. Referees or MYSA officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents or spectators from the spectators' viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by MYSA or local civil and criminal statutes. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior listed above shall include, but not be limited to:

Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

Taunting players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence, or actual violence.

Throwing of any object in the spectators' viewing area, players' area, or playing fields, or parking areas, directed in any manner in order to intimidate or harm another person, or create a safety hazard.