Adult Sportsmanship Pledge

Kids participate in soccer because it's fun. Adults need to keep it fun. Some adults get too emotional about our games due to concern about how their kids are doing, have the mistaken belief that winning is very important, or have a desire for glory through their kids' success.

We also have our kids participate in soccer and other youth sports to learn a variety of valuable life skills and life lessons. Through team sports kids learn teamwork, improve socialization skills, learn how to handle success and failure, and, among many other things, learn persistence and patience.

Kids need to know that trying their best is all that's asked of them. Parents need to remember that their kids will not be great at everything. Children grow and mature at different rates and this often affects how well players fare in training and on the field. Recognizing that, parents can help most by relaxing and enjoying these fleeting years.

Placing too much pressure on kids to perform well creates stress that can detract from their fun and their performance. It can affect their self-esteem. Instructions shouted to players are distracting, usually too late, and often inaccurate or in conflict with what the coach is teaching.

Let's remember…soccer and the Open Tournament provide a great opportunity for kids and their friends to make memories that will last a lifetime. Let's not create bad memories with bad behavior.

My Pledge to Set a Good Example

Whether I am a spectator or coach, I will not be critical of players, referees, coaches or spectators. As an adult, I know that failing to show respect for people who are doing their best sets a bad example for our children and can result in expulsion from the game and suspension from future attendance. If anyone makes an inappropriate comment, I will not make a negative response and risk a confrontation.

I should control my negative emotions to avoid embarrassing myself, risking ejection, and risking a loss of respect for my club. I should also realize that my behavior influences the players.

Whether I'm a coach or spectator, I should remember that encouragement and praise for every child, not just the best athletes, are critically important to being able to perform to the best of their ability.

I recognize that all players must get adequate playing time to improve and gain the confidence that helps them do their best. I acknowledge that this is more important than winning games

I recognize that all referees are doing their best. I understand their position on the field provides them with a unique viewpoint that observes play differently than any position along the touchline. I recognize that mistakes or perceived mistakes are part of the game.

I acknowledge that making mistakes and losing are part of life. We all suffer setbacks. This is one of the most important life lessons from youth sports. I pledge that I will be tolerant of the mistakes of players, coaches, referees, and others.

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