

## Parental/Spectator/Visitor Code of Conduct

1. **Primary Objective:**

The League's primary objective is to teach kids to play soccer with a Christian spirit. We are a children's Christian League not a world cup training ground. While the experience of winning is a desirable goal, it is a secondary objective to this League and its teams. As such, when faced with situations that put the primary objective at risk, Parents/Spectators are asked to put subordinate any other objective to allow the highest chance of the primary objective being achieved. It is expected and required that you support that aim and not cause disruptions. There should be no place for foul language and/or ridiculing of others. It is perfectly acceptable to raise objections if done so in a respectful manner. However, kids are literally to be handled with "kid gloves" so your best course of action is to take any issues to the Coaches or a League official. When in doubt, let the Coaches and the League handle the matter even it has to be after-the-fact and accept the short term disappointment with the knowledge that your concern will be addressed in an appropriate manner once you bring it to our attention.
2. **Referees/Club Referee Assistants:**

Our referees will make mistakes. That happens at all level of play. When this happens, please remember that the objective should not be to get every referee's calls perfect but to allow the kids to enjoy soccer in a Christian environment. Abuse of a referee is a very serious matter. US Club Soccer gives a large degree of latitude to its Leagues but this is one area they will not tolerate compromise. We support that position. In general, there is no reason for a Parent to have discussions with the referees during a game. Questions concerning calls/on field decisions should be taken to the Coaches or a League official.
3. **Sidelines:**

Parents should remain on their side of the field during the game. Coaches should be the only ones on the players' sidelines. An exception to this would be where equipment / water, etc need to be provided. In such a case, the parent is to perform the task and return to their sideline as quickly as possible.
4. **Objections/Comments:**

We welcome feedback either positive or negative. This does need to be done with a League official or your Coach in a respectful manner. It is quite possible, your observation could lead to a change that will benefit all of us but we need that opportunity to take appropriate action. You must understand though that your concerns may not be acted upon immediately. And in other cases, the League may consciously take a different tact than you desire.
5. **On Time:**

Get your children to the field on time. That should be a minimum of 15 minutes before the game time. Picking up your children must be done immediately after the game.
6. **Respect Others:**

The golden rule applies. There is no home/visitors sideline. Comments made to your neighbor can and will often be heard whether intended or not. I would like to think that none who participate in this League would knowingly or unknowingly cause insult to another. Our expectation is you conduct yourself in a manner such that both cases are prevented.
7. **Respect of Property:**

Respect the property you are at for games or practices as if it was yours and you were a clean-freak. Pick up your trash. Do not let your children that come with you abuse nearby structures or equipment.
8. **Visitors:**

While it is mandatory that all parents read this code of conduct, it is the League's expectation that they within reasonable means, the parents also insure any family/friends coming to see their child play also are aware of the code of conduct. If an issue arises with a visitor, they will be given a copy of the code of conduct to review. Their agreement to its contents will be a requirement for being allowed to stay on site. Once the code is known and accepted by the visitor, the family involved with the visitors will be responsible for the code being kept by their visitor.

## Coach Code of Conduct

- 1. Primary Objective:**

The League's primary objective is to teach kids to play soccer with a Christian spirit. We are a children's Christian League not a world cup training ground. While the experience of winning is a desirable goal, it is a secondary objective to this League and its teams. As such, when faced with situations that put the primary objective at risk, parents are asked to put aside any other objective to maintain the primary objective. It is expected and required that you support that aim and not cause disruptions that prevent the primary objective.
- 2. Referees/Club Referee Assistants:**

Our referees will make mistakes/bad calls. When this happens, it is critical you serve as an example to all observing the game that you understand that the primary objective trumps immediate correction of a perceived wrong. Respectful discussion with the referee is acceptable. Disrespectful actions are not acceptable. Abuse of a referee is a very serious matter. US Club Soccer gives a large degree of latitude to its Leagues but this is one area they will not tolerate compromise. We support that position.
- 3. Behavior:**

Coaches must resist the desire to act like anything less than adult maintaining a positive, upright, professional, Christian attitude at all times. As required, they should remind parents/spectators of their code of conduct. We will have copies available at the field.
- 4. Sidelines:**

Coaches should be the only ones on the players' sidelines. Please reinforce that to your parents in a respectful manner using common sense approach to exceptions. Likewise, Coaches should not be on the Parent's sideline during the game so you do not block their view.
- 5. Resolving Issues:**

Expect parents to bring issues to you that you may or may not have the ability or power to resolve. Embrace it and work to get the issue resolved. If the issue is not resolvable by you or desire not to be involved please bring the issue to the appropriate League official. Always act in a respectful manner with both parents and League official, as well as agreeing to disagree if it becomes the acceptable outcome.
- 6. Running up the Score:**

As a coach it is important not to run up the score. There are multiple methods that can be applied when you find yourself in a situation where a serious mismatch of skills is present. It is your responsibility to insure the kids are put in a position that challenges BOTH teams.
- 7. Equal Opportunity:**

Giving equal opportunity of training to ALL of your players is very key to the players as well as to the parents. To accomplish this, all children must be given instruction in practices and game time. Our expectation is that you will use your good judgment. Being willing to put your team at strategic disadvantage to let your players learn defeat as well as victory. It is a superior coach that can "grow" the skills of his/her entire team.
- 8. Moral Conduct of Winning**

It is an easy path to play your strongest players and to try and take advantage of your opponents' weaknesses. It is a superior coach that can "grow" his/her entire team while still winning. The one who brags how he wins and yet does so solely on the backs of his star players is achieving a hollow victory. In reality, he is instilling a false confidence in the players while at the same time failing to coach players who if provided proper training could just as easily surpass the play of the "supposed" star.
- 9. Who Plays:**

The coach will be held ethically and intellectually responsible to make the decision of who will play and sit during a game. Parents' suggestions should be listened to but not blindly followed if it violates the prime directive of the League. Ultimately, the coach decides who plays and for how long subject to the scrutiny of the League and the impact it has to the primary objective.
- 10. Conduct:**

As the face of the League you need to conduct yourself with more patience and understanding than perhaps a situation dictates. None-the-less, let God be your guide.

