

## **Program policies**

Registration: in-town fees are set annually by the Board of Directors. Late fees are required to be paid after the sign up deadline. The registration process requires significant effort by the league coordinators and timely registration is essential to the process. Fees are collected at time of registration.

Parents: All parents are required to demonstrate respect and sportsmanship at all BYSA games, practices and functions and are required to sign, and abide by a Parents Code of Ethics. Parents are required to provide full support to their child involved in the soccer program (see player's code of conduct in the appendices). Parents are also needed as coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers. Parents volunteering as coaches and assistant coaches must receive certification through the National Youth Sports Association. Certification can be taken on line.

Parents are also necessary for the BYSA to run special events and fund raisers. Please contact any member of the BYSA for more information.

Fundraisers: Fundraisers are an important source of funds and help provide essential equipment, field improvements and training for coaches and players. Parental support of fundraisers is important for the league to maintain reasonable registration fees. Please support the fundraisers.

Equipment: All players are required to wear shin guards to play. Each child must bring water as frequent water breaks are encouraged. Soccer shoes (cleats) are recommended. Sneakers are permitted but do not provide sufficient traction. Athletic shorts and socks (which cover the shin guards) are recommended. Each child should bring an appropriate size soccer ball with his/her name clearly inscribed. Rookies and Minors use size 3 soccer balls while Majors and Seniors use size 4 soccer balls. Premiers use size 5 soccer balls. All the above are to be provided by the parents. The league will provide uniform shirts.

Jewelry is discouraged at all ages, and will not be permit to be worn in any refereed game. Tape earrings will not be permitted.

Referees: the league will provide Referees for all majors, seniors and premiers league games. Referees, who are often young adults in training, will control the game. All coaches, parents, and players are required to respect the referee and to display appropriate sportsmanship at all times.

## PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The role that parents play in life of a soccer player has a tremendous impact on their experience. Most of the time, parents are doing an exemplary job of helping to promote the intent of youth soccer. However, as do Coaches, parents sometimes think too much about winning and standings and lose focus of the most important aspects of the youth soccer:

- Kids having fun
- Kids learning Sportsmanship
- Kids learning teamwork
- Kids learning the game of soccer
- Kids gaining a positive experience through soccer

We ask that each time you step on the sideline of a soccer field you take a brief moment to remind yourselves of the five points noted above. After all, on the day after a game, the outcome of that last game is not really very important to the kids, but the positive memories are. We should encourage that it be the same for the parents. Also, important is the positive support, constructive enthusiasm and respect for the coaches, opponents and the referees parents display on the sidelines.

Remember to:

1. Let the coaches coach: leave the coaching to the coaches. This includes motivating, psyching your child for practice, after game critiquing, setting goals, requiring additional training, etc... Too many coaches are confusing to your child and performance declines.
2. Support the program: get involved, volunteer. Help out with fundraisers, car-pool, ..
3. Be your child's best fan. Support your child unconditionally.
4. Support and root for all players on the team. Your child's teammates are not the enemy. When they are playing better than your child, your child now has a wonderful opportunity to learn.
5. Do not bribe or offer incentives. Your job is not to motivate. Bribes will distract your child from properly concentrating in practice and game situations.
6. Encourage your child to talk with the coaches. If your child is having difficulties in practice or games, or can't make a practice, etc,... encourage your child to speak directly to the coaches.
7. Understand and display appropriate game behavior. Remember, your child's self esteem and game performance is at stake. Be supportive, cheer, be appropriate. To perform to the best of her or his abilities, a player needs to focus on the parts of the game that they can control. If your child starts focusing on what he/she can not control, like the condition of the field, the referee, the weather, the opponent,... he/she will not play up to maximum ability. If the player hears a lot of people telling what to do, or yelling at the referee, the attention gets diverted away from the task in hand.
8. Monitor your child's stress level at home. Keep an eye on the player to make sure that stress is handled effectively.
9. Monitor eating and sleeping habits: be sure your child is eating the proper foods and getting adequate rest.

10. Help your child keeping priorities straight: help your child maintain focus on schoolwork, relationships and other things in life beside soccer.
11. If your child has come off the field when the team has lost, but played at his/her best, help him/her see this as a "win". The focus is on "process" and not "results".
12. Keep soccer in its proper perspective: soccer should not be larger than life for you. If your child's performance produces strong emotions in you, suppress them! Keep your goals and needs separate from your child's experience.
13. Have fun: this is what we are trying to do! We will try to challenge your children to reach past their comfort level and improve themselves as a player, and thus, as a person.
14. If losing, do so graciously in the spirit of sportsmanship.
15. If winning, do so graciously and humbly because while your kid is winning, there are kids and parents on the other team who are losing. Think about how your actions and words will effect their feelings and their enjoyment of soccer.
16. Coaches and Referees are often your neighbors. Their rulings and decisions should always be respected.
17. As the adults learn the game and display proper sporting behavior, so will the children.

We discourage the following parent actions:

1. Talking with, or intimidating contest officials.
2. Undermining the authority of the coach with players and other parents.
3. Asking the coach for favors regarding playing time.
4. Getting involved with game strategies.
5. Coming onto the coach's side of the field during the game
6. Coaching from the sidelines during a contest.



## PLAYERS' CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

In making a commitment to be a B.Y.S.A player, all team members must do their personal best to understand and follow the Code of Conduct. When B.Y.S.A players follow this Code as a team, we will have more fun, learn more about soccer and become better players as individuals and as a Team. Coaches and parents promise to provide full support to all who do their best.

### AS A PLAYER I WILL:

- Have a positive attitude and never give up
- Exemplify sportsmanship
- Win without boasting
- Encourage all my teammates
- Be on time and prepared for all games and practices (wear uniform/team practice jersey with pride, bring ball (pumped up), bring water, wear soccer cleats, wear shinguards)
- Respect the officials and accept their decisions
- Respect my opponents
- Learn and obey the Rules of Soccer
- Notify the coach if I will not be able to attend a practice or game
- Focus my attention on the coaches during practice and listen to what they are trying to teach me
- Maintain my self-control at all times and avoid arguments

### AS A PLAYER I WILL NOT:

- Argue with an official, my coach or my teammates
- Use bad language
- Participate in horseplay before, during or after practices and games
- Leave a game or practice without the permission of my coach
- Make excuses if my team loses
- Deliberately attempt to injure another player (or teammate in practice)
- Criticize a teammate who makes a mistake