



SOUTH PORTLAND STRIKERS PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The role that parents play in the life of a youth athlete can have a tremendous impact on their experience and development. Therefore, all parents and fans of Strikers players are asked to abide by this code of conduct to help us optimize the experience for all involved.

1. **Let the Coaches Coach:** Coaches need to be free to do their job. They are offering their time and expertise on a volunteer basis and it is not an easy task to lead a team through an entire season. None of our coaches are evaluated on wins/losses. Their goal is to provide a structured developmental experience in which kids learn to compete and have fun playing the game of soccer. Do not coach from the sidelines, or hover by the bench or behind the goal. If a player receives conflicting coaching or has too many coaches, it can become confusing or overwhelming, impacting his or her performance and experience.
2. **Be the Best Fan. The best thing you can say to your child after a game is “I love to watch you play!”** Remember that your words are powerful. Cheer appropriately. Our program is designed for the players - remember that you are not the player, you are not the coach, and you are not the official. Please respect and accept decisions of coaches and officials with class and dignity. Believe in their judgment and honesty. Accept that mistakes are part of the game, and a learning process for all involved.
3. **Support the program:** Get involved by offering to help the team or club. Offer to help the coach with rides, healthy snacks, setting up a shelter on a rainy day, taking team photos, or anything else to make the experience better for the team.
4. **Model Good Sportsmanship and Represent our City and Soccer Club with a Spirit of Positivity and Goodwill.** Your children learn from you. Model good sportsmanship to all players, coaches, officials, and parents. Conduct yourself with honor, dignity, and self-control. Expressly forbidden are taunting opponents, hazing teammates, verbal abuse of referees, or any other behavior that demonstrates a lack of sportsmanship.
5. **Communication with Coaches:** Players should be encouraged to communicate directly with coaches in regards to questions or difficulties they may be having. This is another valuable skill the players can learn. If concerns cannot be resolved with the player, parents are encouraged to speak directly with coaches.
6. **Priorities:** Family and school commitments should always come first. Indeed, all athletes will be best served if schoolwork comes before sports. Beyond school, your child may be involved in multiple activities. However, the fall season is soccer season and your player has made a commitment to a Strikers team that he or she should honor. Help your child fulfill and keep his or her obligation to the team.
7. **Relax, It is Just A Game:** Relax and enjoy watching your child play! Focus on players' skill development and positive attitudes, not the score. You will most enjoy watching your child play if you can remember that it is just a beautiful game.

If you have questions about this, please discuss it with your player's coach or any member of the Strikers Board of Directors.