

# HORSHAM SOCCER ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY/PLEDGE

It is important to our soccer program and our township, that all participants conduct themselves in a positive, and professional manner at all times. As we may feel, through the course of play, that the actions/behavior of some are inappropriate, we must remember to stay focused on the positive aspects of the game, and suppress any urge to speak out in an inappropriate manner; thereby eliminating any verbal confrontations by a player, coach, parent or spectator in our soccer program.

**Remember:** The attitude shown by coaches/players/parents towards all participants influence the child's values and behavior in sports. We are all responsible for our actions and their consequences. Our goal should be to project a positive image of our program, and to avoid any disciplinary actions by The *Horsham Soccer Association Board*.

Thank you, in advance, for taking a few minutes to read and sign the following policy/pledge, and most of all, for your cooperation in support of a soccer program of which we can be proud. .

**Important information about youth and sports:** Kids participate in sports primarily because *it's fun*. Adults need to keep it fun. Some adults get too emotional about youth sports because they are too concerned about how their kids are doing, have the mistaken belief that winning is very important, or have a desire for glory through their kids success. Kids need to know that if they're trying their best, they are winners. Parents need to remember that their kids will not be great at everything. Recognizing that, parents can help most by relaxing and enjoying these fleeting years. Set a good example. Children learn by example.

## COACH'S PLEDGE:

- When I coach I will remember that encouragement and praise for every child, not just the best athletes, are critically important to their self-esteem and their ability to achieve the most they can.
- Promote fun, friendships & learning new skills. Seek no unfair advantages, except those of skill. Only provide positive reinforcement and encouragement. Remember, it's only a game, so have fun with it.
- Referees, administrators and opponents should be treated with respect and dignity. Official decisions should be accepted without looking angry. Do not make loud offensive remarks. Always be professional. Concentrate on coaching, rather than on the accuracy of the referee's decisions.
- Teach each child how to win and lose with dignity and grace. I am their role model and will act accordingly.
- The idea is to provide the greatest good to the greatest number of children. Children will always remember this experience.
- Provide good guidelines for parents. Set high standards. Be firm with parents at games.
- Encourage fair play and sportsmanship. Treat all participants the way you would want to be treated.
- *I will set a good example.*

## PLAYERS PLEDGE:

- When I play I will have fun, make new friends, and learn new skills. Be a good and supportive teammate. Do the best for the team. Be generous and kind when I win or lose and be fair and honest, always, no matter what the circumstance.
- Obey the rules of the game. Listen to, and respect my coaches, officials, administrators and referees *at all times*. I recognize that striving to win, rather than winning itself is what is important in sports and life. Striving to win means doing the best I can.
- *I will set a good example.*

## PARENTS PLEDGE:

- When I'm at a game or practice, I will be positive or quiet. I will not be loud towards any participants. I acknowledge that failing to show respect for people who are doing the best they can sets a bad example for our children and can result in my expulsion from the field. If someone else makes an inappropriate comment, I will not make a negative response that could lead to a confrontation.
- I acknowledge that making mistakes and losing are part of life. I pledge that I will be tolerant of the mistakes of players, coaches, referees, and all other participants. I recognize the mistakes are opportunities for learning.
- I will not coach or give suggestions as a spectator. Leave the coaching to the coach.
- Children have more need of example and praise and encouragement, than for criticism and negative yelling.
- Be kind and respectful to your child's coaches, teammates and officials. My child's coaches volunteer to give their personal time to provide a recreational activity for *my* child. These people are providing a valuable community service, often without reward, other than the personal satisfaction of having served the community and making a positive difference in the lives of Horsham children. The best way to better the program is to volunteer to help in any way you can.
- Do not openly question the referee's judgment, and never his/her honesty. The referee is a symbol of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship. Please remember, many referees are still children learning how to ref, so please give them a break. Accept the results of the game, and encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and turn defeat into victory, by working towards improvement. *A child will not remember the results of a game but will remember how they felt of your actions.*
- **I will set a good example.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT:** The attitude shown by parents at games towards their child/children, the opposing team, the officials, and the coaches, influence the child's values and behavior in sports. Criticism, disrespect for officials and opponents by over-anxious or overprotective parents bent on their immediate success, rather than the long term benefits, undermines the purpose of sport and brings stresses into the game beyond those of normal competition. When the child cannot cope effectively with such stresses, it contributes to behavior not in keeping with **"THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME"**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one: Player, Parent, Coach, Other)

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one: Player, Parent, Coach, Other)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one: Player, Parent, Coach, Other)

[NOTE: If a parent is also a coach, that parent should sign as a coach]