



Player Code of Conduct

The following Code of Conduct is intended to illustrate the types of behavior that are expected at sporting events sponsored by Wise County Youth Soccer Association. While these rules are detailed, they are by no means exhaustive and should not substitute for good judgment and sound thinking that is not defined in the code. The Code of Conduct is organized in a manner that promotes good sportsmanship, courtesy, amity and fellowship and a belief that we should behave towards others as we would want others to behave towards us. We believe these principles will foster a safe environment for all to enjoy soccer. Behavior or language that is unsportsmanlike, rude, offensive or vulgar will not be tolerated.

As a member of a Wise County Youth Soccer Association team, you are representing your team, your association and your community. This honor carries with it significant time commitments, responsibilities and expectations. The following is a list of expectations that you should review and be prepared to take seriously.

1. Play by the rules of soccer in a sportsmanlike manner and not use unnecessarily rough tactics in games and practices.
2. Be on time for games and practices and to notify coaches and managers if they cannot attend prior to the practice or game to allow the coach to prepare the appropriate practice or game plan. Immediately inform the coach of injuries or other concerns that will impact play.
3. Play for the good of the game. Maintain high academic standards. Education is more important than soccer and a disciplined student is an asset to the team.
4. Show respect for all people and demonstrate good manners and sportsmanship on and off the field. Do not participate in abusive or violent behavior of any kind or use foul, abusive or derogatory language, obscene or vulgar gestures towards officials, coaches, players or spectators, whether on or off the field.

5. Attend all practices and games. Typically teams practice twice a week and play one weekend league game. Jamborees or tournaments are the exception where 3 or 4 games may be played on a weekend. We encourage coaches to schedule practices at times not conflicting with other major events (e.g. school events) when possible.
6. Place your team and commitment to soccer at a high priority. When signing on with Wise County Youth Soccer Association, you are making a serious commitment. You are expected to attend and be punctual for all games and practices. This level of commitment helps the team form into a cohesive and competitive unit. Players who expect to routinely miss league games or practices during a season should discuss this with their coach and manager and perhaps reconsider their participation.
7. Come to each practice and game ready to play with your equipment on. You must be physically and mentally prepared on game day with all necessary equipment and uniform(s) as well as being in top form. Examples of game and practice readiness include: hydrating before and during the game, monitoring physical activity on game day, eating nutritious, sports-healthy meals two hours or more prior to the game or practice, engaging in activities that help you to be mentally focused, taking proper care of injuries and making sure you are well rested and stretched. You and your parents are encouraged to learn as much as you can about proper nutrition, exercise and rest for young athletes. Having the basic knowledge of how to care for and recover from minor injuries is also important.
8. Take pride in your equipment. Equipment is limited in soccer and therefore it is easy to excel in this area. Brush your cleats off if they are covered in mud. Make sure they are dry and the laces are in good shape. Learn to tie your laces tightly so that they remain tied throughout a game. Your shin guards should be clean, dry and in good shape. During games and practices, player bags and other property such as water bottles and uniforms should be neatly stowed in the designated spot.
9. To train to the best of your ability. Practice on your own in order to reinforce concepts and skills taught by your coach. Juggle with your ball often or practice off the wall. Watch soccer on TV or live to enhance your understanding of the game.
10. Talk with your coaches. The coaches are there to help you. If you do not understand something the coach does or says, do not hesitate to ask for more information or help. If you are nervous about talking with your coach, it may be helpful to practice with your parents or another adult ahead of time.

11. Not use or possess illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco. In addition, the player will not abuse legal drugs or bring them to games or practices without permission from his/her coach and parents.
12. Respect all property and refrain from stealing or destroying equipment or other property. We ask that you and your parents assist coaches in gathering equipment, setting up the practice or game field, picking up the fields/practice area and facilities after use, reminding teammates of items being left behind and returning borrowed equipment. Fields should be left in better shape than when we arrived.