

Woodbridge Soccer Club

Woodbridgesoccer.org

WSC Parents/Player Responsibilities

- Ensure that your child arrives on time and brings his/her Shirt, ball, shin guards and water bottle for every practice and game. Shin guards should be worn under long socks.
- Let the coach know if your child can't make a game or practice.
- Check website for cancellation and monitor e-mails. Just because it is raining does not mean we will not play, soccer is an all weather sport.
- Encourage your child to play the best of their ability while not sacrificing sportsmanship. Encourage fair play. We do not keep score.
- Encourage your child to keep an open dialogue with the coach so that teamwork and sportsmanship can be fostered.
- Be both positive and quiet at games. Constructive cheering and encouragement of a players' performance is welcomed. Please refrain from calling out instructions, or coaching from the sidelines. This confuses players and distracts them from listening to their coach.
- Support the referee's decision. Refrain from verbally criticizing the judgment of a referee, or you may be asked to leave the field AND your child will not play the remainder of the game.
- Questions, input, and positive suggestions should be voiced to the coach, team manager, or the club in an adult atmosphere – youth players should not be present. Serious complaints should be emailed to WSC, go to the web site and click on 'contact us' Your email will then be addressed by the WSC board in confidence.
- Be respectful and encourage your children to be respectful.
- Remember your snack day and if you have a conflict make alternative arrangements
- There is no smoking or consumption of alcohol at the field. Dogs are also not allowed.
- All spectators must be located on the opposite side line to the coach and players. Players should remain with the coach when not participating in the game and at game breaks. Parents are only allowed on the side of the coach and players in the event of an injury requiring their assistance. Spectators must not occupy areas behind the goals.
- Parents must pick up their players promptly at the end of practices and games.
- Parents wishing to get actively involved with the team or club should approach their coach or group coordinator.
- For more information on the WSC program we recommend you go to the Web site and download the 'WSC Coaches Manual.'

Code of Conduct

THE PLAYER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Through TEAM PLAY we will:
Have FUN in both practice and games.
Create a positive experience even when losing.
Foster self worth.
Show team spirit and foster a sense of belonging.
Provide equal playing time for each child.
Show respect to all participants.
Promote sportsmanship.
Teach the game and joy of soccer.

THE PARENT'S COMMITMENT

Make sure your child attends both practices and games. Attendance and timeliness teach responsibility and foster team spirit. Provide the necessary equipment so your child may play safely. Get involved. Volunteer to assist the coach when and where you can. Understand each child's athletic ability is different and will be different as they grow. Try not to compare. Let your coach discuss calls with the referees. Attempt to relieve the pressure of competition...not to increase it. Applaud good plays by BOTH teams. Accept the results of the game. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and turn defeat into victory by working toward improvement. Follow the rules of the field. Exemplify good behavior.

THE COACHES

A coach can be many things to different people. A coach is a teacher, a mentor, and a role model, sometimes a friend and confidant. Most of all, a coach must be positive. The traits of a positive coach are:

Puts players first. A positive coach wants to win but understands that he/she is first and foremost an educator with the development of his/her players as his/her top priority. He/She understands that children go through developmental stages and uses age-appropriate coaching strategies. The coach values the long-term welfare of the players more than looking good as a coach. The coach avoids the trap of thinking the game is about him/her rather than for players. Where winning is in conflict with the long-term benefit of the children, a positive coach has an unwavering commitment to what is best for the athletes.

Develops character as well as skills. A positive coach uses the crucible of competition as a virtual classroom. The coach seizes upon victory and defeat as teachable moments - opportunities to build on his/her athletes' self-confidence and positive character traits such as determination, courage, empathy and commitment. The coach wants to win, but even more, wants to transmit lessons that will carry over into the rest of the athletes "lives". The coach is loyal to players and reluctant to "give up" on them, especially "at-risk" athletes who have the most to gain from participating in sports.

Coaches for mastery. A positive coach coaches for mastery rather than victory, which the coach sees as a by-product of the pursuit of excellence. The coach focuses on effort rather than outcome, learning rather than comparison to others and recognizes that mistakes are an important and inevitable part of learning and encourages an environment in which players are willing to risk making a mistake. The coach is committed to becoming the best coach possible and continually seeks to improve his/her own effectiveness.

Refuses to motivate through fear, intimidation, or shame. A positive coach establishes order and discipline in a positive manner. Many coaches are positive when things are going well and the team is winning. A positive coach works to remain positive even through losing streaks. A coach recognizes that it is often when things go wrong that a coach can have the most positive impact and teach the most important lessons. Regardless of the adversity, the coach refuses to demean oneself or the players by resorting to fear, intimidation or shame. The coach always treats athletes with respect regardless of how well they perform.

Creates a partnership with players. A positive coach resists an authoritarian role in which player are conditioned to please the coach. The coach involves the team members in determining team rules. The coach recognizes that communication is the lifeblood of effective relationships and works hard to establish clear and effective two-way communication with the players. The coach seeks to win the cooperation of the players through encouragement and treats them as partners working together to achieve mutual goals.

Honors the game. A positive coach feels an obligation to the sport being coached. The coach loves the sport and shares that love and enjoyment with the players. The coach feels privileged to be able to take part in the sport. The coach respects the opponent, recognizing that a worthy opponent will push the coach and team to do their best. The coach understands the important role that officials play and strives to show them respect even when he/she disagrees with their decisions. He/She values the rich tradition of the sport and works to honor the spirit as well as the letter of its rules. A positive coach demonstrates personal integrity and would rather lose than win by dishonoring the game.

THE REFEREES

Between the exuberance of the winner and the disappointment of the loser, we find a person called a referee. They try to watch every move on every player and call the game to the best of their ability. They are only one person. They will make mistakes. They are often our own children who have grown up playing in the Woodbridge Soccer Club, so please treat them as you neighbor - because they are!

THE FIELDS

Coaches and players from both teams will be on one side of the field while spectators will take a position on the opposite side. Coaches, players and spectators must not be permitted behind the goal line during the game. Smoking is NEVER permitted. Pets are NEVER permitted. Foul language, physical violence or the threat of physical violence by any participant will not be permitted or tolerated and will result in immediate expulsion from the field. Please keep the field clean. We are privileged to use and maintain the fields our town (you) own.

Silent Side Lines

The Spring Silent Sidelines weekend will be the third weekend of May and the Fall Silent Sidelines will be the third weekend of October. The goals of Silent Sidelines Weekend are to:

- Develop our players to make decisions on the field without sideline intervention.
- Improve the players' communication on the field by reducing the outside noise level.
- Support our youth referees by eliminating dissension from the sidelines.

This rule was drafted and passed at the request of a CJSA player. We need to help our players develop without the continued interference from the sidelines. The objective is to promote greater awareness of this development by coaches and parents as well as the players and referees.

We are requesting that all spectators remain silent on these weekends. For the sake of our kids, we are asking for one weekend where we stand back and just let the players play. We would like to provide each player at least one game of their season that is free of the distractions caused by spectators screaming and yelling at them.

This program was first sponsored by Ct Junior Soccer Association in September 2000 and was successful. Many players stated they enjoyed the opportunity to communicate with their teammates and be heard. One player, Tommy Schanzer, enjoyed the experience so much that he spearheaded a movement to bring back Silent Sidelines each season.

The guidelines are simple. Spectators are to be quiet, talking in a normal tone to the person next to them. What is to be avoided are comments that can be heard by players, referees or opponents. Applause is permitted and encouraged.