



# Joint League Spectator Code of Conduct

SAN FRANCISCO SOCCER

The following is a Joint League Code of Conduct that each parent and spectator must abide by to ensure that our youth participate in a positive environment, applicable for the complete soccer year (Fall, Spring and Summer Seasons) in each of the participating organizations: **SF Youth Soccer and Mission Youth Soccer League.**

It is the goal of all San Francisco Youth Soccer Leagues to develop player soccer skills as well as self-esteem and self-confidence. Players should play their best while learning to win and lose with good sportsmanship. 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.

**Safety** is a primary concern of all Leagues for all players and spectators. Safety does not only include immediate physical harm but emotion harm as well. Therefore the following rules apply:

- **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. *Spectators and Coaches may never 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). Spectators, players and coaches are required to abide by all posted Rec and Park field usage guidelines including, but not limited to: all spectators must stand **BEHIND** the FENCE at all times at the Polo Fields, Franklin, Garfield, Beach Chalet and any other newly renovated gated field.
- **Spectators May Not Coach:** Spectators are to provide support and are never to provide direction or instruction to any participant, **including your own child.** Spectators may not provide direction or instructions to any player. This is the job of the licensed coach or assistant coach. Positive cheering and encouragement is fine.
- **No Referee Interaction:** This means SPECTATORS MAY NOT DISAGREE WITH, QUESTION, CRITICIZE THE REFEREE or SPEAK TO THE REFEREE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A GAME. THIS RULE APPLIES EVEN IF THE REFEREE MAKES A MISTAKE. Every year we lose many referees because they do not like the abusive treatment that they receive from spectators 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/she may merely report the misconduct after the game. Each 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. These acting referees are entitled to the same respect.
- **How Parents and Spectators Can Help:** Follow this code of conduct and hold other parents and spectators accountable to the code. Please help your coach by arriving on time with your player dressed in his/her official uniform, shin guards with socks over the top and shoes. Make sure your player has a water bottle available to them. Make sure your player attends practice where he/she will have a chance to learn. Please cheer for everyone. When you have a question about game day, times or rules, your first point of reference should always be your team manager or coach. Team staff are in charge with the most up-to-date information for their specific teams.
- **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:** The City of San Francisco stipulates that no alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed at youth sporting events.

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



# Joint League Spectator Code of Conduct

SAN FRANCISCO SOCCER

I have read the San Francisco Soccer All League Spectator Code of Conduct 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.

**Recreational Teams** : I also understand that my player is participating a recreational soccer league. This means that every player must play at least 50% of the game (each 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, recreational 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.

**Check the League websites** : They have a lot of useful information about the League and soccer in general including rainout updates, schedules, standings and a complete set of our rules.

- I have read and agree to adhere to the "Joint League Spectator Code of Conduct".
- I give the Leagues my permission to provide information to SF Rec & Park for playing and practice fields.
- I give the Leagues my permission to use my child's photo in promotional material.

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Team ID \_\_\_\_\_

Player Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature (on behalf of both parents)