



## Huntsville Soccer Club

### Role and Responsibilities Of The Parent - 2008

The Huntsville Soccer Club's mission is to develop and administer the highest possible level of soccer competence and sportsmanship capable of our children and young adults. The encouragement and positive support for our children, as well as the sportsmanship we display at matches provide the best example possible for our players to exemplify, and thus set a positive tone for all of the Club's activities.

Following are tenets of the Parents Code of Conduct that we commit ourselves to observe:

1. **ENCOURAGE, DO NOT CRITICIZE** – One of our goals is to help your child play good soccer. No less important is that they have fun. Your child understands the Club's high expectations and feels the pressure to do well. You can help relieve that pressure by confining your discussion of their performance to positive encouragement.
2. **BE RESPECTFUL OF THE REFEREES** – Match officials are symbols of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship. The Coach and Team Captain have limited latitude to discuss a call with the Referee, and will if necessary. Parents and other spectators must support the officials. Think of the referee as a part of the soccer field. The field may be hard, bumpy, covered with water, short, long, and so on. Do not worry or complain about those conditions over which we have no control. The team tries to adjust to them, but we do not yell or scream at the rain or the bare spots on the field. Think of the referees in the same way.
3. **NO COACHING FROM THE SPECTATOR SIDE** – The Coach is responsible for tactical direction. Spectator comments should be limited to generic, positive comments such as "Nice pass," "Way to hustle," "Nice work, Strikers," "Let's go Strikers-you can do it," "Win the ball!"
4. **BE RESPECTFUL TO THE OPPOSING TEAM** – There are no felons on the other team, simply kids attempting to play competitive, high-level soccer. Our opponents are necessary friends, without whom our team could not participate in matches. Recognize their outstanding plays. As ambassadors of HSC, treat the opposing team's players and spectators with respect and hospitality.
5. **BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE COACH** – The coaches give a great deal of their personal time toward the development of each child, and employ a well-thought coaching philosophy. They attempt to utilize each player for an amount of time and at a position that best fits that development. Respect their decisions. If you have questions about playtime and the position your child is playing, arrange with your team manager for a calm, respectful meeting with the coach. Take advantage of opportunities to learn about soccer so that you will understand what the coach is trying to accomplish with your child and the team.
6. **ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF EACH GAME** – Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement. No team has ever played a perfect match. It is impossible. However, striving for perfection is not and when you do, you become a winner regardless of the score. There is nothing wrong with the other person or team being better than you are, so long as you do everything possible to prepare for the challenge ahead. The score can never make you a loser if you have done your best.