

Midlands Area Youth Soccer League Sportsmanship Policies

“Officials call the game. Coaches coach the game. Players play the game.”

All participants in the MAYS League shall adhere to the following principals of good sportsmanship:

- Respect the decisions of officials.
- No expletives, disparaging comments or derogatory remarks.
- Treat opponents with respect.
- Whatever the outcome of the game is be respectful. At the conclusion of the game, congratulate and shake hands with officials, coaches and opponents.
- Do not encourage or participate in conduct that violates the rules or spirit of the game.

The Coach

Coaches are role models for youth and will make an impression of the players for years to come. Coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field. “Coach” represents and symbolizes a leadership role in the community and a representative of youth sports. Coaches are expected to:

- Insure and promote safety of the participants.
- Control the behavior of the parents/fans during.
- Show respect to all players, parents, officials, and opponents.
- Teach fair play.
- Lead by example.
- Know the rules of the game.
- Adhere to Midlands Area Youth Soccer (MAYS) zero tolerance policy.

The Player

It is a privilege to play on a team and to be a part of MAYS League. Therefore, players must follow the MAYS rules during all MAYS League activities including practices, games, tournaments and other organized MYSA activities. In order to remain a player in good standing the player will follow the following rules and guidelines:

- Treat opponents, officials and spectators with respect.
- Adhere to the MAYS rules and policies.
- Show good sportsmanship before, during and after training and games.
- Respect officials and accept their decisions.
- Win without boasting, lose without excuses.
- Encourage parents and spectators to show respect and good sportsmanship.

The Spectators

MAYSL is proud to have supportive parents and spectators. It is important to remember that the players respond to the actions and behaviors of the spectators. Spectators are expected to

demonstrate good sportsmanship and show respect to all of the players and officials by adhering to the following:

- Do not coach players from the sidelines during the game.
- Do not criticize the officials or coaches.
- Cheer and support all players regardless of the outcome.
- Communicate with the coach and create a supportive relationship.
- Understand and respect the different roles of parents and coaches.
- Understand that improper behavior at an event may result in a parent being asked to leave field or event by a referee or other official and respect that action.
- At all times show empathy for the young developing soccer player.
- Adhere to Midlands Area Youth Soccer (MAYS) zero tolerance policy.

The Official

Officials are responsible for conducting the game through enforcement of the rules of the game. As such, they need to ensure that they consistently interpret actions on the field and fairly apply the enforcement of the laws. Officials are expected to:

- Know the rules and understand the game.
- Place safety of the players above all other considerations.
- Treat players and coaches courteously and demand the same from them.
- Work cooperatively with fellow referees and linesmen.
- Be fair, firm and consistent in all decisions on the field.

MAYS Zero Tolerance Policy

All persons responsible for a team and all of the spectators shall support the referee. Coaches are responsible for the team's spectators and shall address any issue with spectator who is interfering with the match. Should the referee stop play and request the coach to dismiss the spectator the coach will do so or the match will be abandoned. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for players, the referee and all other participants and spectators. Consequently, the MAYS League has adopted the following rule:

No one is to address the referee during the Match!

Exceptions for persons responsible for a team (Coaches and Managers)

During the game:

1. Responding to a referee initiating communication.
2. Making Substitutions
3. Pointing out emergencies or safety issues

At half-time or at the end of a match:

1. A coach/manager can ask a referee to explain a rule(s) in a polite and constructive manner.
2. Polite and friendly feedback can be given to a referee.

Unsporting behavior from coaches, players, referees, or spectators towards others will also not be tolerated and shall be reported to the MAYS League for review.

This review may result in a penalty up to and including suspension and/or forfeit of the match.

With the review of game reports and town rep communication, the MAYS Board has the right to implement a suspension of a player, coach or team, whether or not the above steps were followed.