

EAST MEADOW SOCCER CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

The goal of The East Meadow Soccer Club in particular and youth soccer in general is for all the children to have fun. We, The Board of Directors of The East Meadow Soccer Club wish for all the children to learn sportsmanship, improve their soccer skills, make new friends, and strive to be the best that they can be. The East Meadow Soccer Club has a responsibility to achieve these things in a safe, youth friendly environment.

This Code of Conduct is a written contract between the parents, players and coaches. This contract is more than just a piece of paper; it is the essence of our goals and objectives and thus, adherence to it is of primary importance.

PARENTS CODE

As a parent, you play a special role in contributing to the needs and development of youngsters. Through your encouragement and good example, you can help our children learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. In East Meadow Soccer young people learn to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning and deal appropriately with defeat, all while becoming physically fit and healthy. Best of all, you must be one of the conduits to helping the children have fun.

Support Your Child:

Supporting your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in their team is very important. Help your child work towards skill development and good sportsmanship at all times. Make sure your child attends practice. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory. In this way your child will always be a winner despite the outcome of the game.

Always Be Positive:

Parents serve as role models for their children. Be aware of this and work to be a positive role model for all the children on the team. Applaud good plays by your child as well as their teammates. As an East Meadow Soccer Club parent we expect you to be supportive of all our players. Under no

circumstances should any negative comments or remarks about teammates, coaches, or officials be made in public.

Remember Your Child Wants To Have Fun:

Remember that your child is the one playing soccer, not you. It is very important to let children establish their own goals and to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose your own standards and goals on them. Be supportive of any position that your child is playing. Children play for the fun of playing.

Don't Be A Sideline Coach:

Coaches are usually parents just like you. They volunteer their time to help make your child's youth soccer experiences a positive one. They need your support too.

One of the largest problems in youth soccer involves a parents opinion of what position their child should be playing and how much playing time they should be receiving. This is a decision that the East Meadow Soccer Club has placed with the coaches, within the guidelines of the club. We believe it is the responsibility of the parents along with the aid of the coach to teach the children that **all** positions are of equal importance.

Remember the coach is the coach of **all** the children. A parent sometimes has a biased opinion of their child's soccer abilities and may not always be looking at the team as a whole. A coach's role is to do what is in the best interests of the team as a whole.

Communication:

As our children get older they will develop the ability to communicate their feelings directly with the coach. As a parent you should encourage them to do so. However, if a parent feels it is necessary to discuss their child they should:

1. Do so only with the coach, not with other parents
2. Only at a time mutually agreed upon with the coach
3. Never prior to, during, or directly after a game

Responsibilities:

As a member of The East Meadow Soccer Club I will:

1. Volunteer my services and talents to the club when needed. I realize I have a responsibility to work our club's tournaments and may also be called upon to donate additional time.
2. Volunteer my services and talents to our team when needed. I also realize that our team may be engaged in various fundraising activities and I will fully participate and fulfill all my obligations.
3. I will make sure my child is on time for practice and comes prepared. Furthermore I will be available when practice is over to take my child home.
4. I realize that practice is important. I will make every effort to bring my child to practice. By choosing to participate in the Developmental and Travel Programs of The East Meadow Soccer Club I know that it is my responsibility to have my child attend practice.
5. When I am unable to attend a practice, game, or tournament I will call and inform the coach. I realize that my child's failure to attend practice may result in reduced playing time or even suspension from the team.
6. I will always be supportive of our coach, I realize he puts in a great deal of time and has the best interest of my child in mind.
7. I will comply with all rules, policies, procedures, and obligations of the club as they apply to me.
8. Under no circumstances will I ever be either physically or verbally abusive towards any coach, player, official, or another parent. I realize that these actions could lead to dismissal and or suspension of my family from the club.

