

# Northern Virginia Athletic Conference

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## *Code of Conduct*

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### Code of Conduct

The conference requires all members from participating clubs to behave responsibly, courteously, and respectfully toward every other participant. In cooperation with the Fairfax County Parks Authority, Fairfax County Schools, and each member club, the organization provides a safe and supportive environment to learn sportsmanship and teamwork by playing soccer. These objectives cannot be met unless all of those involved adhere to the highest level of conduct. Poor sportsmanship and disrespectful or irresponsible behavior will not be tolerated at any time.

The following guidelines are intended to make everyone aware of the behavior that is both expected and required. These guidelines are not substitutes for clear thinking and do not necessarily address all situations. Everyone must exercise sound judgment in deciding how to handle different situations. Remember, the objectives are treating others as you would like to be treated and providing a safe and respectful environment for the players to have fun, to learn soccer skills, and to exhibit good sportsmanship.

Any unsafe and/or unsportsmanlike behavior may be reported to the conference directors via the conference website. Violations of the Codes of Conduct may be subject to investigation by the Board of Directors:

### *Guidelines for All*

- Demonstrate fair play and good sportsmanship at every practice, game, and tournament. Encourage fair play and good sportsmanship from your teammates.
- Always treat other players, coaches, officials, and fans with respect and expect to be treated accordingly. Do not direct negative comments to them on or off the field.
- Recognize that refereeing is a difficult job, and that the Referee is given the full and sole authority to judge the match by the Laws of the Game. Do not argue or make any negative comments to the referees before, during, or after the match. Show respect for and support the referees and accept their judgments.

### *Guidelines for Coaches*

- Place the emotional and physical well-being of your players ahead of a personal desire to win at any cost. Recognize that our young athletes participate in soccer to have fun and that the game is for the players. Recognize that the benefits of development, teamwork, and fun far outweigh the benefits of winning.
- Always provide a safe playing environment for your players. Review and practice basic first-aid principles needed to treat injuries and have an emergency plan in place for your team should an

emergency arise. At the first sign of thunder or lightning, remove the players from the field immediately.

- Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- Be knowledgeable of the Laws of the Game and teach them to your players at a level that they will understand.
- Become familiar with and follow all the organization's rules, policies, and By-Laws. If you do not understand them, contact your Director for clarification.

#### *Guidelines for Parents, Guardians, and Spectators*

- Provide positive reinforcement, and encouragement to the teams. Refrain from making negative comments to any child or his/her teammates on or off the field about his or her soccer team, teammates, referees, and coaches. Do not be a sideline coach or referee.
- Encourage fair play and good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every practice, game, or tournament.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of your child and other players ahead of the desire to win.
- Support coaches and officials who instruct your child to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all. Realize the coaches (many of whom are volunteers) are making a substantial commitment to your child.
- Do your best to make sports fun for your child and remember that your child is the one playing the game, and not you. Realize that the benefits of development, teamwork, and fun far outweigh the benefits or emphasis of winning at any cost.
- Treat other fans, coaches, players, and officials with respect. Do not coach or yell instructions from the sideline to any player, including your own child, realizing that this may confuse or distract the players during practices and matches, may conflict with the coach's direction, and could put unnecessary pressure on the players.