

# Massachusetts Youth Soccer Player's Code of Conduct

All Mass Youth Soccer players are encouraged to take the time to read this Player's Code of Conduct. As a Parent or Guardian, please encourage your player to read the guidance, or read and discuss it with your younger player, to help them understand the importance of following this Code of Conduct. This guidance applies to players of every age, and we rely on our Parents, Guardians, and Coaches to help instill the Code of Conduct in our players as part of the culture of our game.

Our goal is to help all youth soccer players to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally over time. Soccer matches and practices are our method to accomplish this goal.

To achieve this goal, Mass Youth Soccer has adopted this Player's Code of Conduct. We reserve the right to dismiss from our programs any player who does not adhere to this Player's Code of Conduct.

The Player's Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines that all players who choose to participate in any Mass Youth Soccer-sanctioned activities or events, including, but not limited to, all leagues, tournaments, and practices, must adhere to.

## **PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **BE SUPPORTIVE**

1. Sportsmanship, fair play, and respect are expected from all players. Players should be good teammates and treat others as they would like to be treated.
2. Players will display a positive attitude and show respect and fairness toward coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials
3. Players are expected to know, follow, and play by the Laws of the Game and Town, Club, Tournament, or League Rules of Competition.

### **DO NOT DISTRACT**

4. Any intentional act of deceiving the match officials to gain an unfair advantage will be considered a violation of the Player Code of Conduct.

### **HOSTILITY IS FORBIDDEN**

5. Players will not taunt opponents
6. Players will not use offensive or abusive language at practices or matches.
7. Players will not intentionally harm or threaten coaches, teammates, opponents,

or referees.

8. Players will not engage in bullying, harassment, or hazing during any sanctioned programs, activities, and events.
9. Players will not use social networking websites, cell phones, or other forms of technology to harass or threaten coaches, teammates, opponents, or referees.
10. After matches, players may positively acknowledge the opposing team.
11. Players will also comply with all town, club, league, and Mass Youth Soccer Abuse and Prohibited Conduct Policies.
12. Players will not use and/or possess illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco/vape, marijuana or misuse any substance intended to alter their mental or physical state at a sanctioned program, activity, or event.
13. Fighting in any form will not be tolerated.

Players who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed. Any sanctions will be in line with all applicable misconduct policies. The main reference for sanctions can be found in the Reporting, Response, and Resolution Matrices document. Additionally, 531-9 violations related to misconduct toward a referee will be addressed in accordance with the US Soccer 531-9 penalty matrix, which is specifically used for these types of misconduct violations.