



## San Francisco Vikings Youth Soccer League Spectator Code of Conduct for Fall 2010 To Be Signed by One Parent/Guardian

The goal of the San Francisco Vikings Youth Soccer League is to provide a fun recreational soccer environment for children. We seek to develop soccer skills as well as self-esteem and self-confidence. Players should play their best while learning to win and lose with good sportsmanship.

Spectators are invited to attend games in order to help promote the goals of the League and the development of players. In order to ensure that the League's goals are met, we have established certain required rules relating to spectator conduct. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators and are advised to assign an assistant coach or team parent to monitor the activity of their spectators during the game.

**Location of Spectators:** At all games spectators are to stand back at least 3 feet from the sideline. This allows the players to play the sidelines and everyone to see. No spectator or coach may stand behind either goal line. Spectators should be on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players (except when there is only one side available). **For games at the Polo Fields and Garfield**, spectators must stand or sit in the stands **BEHIND** the fence.

**Spectators May Not Coach:** Spectators may not provide direction or instructions to any player including your own child. This is the job of the licensed coach or assistant coach. Positive cheering and encouragement is fine.

**Spectators May Not Criticize Any Players or Coaches or Referees:** Spectators may not criticize their own players or coaches or their opponents. Only positive comments are permitted. If a parent has an issue with their child's coach, the issue should be raised in a setting away from the field and game in a private manner.

**SPECTATORS MAY NOT DISAGREE WITH, QUESTION OR CRITICIZE THE REFEREE. THIS RULE APPLIES EVEN IF THE REFEREE MAKES A MISTAKE.** Every year we lose many referees because they do not like the negative treatment that they receive from spectators and coaches during the season. Referees do make mistakes and your coach has a method for providing feedback to the League after the game if the referee needs constructive criticism. If you have an issue with your referee, speak to your coach after the game. The coach or spectators may not object to a referee's call or judgment on the field either during or after the game. The coach or spectators may not question a referee at any time. The referee is not required to give your team a warning; he may merely report the misconduct after the game. The League will sanction teams, coaches and/or spectators who violate this rule. Due to the shortage of referees, sometimes you may not have a referee for your game and the coaches will act as referee. They are entitled to the same respect. The Vikings League is always searching for more referees. Please contact us if you are interested in helping by becoming a licensed referee.

**How Spectators Can Help:** Please help your coach by arriving on time with your child dressed in uniform, shin guards and shoes. Make sure your child has a water bottle available to him/her. Make sure your child attends practice where he/she will have a chance to learn. Under League rules, every child must play at least half of the game unless the child has failed to attend practice without a valid excuse (defined by the team coach/manager). Please cheer for everyone. Leave your area clean.

**Redefine A Winner:** Redefine what it means to be a "Winner" in your conversations with players and other fans. Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes stop them. Learning from mistakes is part of the game. Also, remember that all children are born with different abilities and develop at different rates. The true measure of how a child is doing is not in comparison to others but rather in comparison to his/her prior best. If you only judge the success of a game by whether your child's team wins, you should expect to be unhappy half of the time (our goal is to make sure that each team experiences both winning and losing).

**No Alcoholic Beverages:** Vikings League rules and the laws of the City of San Francisco stipulate that no alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed at youth sporting events.

**You can make this a positive experience for everyone. We need your help. Teams and parents who do not follow this Code of Conduct will be sanctioned. A parent/guardian must sign page 2 of this document.**



I have read the **SF Vikings Youth Soccer League Spectator Code of Conduct** (available at [www.sfvikings.com](http://www.sfvikings.com)) and agree to abide by its terms. I understand that during or after any game involving my child in youth soccer in San Francisco I may not:

1. Question a call by a referee or assistant referee.
2. Criticize the referee or assistant referee.
3. Make suggestions to the referee as to the appropriate call.
4. Tell players on the field what to do (only coaches on the coaches' side of the field may do this).
5. Make negative comments directed at any player or team.
6. Raise issues with my coach about his or her coaching on game day. If I have an issue, I will raise the issue privately with the coach at another time and place.

As a parent, I may only cheer **positively** for any team. I understand that there are other rules that may be applicable to spectators and I am responsible for knowing these rules. These are available at [www.sfvikings.com](http://www.sfvikings.com).

I also understand that the Vikings League is a recreational soccer league. This means that every player must play at least 50% of the game (the League encourages equal playing time for all). The goal is for teams to share equally in winning and losing and learn how to win and lose with good sportsmanship. Also teams may not try out players, select players based on ability or cut players who are not "competitive enough." The only exceptions to these requirements are for players who miss practice on an unexcused basis or are disruptive to practice.

I understand that if I violate any of these rules, I will jeopardize my child's and my child's team's ability to play soccer in youth leagues in San Francisco.

The Vikings League is dependent upon volunteers and charitable contributions to enable your child to participate. Please indicate your ability to volunteer and/or donate by checking the boxes below:

**Volunteer Interests (check all that apply)**

- Commissioner for Age Group (helps to match up teams in divisions and determine schedules)
- Field Lining (once a week over existing lines)
- Field Setup (once a week before or after game)
- Office Work (periodic)
- Office Work (during Summer only)

**Please consider making a charitable donation made payable to SF Vikings Soccer League\* in the amount of:**

- \$70 sponsor a child to play
- \$60 sponsor a youth referee's training
- \$45 sponsor a coach training
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ other amount

\*Please provide a separate check with "donation" and your child's name written in the memo field.

**Check The Vikings League Website:** It has a lot of useful information about the League and soccer in general including rainout updates, schedules, standings and a complete set of our rules. Please check it regularly at [www.sfvikings.com](http://www.sfvikings.com).

I have read and agree to adhere to the "Spectator Code of Conduct".

I agree to send SF Vikings League a written letter if I do not want to give permission to use my child's photo in league, non-profit promotional material (the posting of game photos on our Web site, for example).

Vikings League has permission to contact me by email (read our Privacy Policy.)

Vikings may release my child's address to San Francisco Rec and Park (Park & Rec requires this information from the league as part of an audit required to have free use of city fields. This keeps our fees low for everyone).

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Team TIN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Name (print)**

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**Parent /Guardian Signature (on behalf of both parents)** Page 2 of 2