



Code of Conduct, Roles / Expectations & Zero Tolerance

South End Soccer's mandate is to give children in the South End, Roxbury and Chinatown (and adjacent neighborhoods) an opportunity to experience a high quality soccer program and **engender a love of the game** regardless of prior experience or economic means.

Code of Conduct

South End Soccer's Code of Conduct is respect towards teammates, opponents, coaches and referees; conducting oneself with honor, dignity, and self-control; exemplify good sportsmanship during wins and losses; accept decisions of coaches and referees with class and dignity; and, play of the game for the fun, the challenge, and the chance to show your best.

Coach's Role & Expectations

How coach creates the best environment for the player to development and have fun?

- Support and practice South End Soccer's Code of Conduct, Massachusetts Youth Soccer's Mission and Policies, US Soccer's Laws of the Game.
- Teach your players the Laws of the Game through engaging practices and coaching at games.
- Respect age and development of players, teach and communicate to their age and ability.
- Create an environment for the team to respect each other, learn the game and have fun.
- Players should never be ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Develop team to respect ability of opponents, and judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved.
- Keep informed of sound principles of coaching and attend coaching courses.
- Check equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate for the age and ability of your players.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

Player's Role & Expectations

How the player can have the most fun and learn the game?

- Follow South End Soccer's Code of Conduct.
- Be generous when you win. Be gracious when you lose.
- Be fair and respectful to your teammates, coaches, referees and opposing team.
- Obey the laws of the game.
- Work for the good of your team. Not for the win or for yourself.
- Respect your coach and thank them for their time.
- Talk to your coach when you are struggling or need help, he/she is there it help you have fun.
- Accept the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.
- Have fun!

Parent Role and Expectations

How the parent can help their child get the most out of their experience and develop as a player?

Do:

- Be positive or quiet at games - applaud good plays by your child's team and by the opposing team.
- Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game and practice.
- Teach your child that hard work and effort are more important than victory.
- Let the coaches coach. These adults may be volunteers and they are giving their time to create a positive experience. And, they need your support.
- Let the referee's ref and support them from the sidelines. Treat them and their calls fairly and respectfully. And support younger referee as they may still be developing.
- Remember to have fun! This is the best part of parenting, watching your child have fun and play.

Don't:

- Do not coach from the sideline. This includes giving any instructions to your child or another player. Allow the coaches who have been granted the authority to teach the game and run the team.
- Don't stress out over the game. If you find yourself pacing up and down the sideline, anxiously following the action as it unfolds on the field or yelling instructions – Stop. Breathe.
- Do not approach the bench or playing area during a game (unless in an emergency or at the coach's request). Respect that this is the coach's teaching space, and you are there to just watch the game.
- Do not speak negatively on the sidelines about the coach, officials, or opponents. Parents need to understand that youth sport is filled with mistakes from players to coaches to officials. We need to be open-minded and keep any negative comments about any plays or any persons involved to ourselves, and support the overall spirit of the game.

BAYS Zero Tolerance Policy

South End Soccer supports BAYS Zero Tolerance Policy, which governs the behavior of coaches and spectators toward referees. The policy is designed to foster good sportsmanship, provide a friendly and safe environment, and support the development of referees, many of whom are relatively young and inexperienced. The policy is reprinted below and on BAYS web site. The policy states that all individuals responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators.

- No one except the players, are to speak to the referee during or after the game. Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions and point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed.
- Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game, no remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play. **NO YELLING** at the referee, EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game
- Violators may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by the BAYS Sportsmanship Review Committee
- If feedback regarding a referee, please contact the town soccer club's referee coordinator for the game in question.

Zero Tolerance & Code of Conduct Violations

South End Soccer considers any violation of Code of Conduct or Zero Tolerance by parents or coaches a serious issue. Disciplinary action resulting from Zero Tolerance violations are subject to the Board's discretion and can include warnings, suspensions, and/or a permanent loss of coaching positions. A parent or coach does not need to be issued a yellow or red card during the game to be in violation of the zero tolerance policy. Any comment in referee's report indicating a zero tolerance violation could result in any disciplinary action.

Parent/Player Agreement:

By signing below, parent & player have read and agree to fulfill their roles and expectations, and abide by Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance:

Player Name: _____ **Parent Name:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Coach Agreement:

By Signing below, the coach has read and agree to fulfill he/her role and expectations, and abide by Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance:

Coach Name: _____ **Team Name:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Season/Year: _____ Age group: _____