

M. O. S. S. L. – Parent’s Code of Conduct Contract

As developed by Christopher Stankovich, Ph.D. and approved by M. O. S. S. L.

When kids are surveyed about the reasons why they play sports, the #1 response kids consistently report is to have fun. In addition to the fun kids experience while playing sports, additional benefits from sport participation include physical, cognitive, and emotional growth and development. Unfortunately, all these great things do not happen automatically, but instead occur as a direct result of your positive efforts as a parent. It is in this spirit that we have created the following Parent’s Code of Conduct Contract to remind parents of a few important tips designed to help your child maximize his or her athletic experience.

As a parent, it is important that you:

Respect the game, including your child, his or her teammates, and opponents. This means ensuring that your child attends and comes prepared for all practices and games, and treats both teammates and opponents with dignity and respect. Good sportsmanship means playing fair and safe, controlling negative emotions, and keeping the spirit of competition a healthy endeavor.

Respect the officials. Remember, soccer officials, (a.k.a. referees), are an important part of the sport of soccer and add to the overall experience for your child. It is important that you distinguish between bad calls (human error) and wrong calls (when an official doesn’t know the rule). In either case, it is important that you respect all officials and develop tolerance skills for when bad calls are made (which will happen – officials are human and like all of us, will occasionally make a mistake !).

Refrain from coarse and threatening language, as well as all forms of physical aggression. There is never a place in youth sports to use vulgarities, threaten, intimidate, or use physical aggression.

Let the coaches coach. While it may be easy to second-guess your child’s coach from the sidelines, most parents forget or overlook how challenging it is for coaches to both win games and at the same time make sure that all of the players have an opportunity to develop. The job of being a coach is an incredibly challenging task, so be sure to support your child’s coach as much as possible.

Watch for the safety of all players at all times, including physical and emotional dangers. Be sure to pay attention to injuries, including concussions, and respond to them in a timely manner. Additionally, pay attention to signs of youth sport burnout and be sure to respond to your child if he or she needs help.

Cheer whenever possible, and stay away from booing and other negative fan behavior. Youth sports provide a great opportunity for positive fan support, including cheering. Booing and other negative gestures and language from the sidelines are never appropriate, so be sure to stay focused on positively supporting your child’s team at all times.

As the parent(s) or guardian(s) of _____, I agree to follow the above listed principles.
Print name of child – Please print legibly

NAME _____ / _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE(S) _____ / _____

*Thank you for your positive participation in MOSSL. For more information on positive sports parenting, and to pick up your copy of Dr. Stankovich’s **Sports Success 360**, please visit www.drstankovich.com*