The East Meadow Soccer Club Board of Directors believes that parents can help children rejoice in victory, cope with defeat; celebrate success, deal with adversity; and most of all they have the ability to make soccer an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

COACH'S CODE

The position of coach in The East Meadow Soccer Club is an important responsibility. The behavior of the coach is constantly on display for all the children, parents, officials, and members of other clubs. Players will often imitate the actions of their coach. As a coach of The East Meadow Soccer Club you are held to a higher standard. You are expected to rise above the negative actions of others. As an official representative of The East Meadow Soccer Club you are expected to uphold the high standards of our club.

The East Meadow Soccer Club is very supportive of their coaches. The Board of Directors of the club has selected each Developmental and Travel coach. We appreciate the tremendous time and effort that each coach contributes. Our coaches are more than just coaches; they are the individuals that volunteer the most time to our club. We expect all players and parents to give the coach respect and when necessary the “benefit of the doubt.”

The Coach as a Facilitator:

As your child’s coach I will try to impart a love of soccer to them. I will do my best to make sure the children enjoy their time playing soccer. I will be reasonable on a young player’s time, energy, enthusiasm and performance on the field. As your child’s coach I will apply all the rules of the team and the club fairly.

The Coach as a Role Model and Leader:

As your child’s coach I will try to set a good example. Decorum during games and practices must be first rate. There is no place in youth sports for using foul language, abusing referees, or making the children feel anything but special.

The Coach as a Trainer:

As your child’s coach I should be on time and prepared for practices. Training exercises should be appropriate for the age and ability level of the players. I will always keep informed of sound principles of both coaching and child development. I will make sure that all of my licenses are up to date and that I have completed all required courses. I will always be generous with my praise when it is deserved.

The Coach as a Tactician:

It is my responsibility as your child's coach to decide on player's positions and to handle substitutions. I realize that children want to always be playing and may have preferences to where they play. I will always try to be as delicate and understanding as possible when making my decisions.

Safety:

I realize how special our children are. I will always make sure that my equipment and the playing facilities are safe. I will always follow the advice of a physician and the parent in determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

PLAYERS CODE

Responsibilities:

As a member of the East Meadow Soccer Club:

1. I will play for the fun of Soccer, not just to please my parents or coach
2. I realize that all positions in soccer are of equal importance
3. I will never argue with or complain about a referee's calls or decisions
4. I will always work to control my temper
5. I will always cooperate with my coach, teammates, and officials
6. I will train and play to the best of my ability
7. I will have a positive attitude and never quit
8. I will attend and be on time for all games and practices
9. I will always give encouragement to my teammates
10. I will respect my coach
11. I will always treat all players the way that I would like to be treated
12. I will display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat
13. Most of all I will never forget that I represent The East Meadow Soccer Club.

PRINCIPLES CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT

The principles in this Statement serve the interests of all participants in the East Meadow Soccer Club. It is therefore in the interests of all participants to comply fully with this Statement and other applicable requirements. The

East Meadow Soccer Club expects that all participants will comply fully. **Nevertheless, the quality of any Code of Conduct is no greater than the means through which it is enforced.** The purpose of enforcement is not solely the punishment of noncompliance for its own sake, but also to facilitate compliance with this Statement by all participants.

Many acts of noncompliance with this Statement will be and should be resolved immediately and without any formal procedure, and will involve comparatively minor sanctions such as verbal correction. Such sanctions should be applied fairly and generally consistently, but the nature of the offense does not warrant formal procedures or other substantive due process.

At the other end of the spectrum, some acts of noncompliance will be so serious as to necessitate severe sanctions and formal processes to ensure that those alleged acts of noncompliance are investigated and adjudicated appropriately.

COMPLIANCE TO THE EAST MEADOW SOCCER CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

I have read **all** the material in the East Meadow Soccer Club Code of Conduct. I realize that different soccer clubs may have different responsibilities and different philosophies. I fully understand my responsibilities, obligations and the philosophy of The East Meadow Soccer Club.

I agree to abide by all of its guidelines and fulfill all my responsibilities and obligations. I understand that my failure to do so may result in my removal or suspension from the club.

I will sign and submit to The East Meadow Soccer Club a letter stating my agreement to this Code of Conduct.