

Spectator Ethics

“Coaches must use their influence on his/her spectators that demonstrate intimidating and/or unacceptable behavior towards officials, player(s) and opposing team members.”

From Article VII, WSYSA Coaches Code of Ethics

Soccer is a fun game to play, and it is also a very enjoyable game to watch, especially when our kids are involved. As parent/guardian spectators, we must all positively support the kids regardless of which team they are on. Here are some very simple rules:

- Negative comments towards the players have no place on the field or on the sidelines. Under no circumstance should you use bad language, nor should you harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
- Encourage your children ("way to hang in there, well done, good try".....) but refrain from technical coaching. In extreme cases the referee could penalize your team if you coach from the sideline. Remember we all learn from example.
- All spectators are required to stand at least one yard from the sideline and between outer penalty area lines (the 18 yard line of full size fields). Coaches and referees are asked to enforce this simple rule.
- Respect the referee. While their decisions may not always be agreeable to all, their decisions are final. No useful purpose is served by shouting disagreement or derogatory remarks. Such action could be cause for a warning to the coach. It is then up to the coach to take action to correct the situation in addition to coaching your children or he/she may be asked to leave the game site.
- Show respect to the other team, because without them there would be no game.
- Remember that kids play sports for their enjoyment not for your entertainment.

I acknowledge that I have read the above and will adhere to its principles:

Player _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____