

VINELAND SOCCER ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS.

Children's sports are supposed to be fun and enjoyable. Unfortunately, many parents, fans and coaches don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun of the sport is unfairly taken away by adults and their behavior.

That is why the *Vineland Soccer Association*, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth soccer, created the following *Code of Conduct* for Coaches, Parents and Spectators to abide by at every game, practice or team function.

Parents, fans and coaches following this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about.

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

1. I will not force a child to participate in any sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the leagues and clubs.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for the children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other team event.

6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
8. I will teach the children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that the children treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach the children that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that a child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise the children for competing fairly and trying hard, and make the child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at children or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit the children over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for the children that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

By registering my child to participate in Vineland Soccer, I agree to abide by the rules of conduct set forth by Vineland Soccer and understand that in case of violation of said contact I am subject to suspension and if necessary prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

*MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS FOR
COACH/PARENT/RELATIVE/SPECTATOR OFFENSES*

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| 1. | Use of foul or abusive language. | 2 games |
| 2. | Screaming at, threatening, or otherwise intimidating players of a team. | 2 games |
| 3. | Screaming at, threatening, or otherwise intimidating referee, linesman, other coaches, or spectators. | 3 games |
| 4. | Encouraging or instructing players in any way to deliberately trip or otherwise foul players of opposing team. | 1 game |
| 5. | Striking a player, coach, referee, or spectator. | life |
| 6. | Threatening or threatening to strike or touch, whether by language or bodily movement, a player, coach, referee or spectator. | 1 year |

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| 7. | Bribing (or attempting to) a referee or other official. | Life. |
| 8. | Deliberate and serious misrepresentation of facts to referee, league official or Vineland Soccer Board for the purpose of gaining an advantage. | 1 year |
| 9. | Deliberate and intentional limitation of playing time for a player to less than two quarters or equivalent of an intramural game. (except for disciplinary reasons). | 2 games |
| 10. | Participation while suspended or knowingly allowing participation of a suspended player or coach. | 1 Season |
| 11 | Allowing an un-rostered player or a player from another team to play. | 2 games |
| 12. | Any sanctions for offenses not listed above shall be at the sole discretion of the Vineland Soccer Association Board of Directors. | |

