

Soccer Parent/Player Expectations For NYSA Rep Players

Practices

Practice is the most important element in soccer development. Parents/guardians and players are expected to ensure players:

- Notify the coach of an anticipated absence well in advanced of the practice, whenever possible;
- Are at the field ready for practice no less than 10 minutes before the start time;
- Are prepared (this includes proper training gear including shorts, t-shirt, soccer socks, shin pads, soccer shoes and appropriate apparel for colder weather, as well as a water bottle).

Whether for a legitimate reason or not, if a player misses practice they may have reduced playing time in games and tournaments. To stay sharp and at the top of their game and to be aware of their team's playing style requires practice.

Games and Tournaments

The focus of the season is the team's performance in games. It is crucial for the team to be properly warmed up and briefed by the coach prior to the kick-off of the game. As such parents/guardians and players are expected to:

- Notify the coach of absence well in advanced of the game in order that the proper adjustments to strategy and player roster can be made;
- Be at the field no less than 45 minutes, ready to play, and prior to kick-off. Note that the coach may ask you to be there earlier;
- Be prepared (this includes proper game gear including shorts, t-shirt, soccer socks, shin pads, soccer shoes and appropriate apparel for colder weather, as well as a water bottle);
- Arrive fresh and ready to play (sleep overs, outdoor activities and camps should be tempered on game days)
- Parents/guardians be accountable for players' actions* in restaurants, stores, hotels/motels/campgrounds in town and out of town.

* We Represent "ALL OF NELSON"; our actions speak for "ALL OF NELSON"

A player's playing time will depend on the factors listed below and is up to the complete discretion of the coach:

- Effort;
- Practice attendance;
- Practice performance;
- Player's physical state;
- Discipline; and
- Ability.

Team Meetings

Parents/guardians and players are expected to attend every team meeting as requested by the coaching staff.

Sideline Behaviour

In particular, parents/guardians are expected to adhere to the following rules when attending a game or practice.

This includes before, during and after the session.

- **DO** encourage your child.
- **DO** encourage the team.
- **DO** treat the other team, the referee and other parents with respect.
- **DO** set a good example for the players. Refrain from smoking or other inappropriate activities in the vicinity of the field.
- **DO NOT** instruct the players.
- **DO NOT** speak to or question the referee.
- **DO NOT** use foul or abusive language.
- **DO NOT** question the player choice or tactics of the coach.
- **DO NOT** criticize the coach or the players.

On Field Behaviour

Players are expected to:

- Treat their coaches, team mates, referees and parents/guardians with respect;
- Come prepared to work hard and learn;
- Refrain from using foul and abusive language; and
- Play as a team.

Concerns

NYSA Rep Soccer has an open door policy for concerns. Problems should be identified and dealt with at the earliest possible time. Concerns should be voiced to the following:

- Manager
- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- NYSA Rep Coordinator (coaching issues)

Note that the best way to contact the coach is through email, by phone or after practice, NOT before, during or immediately after a game.

Consequences

If parents/guardians or players cannot follow these guidelines, the coach or the Club may take any one or all of the following steps:

- Warn the parent/guardian/player about their behaviour; have them re-read the expectations and Fair Play Code;
- Ask the parent/guardian to no longer attend games and practices;
- Reduce the playing time of the player; and/or
- Remove the child from the team.

Fair Play Codes

Fair Play Code for Players

- I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- I will control my temper – fighting and “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everybody.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will do my best to try and be a true team player
- I will remember that winning isn’t everything – that having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays/performances –those of my team and my opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

Fair Play Code for Coaches

- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young players have other interest and obligations.
- I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, and support.
- I will not ridicule or yell at the players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the player’s ages and abilities.
- I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

Fair Play Code for Parents

- I will not force my child to participate in sports.
- I will remember that my child plays sport for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing ones’ best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game/event.
- I will make my child feel like winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing competitions.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child’s team and their opponents.
- I will never question the official’s judgment or honesty.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children’s sporting events.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.