

YMS Code of Conduct and Ethics

Purpose: This Code of Conduct and Ethics has been adopted by the Yardley-Makefield Soccer (“YMS”) Board of Directors to clarify and distinguish approved and accepted professional, ethical, and moral behavior from that which is detrimental to the development of soccer within the YMS community.

Policy Statement: The YMS Board of Directors and other YMS volunteers are committed to delivering a quality youth soccer program for the Yardley-Makefield community. We all know children’s sports are supposed to be fun for the children involved. Unfortunately, there are some parents, fans and others who don’t realize that their behaviors can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Young athletes can be disillusioned in youth sports programs because adults have unfairly taken the fun out of the game. That is why the YMS Board has adopted the following Code of Conduct and Ethics for parents, coaches, volunteers, players, spectators, employees, club members, and others associated with YMS to abide by during every YMS event, in public, and on social media. YMS asks that you read and sign below to acknowledge your support of this policy. The Code of Conduct and Ethics can also be found on the YMS website at www.ymssoccer.net

1) Player Expectations: Players are expected to abide by the following conduct guidelines at all times when representing YMS, including at games, tournaments, practices and any other youth soccer events they are participating in:

- Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
- Remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- Do the best they can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as they do.
- Treat their coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, and other administrators, and fans with respect at all times; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and expect to be treated accordingly.
- Concentrate on playing soccer, always giving their best effort.
- Play by the rules at all times.
- At all times control their temper, resisting the temptation to retaliate, and always exercise self-control.
- Conduct during competition and toward all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA’s “Laws of the Game”, and in adherence to EPYSA’s rules.
- While traveling, shall conduct themselves so as to be a credit to themselves and their team.
- Do not possess, consume, or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs before, during or after any game, or at any other time at the field or game complex.

2) Parent/Spectator Expectations: Parents and spectators are expected to abide by the following conduct guidelines at all times when representing YMS, including at games, tournaments, practices and any other youth soccer events their children are participating in:

- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every soccer event. Keeping comments positive and supportive.
- Refrain from coaching your child from the sideline. It is very important that the players hear only one voice while they are playing. Coaching from the sideline can be distracting and discouraging to a child.
- Do not get into arguments with the opposing team's players, parents or coaches, come onto the field for any reason during the game, or criticize game officials.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of children first, at all times. Insist that your child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Remember that the game is for children and not for adults. Do your best to make youth soccer fun for the children.
- Be sure your child is available for most practices and games. Practices are as important as games. Children who simply don't show up for practice and/or games are letting everybody down. If you know your child is unable to attend a practice or game, give the coach advance notice to enable proper planning.
- Report to the coach all injuries, special medical conditions (such as asthma) or extenuating circumstances (such as a family crisis) that may affect your child.
- Send your child ready to play. Your child should be dressed in uniform and arrive on time.
- Support the coaches and volunteers working with your child. If you do not agree with a coaching decision, in an effort to promote and reinforce the positive and enjoyable soccer experience envisioned by YMS, reserve comments for the coach until 24 hours after the game.
- Treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect, good manners and common decency. Ask your child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect, good manners and common decency. If a coach, official or YMS representative calls to your attention that your child is not treating coaches, fans and officials with respect, you will counsel your child on his/her need to do so and explain that failure to correct such an attitude may result in disciplinary action by YMS.
- Do not possess, consume, or distribute alcohol, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs before, during or after any game, or at any other time at the field or game complex.

3) Coach, Volunteer, and Team Official Expectations: Coaches, trainers, managers, and all volunteers are expected to abide by the following conduct guidelines at all times when representing YMS, including at games, tournaments, practices and any other youth soccer events they are participating in:

- Place the emotional and physical well-being of all players ahead of a personal desire to win. Youth have a greater need for example than criticism.
- Treat each athlete, opposing coach, opposing player, official, parent and all YMS volunteers and personnel with respect and dignity.
- Recognize that as the coach, it is your responsibility to ensure the parents on the sideline are also treating each athlete, opposing coach, opposing player, official, parent and all YMS volunteers and personnel with respect and dignity.
- Recognize that all participants are entitled to an equal opportunity to strive for success.

