

## **Coginchaug Soccer Club**

### **Sport Parent and Spectators Code of Conduct**

Every parent wants to see his or her child score a goal, make a big play and be on a winning team. That is natural and can often lead to over-zealous behavior on the sidelines. Therefore, our Club has adopted a code of conduct for parents and spectators which we ask, and expect, to be followed:

- All spectators are required to sit on the opposite sideline from the coaches and players and may not stand or sit on the goal lines or behind the goals. This ensures minimal interference with team play and makes it easier for the players to hear their coaches during the course of play.
- Spectators should not coach any player during a game. They should not give instructions to their own son or daughter and most definitely may not tell someone else's child what to do. This leads to confusion and may conflict with a coach's directions. Even if you disagree with the coach, you must remember the coach is in charge of the team, not the spectators.
- We recognize that parents have the right and in some cases the responsibility to converse with coaches and managers to understand and voice concerns regarding team and club policies on playing time, team discipline, commitment and other issues. The appropriate place to do this is not on the soccer field, rather these discussions should be over the phone or in a more appropriate and private setting. Parents may also call the any of the Club's Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar if you feel that your concerns are not addressed properly.
- Spectators should not shout the name of a player (except with positive remarks), including their own child during play. General cheers such as, "Great play! Well done! Let's go, Blue!" etc., are preferred and should be positive or encouraging comments after the fact.
- Spectators may not talk to or shout at the referee at matches. Youth referees are learning a sport with complex rules and will make their share of mistakes. They don't need the pressure of spectator abuse. The Club has a referee evaluation program to help them improve. Irate spectator comments only discourage them from continuing to be a referee. Show them some respect for having the courage to step on the field as a referee. It's not an easy job!

All spectators and parents are to abide by these rules. Your cooperation is appreciated!

To help ensure compliance, Board Members, Coaches and Referees will monitor spectators.

During a match, infractions of the rules will bring a warning and continued disregard will result in a stoppage of play until there is compliance.

Respect for these simple guidelines will help insure that our youth will have fun while developing both as athletes and responsible members of our great community.

The Coginchaug Soccer Club reserves the right to restrict the attendance at games and practices of anyone who fails to comply with this policy. (Updated 04/15/09)