



## **RESPECT AND GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

Armonk United soccer Club ("AU"), as a new club, has made Good Sportsmanship and Respect specific goals for our organization. At the preseason coaches meetings in September 2008, these goals were discussed and emphasized. Both the leagues AU is affiliated to, WYSL and AYSO, emphasize Good Sportsmanship as a principle for their programs. When players registered with AU this year, every registrant was asked to complete and accept the Kid Zone Pledge. Everyone did.

Both organizations have numerous articles associated with proper conduct for coaches, parents and players. AU have embraced these philosophies and would like this instilled within the Club's identity. We have also created a Sportsmanship Committee (see below), comprised of AU Management Team members, who will oversee the application of the principles into our programs. However, ultimately, this is all dependent upon the individual Coach, Parent and Player.

Below are guidelines to be followed, as well as additional references for your review.

### **Positive Coaching**

Encouragement of player effort provides for greater enjoyment by the players and ultimately leads to better-skilled and better-motivated players.

### **Good Sportsmanship**

We strive to create a positive environment based on mutual respect rather than a win-at-all-costs attitude, and our program is designed to instill good sportsmanship

### **Respect**

We strive to ensure that all our member Coaches, Parents and players show RESPECT at all times

- to your team mates
- to the opposition (players, parents and coaches)
- the referee

### **COACHES AND MANAGERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Be reasonable in your demands on the players' time, energy, enthusiasm and performance on the soccer field.
- Impress on your players that they must abide by the rules of the game at all times.
- Develop team respect for the ability of the opponents, and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.

- Ensure that your players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be ridiculed for making mistakes or for losing games.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach they can respect.
- Keep informed about sound principles of coaching, growth and development principles relating to children.
- Enlist the support of your teams' parents in your efforts to instill the proper attitude and values in the players.
- Check equipment and facilities that you use. They should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of your players.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

### **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Teach your child the rules of the game and to play by the rules of the game.
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory.
- Help your child towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Your child will be a winner even in a defeat.
- Do not ridicule or yell at your child for a mistake. It only discourages a future effort.
- Set a good example. Children learn from how you act.
- Applaud good plays by all members of your team and members of the opposing team.
- Do not publicly question the judgment or honesty of a referee.

### **PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- Play for the fun of it, not to please parents or coaches.
- Play by the rules.
- Always give your best effort.
- Never argue with or complain about the referee's calls or decisions.
- Control your emotions and most of all resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been fouled. Let the referee be the judge of intent.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether they are from your team or your opponent's.
- Respect and treat all players the way you would like to be treated.
- Give your best cooperation to your teammates, coaches, opponents and the referee.

*Sportsmanship is the moral behavior in sport.*

*There is more to sportsmanship than simply being nice. To be a good sport you also have to be pro-active when situations arise. Sportsmanship is not something you are born with and it doesn't just happen. It is up to you to be a leader, to make it happen on and off the field.*

## **COACHING VS CHEERING**

These are very distinct activities.

Here are some pointers

- play by play commentary - coaching
- Go Armonk - cheering
- Jimmy/Jenny pass the ball - coaching
- kick the ball - coaching (what else do you want the kid to do)
- great effort - cheering
- shoot, defend- coaching
- great ball - cheering
- mark that payer – coaching

Do you ever hear yourself? Try to. You may find those pearls of wisdom are in fact the primary elements of the game, that the players already know, and likely better than you do.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Sportsmanship Committee is primarily in place to assist in educating and reinforcing the principles into our programs. The Committee will also deal with incidents in a fair and timely manner. It is not the intention of the Club to penalize individuals however, we have a zero tolerance policy in place for serious infringements. In most cases we believe that a discussion and warning will suffice, however, in the instance of repeat offenders, Coaches, Parents and Players may be suspended, and in ongoing situations may even be asked to withdraw from the Club, measures that are reinforced by both programs we are affiliated to.

We also ask that people abide by the 48 Hour Rule – wait 48 hours after an incident prior to raising a concern related to any specific incident.

Please see Contacts Page for the correct communication channel to follow

## **REFERENCES**

**Guidelines for good sportsmanship -**

<http://www.wyisoccer.org/docs/SportsmanshipProgram/GuidelinesforTeachingSportsmanship.pdf>

**Kid Zone Pledge**

<http://soccer.org/media/programs/pledge.pdf>

**Soccer- A Sideline Guide for Parents**

[www.socceronly.com/sample/pg\\_sample.pdf](http://www.socceronly.com/sample/pg_sample.pdf)

**Soccer for Parents - Becoming the BEST Soccer Parent in Town**

[Click here: Soccer for Parents - Becoming the BEST Soccer Parent in Town](#)

**Sports Parent Survival Guide**

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