## Players Code of Conduct

1. Primary Objective:  
The League's primary objective is to teach kids to play soccer with a Christian spirit. In keeping with that goal, our expectation is players will play at all times with appropriate consideration towards their fellow opponents and teammates.
2. Behavior:  
Players must be truthful and courteous. They should strive to avoid injuring other players. They shall not knowingly violate the rules and strive to have the correct call made should an apparent mistake be made by the referees regarding who last touched a ball. "Do unto others as you would have done to you applies." Taunting, verbal abuse, intentional initiating unnecessary physical contact are all examples of acts that players should not be participating in/creating.
3. Resolving Issues:  
We expect the players to bring issues to the attention of their coaches and parents to allow problems to be surface and ultimately resolved. This should be done in a private setting to avoid unnecessary escalation and to allow time to investigate and address the situation.
4. Conduct:  
On field, players are all to obey all League and FIFA rules for players. In the unusual case, where a player does not appear to be embracing the ideals of the League and is creating situations that could lead to injury of fellow players/coaches/spectators, the League reserves the right to issue a special League yellow card to the player. That player will then be subject to the policy impacts for such cards outlined at the end of these code of conducts excerpts.

## League Official Code of Conduct

1. Primary Objective:  
The League's primary objective is to teach kids to play soccer with a Christian spirit. In addition to the primary objective set for the coaches we will teach not to skirt the rules or take unnecessary advantage of their opponents. Officials will conduct themselves with the attitude to "Win with honor", "Lose with honor" by doing this with a Christian spirit.
2. Support:  
As the arms, legs and body of this League we need to support our coaches and listen to our parents respectfully. We will not always agree with what is being said but we MUST listen and do our best to make decisions that will prove that our interest is preserve the greater good of all involved. It is wise to always put to heart that we are to have a servant's attitude.
3. Flexibility:  
There are many ways objectives can be met ... some better than others. We must strive to find the best mix of solutions for a given set of children and parents providing the best product that achieves the primary objective. But more importantly, we must being willing to change when needed as circumstances dictate.
4. Resolving Issues:  
Expect Parents and Coaches to bring issues to you that you may or may not have the ability or power to resolve. Embrace it and work to get the issue resolved. Always act in a respectful manner with both parents and Coaches, as well as agreeing to disagree if it becomes the acceptable outcome. Follow conflict resolution as outlined in the Bible ... dealing first privately, then with a few peers then taking to the Pastors discipline committee only after other means have failed.
5. Promote the Prime Objective:  
If we succeed at the prime objective the other "issues" will likely work themselves out. Thus, it is important our actions hold true to that end.
6. Conduct - Honor God:  
We must remember we are God's ambassadors and bear an even greater responsibility to promote His values in every aspect of the League.

## Special League Yellow Card Policy (U12 only)

- The League president will have the option of handing out a special “yellow” card to players that are believed to violate the player code of conduct for dangerous play. And/or unnecessarily fouling other players in a manner that creates potential injury situations. This typically will not be done without prior discussion occurring with the club president that the player belongs to with the hope that further escalation then becomes unnecessary. It will likely occur between games but could occur during a match if deemed appropriate.
- This yellow is independent of a yellow handed out from a referee. However, It will act like a yellow card in all respects to the traditional ones given in a game except it does not expire until after the full dual season combo is completed. Even then, the first yellow will be permanent on the players entire U12 career. Game yellows/reds received from referees do not count towards these collection, although they could likely have a League yellow issued as a result depending upon why the referee gave out the card.
- Collection of League yellows will drive the following results:
  - a. First League yellow – formal warning to player, coach and parents
  - b. Second League yellow – one game suspension
  - c. Third League yellow – three game suspension, special meeting with parents
  - d. Fourth League yellow - player will not be allowed to play in subsequent seasons without written approval from impacted club head and League president.
- In our entire League history, we have only had one or two incidents that this policy would have applied. And none of them would have gone past the second yellow. However, as no written policy exists it was felt that something needed to be documented to handle such cases in the future.

Worse case example: Fall season, game one player gets league yellow. Game two gets another one. Sits out third game. Fourth game gets number three. Sits out fifth and sixth and seventh games. Game eight, gets final fourth special yellow. Player is effectively suspended from the league until club head and league both agree they can return. If reinstated the following Fall, player will still have a single league yellow on his/her record.

Combination of yellows: Player gets league yellow and/or has one on their record. During game the referee hands out a traditional yellow. Unlike another player, that would still be able to return to the game, the League yellow acts like a second yellow and the player would be done for the game. The following game they could participate. The practical effect is it makes a referee yellow turn into an immediate red card.