



PARENT / PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the duty of all participants in West Chester Soccer Club (WCSC) to exemplify the highest ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play. Parents, spectators and players are expected to recognize that one of the main purposes of WCSC is to develop and encourage good sportsmanship among its members and players for the betterment of their physical and social being.

All are expected and have acknowledged by signing a WCSC registration form or by registering online to both respect and abide by the following principles:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship through my actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth sport event.
2. I will treat all players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators with dignity in my language, attitude, behavior and mannerisms.
3. I will demand a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sport events.
4. I will respect all facilities and equipment made available by WCSC or other organizations.
5. I will be responsible to report to the WCSC Board any perceived misconduct by a coach, a player, a parent or an official so it can be dealt with in the appropriate manner.
6. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of my child **ahead** of a personal desire to win.
7. I will remember that the game is for youths and not for adults.
8. I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child, teammates and opponents.

It is important to remember that WCSC is managed mainly by volunteers, who have donated their time and talent to the organization. From the members on the WCSC Board, to the members on the individual sport Board to a Team Parent, they all have one thing in common, they all do what they think is best for the children.

Spectator Etiquette

While enthusiasm and cheering during a game can be inspiring, it is important to remember the following guidelines for behavior when watching the children participate in games.

1. **Cheer, don't coach**
 - Avoid yelling specific instructions and issuing commands.
2. **Don't coach from the bleachers/spectator side!**
 - Can be extremely confusing for a child and possibly contrary to the coach's instruction.
3. **Practice silence**
 - Sometimes it is more relaxing for both parents and players and you will likely view the game differently as well.
4. **Ask your children if they like you to cheer** – The answer may surprise you.
5. **Be positive!**
6. **Keep some comments to yourself**
 - Do not speak out to the officials.
 - Do not direct comments to the members of the opposition unless they are complimentary.
7. **Demonstrate good sportsmanship (set an example)**
 - Applaud exceptional moves or plays by the opposition.
8. **Accept the results of each game**
 - Encourage your child to be gracious in victory and turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement.
9. **Overall, parents should be cheerleaders.**
 - Allow the coach to coach, the officials to officiate and most of all, allow your child to play the game.
10. **Avoid running up and down the sidelines shouting**
 - Don't distract the players or block the view of other spectators.
11. **Stay away from the goals or end zones**



- In many youth leagues, standing behind the goals or end zones is prohibited.
- 12. Stand or sit back from the sidelines or touchlines**
- 6 feet is the rule at WCSC

Parent & Coach Relationship

Both parenting and coaching are extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide greater benefit to children. As parents, when your children become involved with WCSC, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on your child. This begins with clear communication from the coach.

Communication you should expect from your child's coach:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child as well as for the team
- Locations and times of all practices and games
- Team requirements (i.e. fees, special equipment, off-season conditioning, etc.)
- Procedure should your child be injured during participation
- Discipline policies (i.e. missed practices, missed games, absences, etc.)

Communication coaches expect from parents and players:

- Concerns expressed directly to the coach first
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concern in regard to a coach's philosophy and or expectations

As your children become involved with WCSC, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand that there are times when things do not go the way you or your child wish. At these times discussions with the coach are encouraged.

Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:

- The treatment of your child both mentally and physically
- Ways to help your child improve
- Concerns about your child's behavior

There are situations that may require a conference between a coach and a parent. These are encouraged. It is important that both parties involved have a clear understanding of the other's position.

When these conferences are necessary, the following chain of command should be used to help promote a resolution to the issue of concern.

1. Assistant Coach and / or Head Coach
2. Division Coordinator
3. WCSC Board

Penalties for Violating the Parent / Player Code of Conduct

- The WCSC Board shall review the complaint and if the facts warrant action, the Board may request the parent or player to attend a regular or special meeting of the WCSC Board.
- In general, unsportsmanlike conduct by parents or players will not be tolerated and will result in a warning up to a suspension.

The following are to serve only as examples of violations of the Parent / Player Code of Conduct, and additional penalties may be administered by a participating league outside of WCSC. Stronger course of action could be determined necessary, depending on infraction.



SAY North Disciplinary Actions

Est. 2010

INFRACTION	PENALTY / DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Abusive language to an official, player, coach, or spectator.	First offense: Yellow Card - Caution Second offense: Red Card - Ejection from the match, One game suspension. (Some referees will not tolerate and therefore a straight red may be issued)
Foul language to an official, player, or spectator.	First Offense: Yellow Card - Caution or Red Card- Ejection from the match. One game suspension. (Some referees will not tolerate and therefore a straight red may be issued)
Threatening actions or words towards an official, player, spectator, or coach.	Red Card - Ejection from the match, with one game suspension (next match).
Physical contact with the referee or a player (i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, etc.)	Red Card - Ejection from the match and two game suspension.
Aggressive physical contact with the referee or a player with intent to injure (i.e. banging head to ground, stomping, striking defenseless player, etc.)	Red Card - Ejection from the match. Subject to additional penalty, possible expulsion pending SAY North Board review
Spits at an opponent or any other person.	Red Card - Ejection from the match, One game suspension (next match).
Striking an official.	Red Card - Ejection from the match and expulsion for the season.
Striking (closed fist) or deliberately kicking a player with intent to injure.	Red Card - Ejection from the match and 2 game suspension. Second offense for same reason is expulsion for the season.
Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection.	One game suspension in addition to penalty for original offense.
Any player observed using or under the influence of drugs or alcohol before or during a match, or while on premises.	Red Card - Ejection from the match and four game suspension. Subject to additional penalty, possible expulsion pending SAY North Board review.
Entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without permission of the referees	First offense: Yellow Card - Caution. Second Offense: Red Card - Ejection from the match and one game suspension.
Denies an opponent a goal on an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (does not apply to goalkeeper within own penalty area).	Red Card - Ejection from the match and one-game suspension.
Denies an opponent a goal on an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.	Red Card - Ejection from the match and one-game suspension.
Delays the restart of play.	First offense: Yellow Card - Caution. Second Offense: Red Card - Ejection from the match and one game suspension.
Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick or free kick.	First offense: Yellow Card - Caution. Second Offense: Red Card - Ejection from the match and one game suspension.
Engages in dangerous or unsporting behavior off the field with intent to harm.	Red Card - Ejection with four (4) game suspension and possible Expulsion review.
Two cautions (Yellows) in a single game.	Red Card - Ejection from the match and one-game suspension.
Engages in dangerous or unsportsman-like behavior	First Offense: Caution - Yellow Card Second Offense: Red Card - Ejection from the match, one (1) game suspension. Subject to additional penalty, possible expulsion pending SAY North Board review

- For any violation, the parent or player will be placed on a one-year probationary status.
- A parent or player on probation will be placed on suspension for any of the above infractions. In general, the penalties for a parent or player on probation will be twice that applied under non-probation status as described above.
- A parent or player under suspension may not attend or participate in any way at any game his or her team plays during his or her suspension.
- A parent or player under expulsion is out of the program indefinitely. The WCSC Board may make reinstatement only after a favorable review. An expelled parent or player may not act in a coaching, managerial or supervisory capacity of any team or be elected for or remain as an WCSC Board member (officer or appointed position). The violation of an expulsion may result in legal action against the violator.
- All penalties may be appealed to the WCSC Board. All decisions reached by the WCSC Board will be final.

By registering a player with WCSC, you agree that you have read and understand the above Parent / Player Code of Conduct and agree to abide by both the letter and the spirit of this document in my activities as WCSC parent or player.