



Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department Parents Code of Conduct



As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your son or daughter, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

1. Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

2. Always Be Positive

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team, as well as, good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

3. Don't Be a Sideline Coach or Ref

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

4. Demonstrate a Positive Attitude Toward Your Opponents and Their Families

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department (ICPRD) when visiting other clubs and/or tournaments. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

5. Remember that Your Child Wants to Have Fun

Your child is the one playing soccer, not you. Children must establish their own goals – to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his/her soccer development by adhering at all times to the following:

- We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my coach, association coordinator and ICPRD Athletic Director.
- We will give only positive feedback to players.
- We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer for the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in "lopsided" game where cheering our own "winning" team might be misunderstood.
- We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
- We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.
- We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
- We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
- We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee or ICPRD staff so the coach does not receive a caution or ejection due to the action of the parent spectator.
- We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
- We understand that the leagues can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
- We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the player should have playing the game.

Acknowledgement

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support this ICPRD Parent's Code of Conduct.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Association Name: _____ Age Division: _____