

# Upper Makefield Newtown Soccer Club

## Parents Code of Conduct

Parents can be a very positive influence on the game of soccer and are encouraged to attend as many contests as possible to support their children. However, being a spectator is not without responsibility. To the extent to which spectators can be a positive influence, they can equally be a negative force. Unfortunately, many parents and spectators don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children.

Parents and spectators of the UMNSC are expected to:

- Never force an unwilling child to join a team or a club.
- Remember that children are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage fair play and respect for the laws of the game.
- Teach that honest effort is as important as victory.
- Remember that children learn by example.
- Applaud good plays by ALL players, even those on opposing teams.
- The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection for the player, coach or parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters.
- Support ALL efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
- Recognize that COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS. They give up their time for your child. SUPPORT them to your child and publicly. Coaches are entrusted to instruct our players. Parent criticism of (or "constructive help" for) team players is usually not well received by the player, coach or the player's parents. Please do not do it.
- Never yell at or criticize a player on the opposing team. Think how incensed you become when another parent or coach, especially one from the opposing team, yells at your child.
- Constant yelling is very irritating to the people around you (even if you think your comments are positive). Please refrain from constant yelling

Violation of this code will result in:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Letter from UMNSC to refrain from negative behavior.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Suspension from attending games for the remainder of the season plus a judiciary committee hearing.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: CHILD AND PARENT suspended for the remainder of the season plus a judiciary committee hearing to determine future eligibility of the child in the UMNSC.

**Note:** The soccer club is empowered to skip directly to the second or third step if an incident is deemed sufficiently serious, such as confronting a referee or a player.