

# PALMER SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Palmer Soccer Association (hereinafter PSA) recognizes that participation in youth soccer can be an exciting and rewarding experience for you and your child/ren. As an organization we seek to promote the sport and sportsmanship in our town. In doing so, we strive to encourage players, coaches, parents, guardians and spectators to maintain an atmosphere whereby the participants are able to enjoy the sport, free of vulgar or abusive language, drugs, or alcohol and criticism of coaches, players or officials.

Please remember our coaches are volunteers giving personal time and providing a service to your children and our community. If you have a conflict or question regarding a coach, parent or player, please bring it to the attention of PSA Board by e-mail to Michelle Sikes at [rmsikes@comcast.net](mailto:rmsikes@comcast.net) or calling at 413-230-9788.

Inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of your child or the safety of others.

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every player, coach or official, regardless of their gender, race, cultural, religion, age, or ability

Respect the decisions of game officials and encourage your child to do the same. Regardless of whether you agree with an official's decision, NEVER openly criticize or question the referee's judgment call. Never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field. Speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place. Advise any guest attending the game with you or for your child to do the same. If you have a question or concern regarding an official, speak to the coach after the game or at a practice. You (and your 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

Never ridicule, scold or shout at any player, coach or official for an error or loss of a game or any reason. Applaud a good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome. Positive comments are motivational, negative ones are not. Encourage your child and advise your guest to do the same.

DO NOT use profanity or abusive language in the playing area before during or after a practice or game. Support our alcohol, drug and smoke free environments at games and practices. Do not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the players, coaches, fellow spectators or officials. Advise your guest to do the same.

Parents/Spectators enjoy the game on the sidelines. Remain in the spectator area at all times. Do not go onto the field or player side of the field, unless advised or permitted to do so by a game official. Coaches remain in the coaching area and off the field unless permitted to do so by a game official. Let the player's play, the coach instruct and the official officiate. Parents please do not coach your child from the sideline. Recognize that they are to be instructed by their team coach. Advise your guests to do the same.

Understand and respect that our instructional and intermediate programs are designed to teach the players the rules of the game as well as technique. Coaches and officials are there to instruct all children. A coach for one team, may instruct a

player from the other team in order to take advantage of a learning opportunity. Officials may stop the play or speak to a child on the field to instruct. Please refrain from shouting instructions to your child from the sidelines. Advise your guest to do the same.

**Coaches, Parents and guardians will be held responsible for your actions and the actions of their guests.**

By registering your child to participate in PSA's youth soccer program, you are agreeing that if you or your guest fail to abide by the aforementioned code of conduct, the coach/ parent/guardian will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

- ▮ Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or board of PSA with written documentation of incident kept on file by PSA
- ▮ Written warning by PSA Board which may include suspension from attendance at games or practices with written documentation of incident kept on file by PSA
- ▮ Game forfeit through the official or coach
- ▮ Suspension from one or more PSA sponsored events
- ▮ Removal of your player from the team and or expulsion from PSA

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN A TEAM FORM, INDICATING THAT YOU HAVE BEEN PROVIDED A COPY OF THIS CODE AND GUIDELINES, YOU HAVE READ THIS CODE AND GUIDELINES. BY SIGNING THE FORM, YOU AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CODE OF CONDUCT OR BE SUBJECT TO THE ANY OF ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED DISCIPLINARY MEASURES.

**GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP AND HELP YOUR PLAYER:**

Learn the rules of the game, the policies of the league and PSA. Encourage your child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

Accept the results of each game. Encourage your child to be dignified in victory and gracious in defeat. There are lessons to be learned in each game, regardless of the outcome. Teach your child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that he/she will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance

Support PSA's efforts to promote good sportsmanship. This includes our zero tolerance of verbal and physical abuse. Advise your guest of the same.

Praise your child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make your child feel like a winner every time.

Remember, children learn by example. Children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.

Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. Deemphasize competition in the lower age groups.

Promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire you may have for your child to win.