- Lead by example, conduct yourself in a positive manner, and demonstrate fair play and sportsmanship at all times.
- Coach and volunteer actions on the sidelines shall be in the spirit of good sportsmanship at all times. Profanity, profane gestures, arguing, inciting disruptive behavior by spectators and/or players, or any conduct not in the spirit of good sportsmanship, may lead to disciplinary action.
- Treat each player as an individual, remembering the large range of emotional and physical development for the same age group. Strive to present an atmosphere that is age appropriate and corresponds to each child's maturity and ability.
- Do your best to provide a safe playing atmosphere for all players, including review and practice of the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries to players and learning concussion protocol.
- Provide a sports environment for your team that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and refrain from their use at all YMS events.
- Become thoroughly knowledgeable in the rules of soccer, and teach these rules to your players. Use those coaching techniques appropriate for each of the skills that you teach.
- Do your best to organize practices that create a positive and challenging learning environment.
- Remember that you are a youth sports coach, and that the game is for children, not adults.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of the US Soccer, US Youth Soccer, EPYSA, and its affiliated organizations and its sponsors.
- Wear only YMS logo Adidas or other Adidas coaching apparel when on the sidelines during games and use Adidas match balls for all home matches.
- Never knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of a student athlete.

4) Social Media and Public Relations: Players, parents, coaches, volunteers, employees, club members, and others associated with YMS are expected to follow these social media and public relations guidelines when publishing and/or commenting on social media, or in any public forum, while representing YMS, or when it could be reasonably inferred they are acting in their capacity as a representative of YMS. For the purposes of these guidelines, social media means any outlet for online publication and commentary, including, but not limited to blogs, wiki's, social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, Snapchat and YouTube, and any team websites or applications. YMS players, parents, coaches, volunteers, employees, and club members are free to publish or comment via social media in accordance with these guidelines. Failure to abide by these guidelines may lead to disciplinary action. Publication and commentary on social media carries similar obligations to any other kind of publication or commentary. Any use of social media must follow the same ethical standards that are set forth elsewhere in this Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Players, parents, coaches, volunteers, employees, club members, and others associated with YMS are not permitted to:

- Post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content, inappropriate behavior, or items that could be interpreted as demeaning or inflammatory.

- Post any racial, sexist, homophobic, anti-religious or any other comments of that nature to members or non-members.
- Post any comments that could be deemed derogatory about the league, players, team officials, teams, club officials, clubs, club members, or referees.
- Comment on injuries, officiating, or team matters that could reasonably be expected to be confidential.
- Post any threats of violence or harassment.

YMS reserves the right to delete comments (where possible) in violation of these guidelines. Players, parents, coaches, volunteers, employees, club members, and others associated with YMS must always follow the guidelines established by the Social Media website being used. Any online postings must be consistent with the YMS Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Players, parents, coaches, volunteers, employees, club members, and others associated with YMS represent the club, the community, and the game of soccer to the public. Comments and critiques of governing bodies, teams, coaches, players, volunteers, employees or parents must be positive and constructive. Coaches have the responsibility to assist their players in conducting themselves properly when in public, and when representing their team and YMS.

5) Consequences: Compliance with this Code of Conduct and Ethics is a requirement of coaching, volunteering and otherwise participating in YMS youth soccer events. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to:

- Warning
- Probation
- Suspension
- Being barred from attending YMS youth soccer events
- Revocation of your privilege to coach/volunteer for YMS
- Expulsion from YMS

By signing this form, you hereby agree to all the above terms and conditions.

I consent and agree that YMS and/or its coaches, agents, representatives or volunteers may take photographs or digital recordings of me as a participant during this event and use these in any and all media for training or promotional purposes. I further consent that my identity may be revealed therein or by description text or commentary. I waive any rights, claims or interest, and I understand that there will be no financial or other remuneration.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.
