

EFC CODE OF CONDUCT

It is a privilege to be a part of the United States Soccer Federation, the United States Youth Soccer Association, and the Kentucky Youth Soccer Association. Our actions shall always reflect upon these organizations and their affiliates.

Any inappropriate behavior by coaches, players, parents or managers that are determined to violate the below conduct shall result in disciplinary action by the EFC Board.

Penalties may extend to, but are not restricted to, expulsion from game(s)/field(s) and/or EFC. Coaches have the right to expel players from the field if parents aren't following the code of conduct on the sidelines. Coaches and/or parents will repay EFC for fines incurred by leagues/tournaments based on infractions.

Coaches

- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to maintain a high level of sportsmanship, professionalism, and integrity both on and off the field. The primary responsibility of EFC coaches is for his/her players to develop as soccer players, to instill a passion for the game, and to provide a fun outlet for players. A coach's performance is not measured in wins and losses, but by their adequacy in teaching players technique, sportsmanship, and fair play. Coaches must maintain respect for the game as well as the referees and their assistants, and are responsible for ensuring both players and their parents are respectful at all times during a match. EFC coaches lead and teach by example, and players are a reflection of their coach's leadership.
- Coaches and assistant coaches are expected to have a basic knowledge of the game and to pursue coaching education, allowing them to better develop their players. Positive reinforcement should be used when dealing with players, foul or abusive language should never be used, and players absolutely should never be abused mentally, verbally, or physically.
- Harassment, abuse, or berating of referees and/or their assistants during or after the game is strictly prohibited, and coaches/assistant coaches should never enter the field of play without a referee's permission.
- Good sportsmanship should be displayed both on and off the field. Players should be taught the rules of the game, rules of fair play, and proper game behavior.

Players

- Players participate in soccer to have fun, to learn and develop a passion for the game and to improve their skills. Players have a responsibility to their team, coach, and soccer organization. They are a representative of the club as well as their team, coach, parents, and the community. A high level of sportsmanship and fair play must be maintained, and players must have respect for their coach, opponents, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.

- Players will play within the laws of the game and spirit of the game, and they are expected to be on-time and prepared for matches and training sessions. Self-control should be demonstrated in all situations and foul or abusive language will not be permitted at any time before, during, or after a game or training session.
- Players should train and play to the best of their ability, have a positive attitude, and encourage others to do the same. They must also show respect towards the referee and his/her assistants as well as towards their opponents. They will not harass, abuse, or berate a referee for any reason.

Parents/Spectators

- Parents/spectators must set a quality example for the players by exemplifying the highest standards of sportsmanship. They participate in a game by watching, cheering, and supporting the efforts of all participants of the match. The game is for the players, and their participation and enjoyment of the game is the most important element. Parents have responsibilities to the coach, team, and soccer organization they are a part of. They must have respect for their coach, all players on the team, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants.
- Parents/spectators cannot harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the match and they cannot enter the field of play without the referee's permission. They should never criticize a coach in a public manner. "Coaching from the sideline" is not permitted; coaches should be given the autonomy to fulfill their responsibilities, no matter how much parents may disagree. If there is a concern parents should talk to the coaching director or the director of their organization.
- Respect for all players is expected among parents and spectators. All cheering should be done in a positive manner as a way to support players, not berate them. Cheering should be done to reward the efforts of both teams and to promote fair play. Foul or abusive language towards anyone for any reason is strictly forbidden.
- Parents/spectators have a responsibility to learn the laws of the game and the spirit of the game. They are encouraged to get involved with the organization and promote the game in a positive way. Parents are the role models for their children, and as such, must demonstrate utmost sportsmanship and integrity.

Team Managers

- Team managers should direct all questions concerning player selection, player positions and playing time to the coach. They are responsible for ensuring the team is organized and running smoothly by communicating practice information and game schedules, utilizing the EFC system as an outline. It is important that the team manager works with parents to ensure that player availability is kept up-to-date for all games and practices. The sooner updates are provided, the better families can prepare.
- Team managers should stay abreast of concerns among team members and parents and should inform the coach of these concerns. They must maintain all records and information relevant to game play, such as ensuring player cards are laminated and

game scores are logged and reported. A close working relationship with the club registrar should be maintained to register players and collect paperwork as needed. Every effort should be made to attend all club manager meetings. All responsibilities associated with participating in tournaments fall on team managers if these responsibilities are not handled by the club administrator.

- Team managers should understand and help share the philosophy of their team's coach. For example, in the case of a coach with a younger, inexperienced team, the coach may wish to focus primarily on skill-building and leave lessons on game strategy for the following season.

Tips for becoming a successful Team Manager:

- Possess a willingness to listen to the complaints and concerns of parents.
- Keep private information provided to you in confidence.
- Encourage parents to become active participants in EFC. Don't be afraid to ask them to help out.
- Know the rules of the game for your team's age group as outlined by league and tournament organizers.
- Handle confrontations one-on-one, not in a public setting. Be willing to listen; often that is all that is truly needed.
- Allow the coach to make all the coaching decisions. Don't make promises you don't have the authority to keep.
- Be consistent and fair in your dealings with parents and players