

## **Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct:**

The Willingboro Soccer Club wants the experience of the game to be a positive one. The club expects all parents, players, coaches and other spectators to help in supporting the club and each of the players. We ask that parents show this positive support by adhering to "rules of conduct" at any practice or sanctioned game. While we encourage cheering, we do not encourage nor do we condone any form of taunting while on the sidelines of any home or away game.

The coaches are trying to instill good sportsmanship while teaching your child teamwork and the skills of the game. Parents and spectators shall not "coach" from the sidelines; shall not criticize players, coaches or game officials; nor shall they make any demands as to how the team shall be fielded. In addition, parents and spectators shall not run up and down the sideline yelling commands at any player.

In an effort to make this experience as positive as possible, parents should make sure they understand the rules of soccer, the club and the league in which their teams play. The following are additional rules parents and spectators are required to understand:

- Show respect and courtesy to game officials, coaches, and players at all times.
- Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions no matter how bad you think the decision may be. Your child learns from example; they should not be forced to hear profanity or abusive comments being yelled from the sideline; this sort of behavior is discouraging to players and to other parents and spectators. Remember this is a youth club and it is the children who are important to this club and any conduct that violates these rules may cause for removal from the field.
- Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team or yelling commands that conflict with what the coach is trying to teach.
- Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.
- Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
- Promote the concept that soccer is a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are no different, they deserve respect too.

Parents who are unable to follow the expectations described above will be disciplined in accordance with the said Code of Conduct. Parents and spectators must also be aware that many municipalities have laws regarding conduct at youth sports events in addition to the laws of the State of New Jersey passed in 2002.