



North Dublin Schoolboys & Girls League Ltd

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CODES OF CONDUCT

1. Code of Conduct – Players

- Play football because you enjoy the game, not to please your parents/guardians, peers or coach
- Players must respect the rights, dignity and worth of each person and treat each equally within the context of the sport
- Players must adhere to all guidelines laid down by the constitution/rules and code of conduct
- Players must develop an appropriate working relationship with their coach, based on mutual trust and respect
- Players must accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- Players should, at the outset, clarify with their coach (and where appropriate, their parents/guardians) exactly what is expected of them and what they are entitled to expect from their coach
- Players must cooperate fully with specialists (ie; other coaches, officials, sports scientists, doctors, physiotherapists) in their own interest
- Players must always adhere to the positive aspects of the sport (eg; fair play) and never condone violations of the laws of the game or behaviour contrary to the spirit of the laws of the game or relevant rules and regulations or the use of prohibited substances or techniques
- Players must consistently display high standards of behaviour
- Players must appreciate the importance of striving to win, not winning itself
- Players must play by the rules of the game
- Players must always accept the decision of the referee
- Players must play with control; do not lose their temper



- Players must play for themselves and their team; by doing so their own performance and that of the team will benefit
- Players must show a spirit of 'good sport'; applaud all good play whether by your own team or the opposition
- Players must respect their opponents – without them there would be no match. Treat all players as they would like to be treated; do not bully, harass, intimidate or take advantage of any other player
- Players must cooperate fully with their coach, team-mates and opponents
- Players must not forget the goals of the game: enjoyment, fun, make new friends, improve well-being, boost confidence and self-esteem and improve skill level
- At the final whistle, players should applaud and thank their opponents and the referee

2. Code of Conduct – Parents / Guardians

Parents/guardians have a powerful influence on the level of fun and enjoyment which children derive from the game and on the degree of enthusiasm with which they participate in it. Positive encouragement is the key to a child's enjoyment of the game, their sense of personal achievement, the development of their skill levels and their self-esteem

- Parents/guardians must not force their child to participate in football
- Parents/guardians must inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child or others
- Parents/guardians must familiarise themselves with the rules of the game and the policies of the NDSL
- Parents/guardians must remember that children participate in football to have fun and that League matches are for young people, not adults
- Parents/guardians must lead by example and act as positive role models for their child by encouraging sportsmanship through showing respect and courtesy to others and demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at all matches
- Parents/guardians must avoid coaching their child, from the side lines, during matches



- Parents/guardians must not scream/shout, from the side lines, at their own or at any one else's child
- Parents/guardians must not engage in any form of unsportsmanlike conduct (ie; booing, taunting, refusal of hand-shake, harassment, use of profane language/gestures) towards any referee, match official, coach, player or spectator
- Parents/guardians must respect the decisions of the referee and under no circumstances should the referee's judgement and/or honesty be publicly called into question
- Parents/guardians must recognise and appreciate the value and importance of the volunteer referees and coaches who give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for young people
- Parents/guardians must not encourage any behaviour or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of players
- Parents/guardians must teach and encourage their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence
- Parents/guardians must ensure that their child treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect, regardless of race, colour, creed, gender or ability
- Parents/guardians must teach their child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that the child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or by their own performance
- Parents/guardians must praise their child for competing fairly and trying hard, so that the child feels like a winner every time
- Parents/guardians must never ridicule their own, or someone else's, child for making a mistake or losing a match
- Parents/guardians must emphasise, to their child, the benefits of skill development and training over winning
- Parents/guardians must promote the emotional and physical well-being of all players on the team, ahead of any personal desire they may have for their own child to win



- Parents/guardians must respect the authority of match officials during games and never question, discuss or confront a coach at the game. Instead, they must take time to speak with the coach at an agreed time and place
- Parents/guardians must demand a sports environment for their child that is free from any form of drugs
- Parents/guardians are responsible for the behaviour of any persons that they invite, as spectators, to a match
- Parents/guardians must set a good example by applauding good play from both sides
- Parents/guardians must encourage, in their child, an appreciation of mutual respect for teammates and opponents
- Parents/guardians must not place an emphasis on winning at all costs
- Parents/guardians must condemn the use of violence, in all forms, at every opportunity
- Parents/guardians must understand that verbal abuse of players and /or referees, in any shape or form, will not be tolerated. Players and/or referees are not fair targets for ignorant behaviour
- Parents/guardians must support all efforts to ensure that the game of football is free from verbal and physical abuse
- Parents/guardians must remember that although children play organised football, they are not miniature adults
- Parents/guardians must show respect towards the opposing team – without them there would be no match for your child's team
- Parents/guardians should give attention to each participating child, not just the most talented