

Soccer - Ethical and Moral Credo

The Coach

1. Treats own players, parents, and opponents with respect.
2. Teaches and inspires soccer players to love the game and to compete fairly.
3. Demonstrates by example the type of person he/she wants the players to be.
4. Has control and commands discipline at all times.
5. Respects the interpretation of rules and judgment of the officials.
6. Realizes that as a coach he/she is a teacher and therefore understands the game and proper soccer behavior at all times.

The Player

1. Treats opponents with respect.
2. Plays hard plays within the rules of the game of soccer.
3. Demonstrates self control
4. Respects officials and accepts their decisions without gesture or argument.
5. Wins without boast~ loses without excuses and never quits.
6. Remembers that it is a privilege to represent his/her soccer club and community.

The Official

1. Knows the rules and understands the game.
2. Places health and welfare of the players above all other considerations.
3. Treats players and coaches courteously and demands the same from them.
4. Works cooperatively with fellow referees and linesmen.
5. Is fair and firm in all decisions on the field.
6. Maintains confidence, poise and self control from start to finish of the game.

The Parents

1. Do not coach the team players including your own youngster, from the sidelines during the game.
2. Respect the judgment of the referee and do not criticize officials.
3. Supportive parents focus on mastering soccer skills and game strategies.
4. Decrease the pressure to win.
5. Believe that soccer's primary value is to provide youth an opportunity for self-development.
6. Understand the risks.. A soccer game is full of mistakes and the team that makes fewer mistakes generally wins the game. Playing soccer is a willingness to chance failure.
7. Communicate with the coach and create a positive, supportive working relationship.
8. Understand and respect the different roles of parents and coaches.
9. Control negative emotions and think positively.
10. Avoid the use of fear - because player development is rarely fostered by fear of the consequences of failure.
11. Parents must show empathy for the young developing soccer player.

Value Statement for Youth Sports

Youth sports programs provide an enjoyable learning environment for the physical, social, and personal development of youngsters. The values of youth sports programs include:

- Promoting fitness
- Developing new skills
- Instilling a desire to succeed
- Teaching responsibility and commitment
- Teaching cooperation
- Preparing one to deal with success and failure
- Providing an outlet for the release of energy
- Building character through discipline
- Teaching how to cope with the realities of life
- Instilling positive attitudes toward authority
- Providing a fun and enriching experience

The likelihood that youngsters will realize positive sports values is enhanced when adult sports leaders take the responsibility to serve as facilitators of desirable sports outcomes.

This can be achieved when coaches assume a role as teacher and carry out lesson plans which develop skills progressively, emphasize positive sports values, and encourage life-long interest in sports participation.