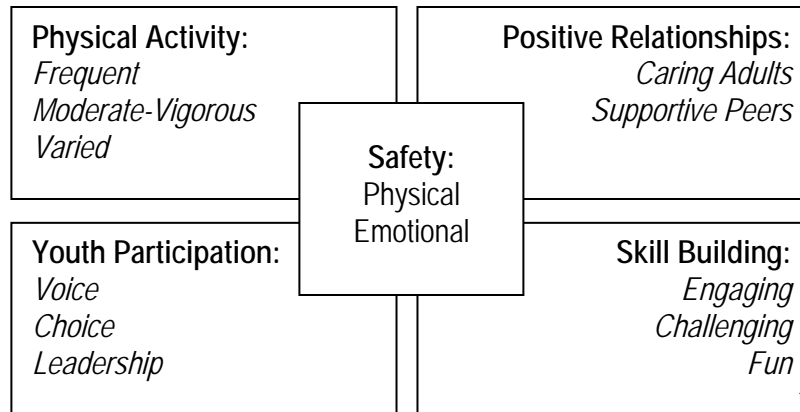




COACHES/PARENT/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The San Francisco Police Activities League (SFPAL) has partnered with Team-Up For Youth to develop positive and healthy youth development practices for youth sports and activities. It is with this foundation in mind that we have developed a parent and spectator code of conduct to ensure that all of our participants play in a safe, fun, challenging and supportive environment.

Team Up for Youth Building Blocks for Quality Youth Sports



*www.teamupforyouth.org

The following is a code of conduct that each parent and spectator must abide by to ensure that our youth participate in a positive environment. If you feel you cannot abide by this code, then SFPAL is not the right program for you and/or your child. By agreeing to this code and by signing the waiver form you are agreeing to abide by this code as well as hold any spectators who are your guest at a game to this code.

Safety is a primary concern of SFPAL for all players and spectators. Safety does not only include immediate physical harm but emotion harm as well. Therefore the following rules apply:

Location of Spectators: At all games spectators are to stand back at least 3 feet from the sideline. This allows the players to play the sidelines and everyone to see and spectators to react to oncoming balls or players. One (spectators or coaches) may *never stand behind either goal line*. Spectators should be on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players (except when only one side is available). Spectators, players and coaches are required to abide by all posted Rec and Park field usage guidelines including, but not limited to: all spectators must stand **BEHIND** the FENCE at all times at the Polo Fields, Franklin, Garfield, (and any other newly renovated gated field).

Spectators may never coach. Spectators are to provide support and are never to provide direction or instruction to any participant, **including your own child**. This is the job of the licensed coaches. It can get very confusing for players to hear a diverse array of directions, especially when it confuses what the coach is saying and becomes distractive to the play of game.

While positive cheering and encouragement is encouraged remember to maintain the enthusiasm even after a "bad" play. There is nothing more emotionally harming than for a child to turn to her parent or guardian for support after a mistake only to see disappointment or dissatisfaction.

SFPAL offers leadership opportunities for everyone. As a parent you can volunteer to be a lines person. For youth who may be too old to play we encourage them to continue their participation in soccer by becoming a referee.

We are losing referees every year due to the misconduct and abusive and childlike behavior of coaches, parents and spectators who find it necessary to share their opinions on calls and officiating. For this reason we will hold EVERY PARENT and SPECTATOR accountable to the following rule:

No Referee Interaction: This means SPECTATORS MAY NOT DISAGREE WITH, QUESTION, CRITICIZE THE REFEREE or SPEAK TO THE REFEREE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A GAME. THIS RULE APPLIES EVEN IF THE REFEREE MAKES A MISTAKE. Every year we lose many referees because they do not like the abusive treatment that they receive from spectators during the season. Referees do make mistakes and your coach has a method for providing feedback to the League after the game if the referee needs constructive criticism. If you have an issue with your referee, speak to your coach after the game. The coach or spectators may not object to a referee's call or judgment on the field either during or after the game. The coach or spectators may not question a referee at any time. The referee is not required to give your team a warning; he/she may merely report the misconduct after the game. The League will sanction teams, coaches and/or spectators who violate this rule. Due to the shortage of referees, sometimes you may not have a referee for your game and the coaches will act as referee. These acting referees are entitled to the same respect. We are always searching for more referees. Please contact us if you are interested in helping by becoming a licensed referee.

How Parents and Spectators Can Help: Follow this code of conduct and hold other parents and spectators accountable to the code. Please help your coach by arriving on time with your child dressed in his/her official SFPAL T-Shirt, shin guards and shoes. Make sure your child has a water bottle available to him. Make sure your child attends practice where he/she will have a chance to learn. Under League rules, every child must play at least half of the game unless the child has failed to attend practice without an excuse. Please cheer for everyone. When you have a question about game day, times or rules your first point of reference should always be your coach. Coaches are in charge with the most up to date information for their specific teams. Also, with over 2,000 soccer players and almost double the amount of parents/guardians our office simply can not manage the severe volume of calls if every parent were to call our office regarding their specific child's game time. If you call our office you will most likely be referred back to your coach. Coaches are responsible for calling our office regarding rainouts, etc. Please do not call our office about rainouts. Ask your coach, again, it is her/his job to have the most up to date information on her/his team and league.

Redefine A Winner: Redefine what it means to be a "Winner" in your conversations with players and other fans. Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes stop them. Learning from mistakes is part of the game. Also, remember that all children are born with different abilities and develop at different rates. The true measure of how a child is doing is not in comparison to others but rather in comparison to his/her prior best. If you only judge the success of a game by whether your child's team wins, you should expect to be unhappy half of the time (our goal is to make sure that each team experiences both winning and losing). To paid/professional coaches, we realize that your livelihood may depend on winning games - - this is contrary to the goals of the league. Your win at all cost attitude will not be tolerated.

No Alcoholic Beverages: The City of San Francisco stipulates that no alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed at youth sporting events.

Teams, parents, coaches and spectators who do not follow the Code of Conduct will be sanctioned. A copy of the disciplinary actions for the misconduct of the stated code of conduct above is available on our website or at our office.

Check the Website: The SFPAL website has lots of useful information about the League and soccer. Please check it regularly at www.sfpal.org.