

**HANOVER SOCCER CLUB**

**CODES OF CONDUCT**

**COACHES**

The Hanover Soccer Club Travel Board are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels, from recreational to Travel to Premier. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive, and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. Winning at all costs is not the goal. As coaches we want to teach players:

1. Respect for the game
   1. Playing within “The Spirit of the Game”
   2. Showing respect for each other, our opponent, and referees
2. A love of the game
   1. Hanover Soccer Club creates a child friendly environment where friendly but fierce competition is the basis – not winning at all costs
3. The game demands, the player responds
   1. When you play the game of soccer the game presents many challenges (example, a good opponent, field conditions, weather)
   2. We plan over a period of time to prepare each child to meet those demands
   3. It will take time before all the challenges are met

The coach’s role is one of teaching soccer skills, displaying good sportsmanship, and growing the players’ love for the game.

The coach is responsible for communicating practice and game times to the players and parents. The coach is also responsible for monitoring and modeling proper behavior during practice and games of players, assistant coaches, and parents. All coaches within the soccer program will promote good sportsmanship among players, foster team camaraderie, and help participants have fun while teaching players the technical skills of soccer. Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches will not be tolerated by the program. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes making comments or gestures to a player or referee that would reasonably be expected to cause substantial embarrassment. Other examples include the intentional abuse or attempt to abuse the player selection system or willful failure to follow program rules.

Each coach will ensure that his/her conduct sets a good example for team members and spectators. To meet these responsibilities, the coach is expected to:

* Know the official Laws of the Game of soccer and the rules of Hanover Soccer Club/CPYSL/EDP, and abide by them
* Instruct each player and parents in rules and motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times
* Respect the game officials at all times. Refrain from questioning their decisions or challenging their authority
* Ensure that rules are followed by all players and spectators
* Ensure that fans of your team exhibit sportsmanship and maturity at all times, and assist league and game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games
* Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team before, during, and after the game
* Take appropriate steps to minimize scoring in runaway games. Instead, set limitations for your team to work on other tactics (passing 5 times before shooting, only scoring on crosses, possess the ball for 4 minutes before shooting)
* Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory, and proud and courteous in defeat
* Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating
* Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues
* Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies

Each coach will agree to the above code of conduct, certifies that he/she has read all Hanover Soccer Club rules and CPYSL/CMSA/EDP (or other travel league rules) and will abide by them and acknowledges that coaching in Hanover Soccer Club is a privilege, not a right. In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials, and spectators, the above Coaches Code of Conduct has been established. Those who willfully violate this code jeopardize their participation in the Hanover Soccer Club.

**PARENT & SPECTATOR**

By submitting my child’s registration to the Hanover Soccer Club, I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by adhering to this Parents' Code of Conduct:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support and by showing respect and courtesy for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other HSC event.

1. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win.

1. I will never argue with or complain about a referee’s calls or decisions, even if the referee makes a mistake.

1. I will not criticize officials, direct abuse or profane language or gestures toward them, or otherwise question or undermine their authority. I will not intrude onto the field, stand on the sidelines and yell at or to the coaches, referees, players or opposing fans.

1. I will support a sports environment for my child’s team that is free of illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, profanity, abusive language and conduct, which could be deemed offensive.

1. I will expect my child to treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

1. I will teach my child that doing one’s best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.

1. I will leave any sideline coaching to the coach while attending games and practices. I understand sideline coaching from the parents can distract & confuse the players on the field.

1. I will remember that the game is for my child and not for me.

10. I will never approach a referee before during or after a match.

**PLAYERS**

By becoming a member of a Hanover Soccer Club Team, I hereby pledge to the following:

1. I will demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior by showing respect and courtesy to all players, coaches, officials, spectators and opposing team players at every game, practice or other HSC event.

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship to other players.

1. I will place my emotional and physical well being ahead of any personal desire to win.

1. I will never argue with or complain about a referee’s calls or decisions, even if a referee makes a mistake.

1. I will not criticize officials, use direct abuse or profane language or gestures toward them, or otherwise question or undermine their authority.

1. I will treat other player’s, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

1. I will respect the property of all opposing teams’ fields and comply with their rules.

1. I know that doing my best is more important than winning, and I will not show unsportsmanlike behavior no matter the outcome of the game.

