

# Ohio Champions League /Central Ohio Premier League

## Parent's Code of Conduct Contract

As a parent, it is important that you:

**Respect the game, including your child, his or her teammates, opponents, and coaches.** This means ensuring that your children attend and come prepared for all practices/games; treat teammates, opponents, and coaches with dignity and respect. It also means that parents and spectators show the same behavior. The apple very rarely falls far from the tree. Demonstrate to your child you are a good tree. Good sportsmanship means playing fair and safe; controlling emotions; and keeping the spirit of competition a healthy and enjoyable endeavor. Parents and spectators should help their children understand the value of patience and hard work in their soccer development.

**Respect the referees.** A soccer match cannot take place without one or more soccer referees. Referees are humans and therefore will make mistakes. Some will be mistakes in judgment, others will be mistakes caused by a lack of rules knowledge and/or experience. Just as our players are working to become better players, our referees are doing the same to become better referees. Unlike the players, referees don't get to practice instead attempting to improve during games. Each of our referees was required to take a 15 hour course to become certified. They attend a minimum of an additional five hours each year. While this results in a considerable time commitment, our referees – particularly our youth referees – are bound to make mistakes. In lieu of chastising the referees, thus giving your child(ren) an excuse for failure, teach them to learn to deal with adversity and play through a referee mistake. No referee has ever called a perfect game. Similarly, no player has ever played a perfect game. Teach the value of owning up to not capitalizing on chances and/or not playing your best being the reason for a loss instead of blaming it on the referee.

**Respect the opposing players, coaches, parents and other spectators.** Never address a player, coach or parent of the opposing team in a demeaning or critical manner. Applaud a good play by the opposition. Be quiet about a play with which you dislike. Adhere to the OCL rule concerning spectator viewing areas (five feet from the half line and touchline and above the top of the penalty area facing your teams' bench in that half of the field.) If at any time you are not in that area and there is ANY type of confrontation with an opposing parent and/or spectator, it is incumbent upon the parent to immediately return to their proper viewing area.

**No inappropriate or threatening language.** There is never a place in youth sports to use vulgarities, threaten, intimidate, or use physical aggression.

**Let the coaches coach.** While it may be easy to second guess your child's coach from the sidelines, most parents forget or overlook how challenging it is for coaches to both win games and at the same time make sure that all of the players have an opportunity to develop. The job of being a coach is an incredibly challenging task, so be sure to support your child's coach as much as possible. This means do not yell any directional instructions to the players. For example, "shoot, boot it, kick it" just to name a few.

Watch for the safety of all players at all times, including physical and emotional dangers. Be sure to pay attention to injuries, including concussions, and respond to them in a timely manner. Additionally, pay attention to signs of youth sport burnout and be sure to respond to your child if he or she needs help.

**Cheer whenever possible,** and stay away from booing and other negative fan behavior. Youth sports provide a great opportunity for positive fan support, including cheering. Booing and other negative gestures and language from the sidelines are never appropriate, so be sure to stay focused on positively supporting your child's team at all times.

As the parent(s) or guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_, I (we) agree to follow the above listed principles. Further, we understand that by signing this document, we are subject to the OCL's Disciplinary rules which include suspension from one or more games if I (we) am (are) dismissed from a contest due to my (our) failure to abide by the above principles.

NAME (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE(S) : \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support of the OCL program.