

## **NCYSA CODE OF CONDUCT AND GUIDELINES**

The Code of Conduct and Penalty Guidelines are to be read to and understood by all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, players and parents of each NCYSA registered team. All coaches and managers are instructed to review this material with their players and parents. Players added to teams after these dates, will be required to read the document at the time of their carding or registration.

### **General Considerations**

The North Carolina Youth Soccer Association supports youth soccer activity that is governed by a strong sense of individual and team sportsmanship. This Code of Conduct and Penalty Guidelines has been prepared as a guide to the principles and expectations of NCYSA and is intended to apply to everybody involved in NCYSA activities regardless of their role or affiliation. Adherence to the spirit as well as the letter of the Code is required. Persons unwilling to abide by this Code should reconsider their involvement in NCYSA activities.

### **Principles and Expectations**

- NCYSA believes in the principles of fair play, ethical behavior and the right of every individual to fully enjoy the sport of soccer without undue interference from others.
- NCYSA recognizes that participation in competitive activities is a source of strong feelings which will often lead to misunderstandings, disagreements and other conflicts. However, NCYSA also believes that every participant has a duty to respect the right of competitors to hold conflicting views.
- NCYSA therefore expects its coaches, players, referees and spectators, as well as their friends and families to deal with conflicts in a spirit of good sportsmanship and to cooperate in promoting the enjoyment of soccer to the greatest extent possible.
- NCYSA expects adherence to both the spirit and the letter of its Rules and the Laws of the Game. Illegal, unfair, rowdy, violent, dangerous and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated, whether on the field of play or away from the playing area.
- NCYSA expects all participants to show respect for opponents, regardless of their skill.

Since NCYSA activities usually involve children from a very young age and since children are influenced by the behavior of adults, adult participants will be held to the very highest standards of conduct.

### **Unacceptable Conduct**

- Vulgarity by coaches, players or spectators directed towards anyone.
- Harassment of referees, coaches or players by anyone.
- Debasing of referees, coaches or players by anyone.
- Physical violence or threat of violence directed toward anyone or encouraged by anyone.
- Verbal or physical assault on a referee. Physical assault is defined as any physical contact initiated by a player, coach, team official, spectator, elected officer or appointed official.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages in and around the playing area before, during or after a youth match.
- Use of illegal drugs under any circumstance.

### **Coaches, Referees and Spectators**

- NCYSA expects coaches, referees and spectators to conform to the spirit and intent of applicable rules at all times.

### **Coaches**

- Coaches are responsible for their own conduct as well as the conduct of their assistant coaches, players and spectators.

### **The Coach as an Example**

The behavior of the coach is the most important guide for player and spectator behavior. The coach can exert strong player and spectator control by the example he/she sets, and by a few words of caution directed to the appropriate place when necessary.