

## Marathon County United SC Parent and Player Codes of Conduct

### **Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct**

In order for your child to get the most out of the Marathon County United Soccer Club, it is important for you to show support and offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team. With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the game, everyone will come away from their soccer experience with a positive feeling.

#### Support Your Child

Children derive many benefits from playing youth soccer such as good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn how to work together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning humbly and handle defeat gracefully. In the process, they also learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal goals. Remember that your children are PLAYING the game of soccer. While they should be challenged to perform their personal best at the highest possible level, be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives. As a parent, you should see that your child is on time and prepared for practices and games. It disrupts the coach and other teammates for a player to be late or missing their uniform or equipment. If extenuating circumstances exist or a player has a physical limitation or injury, you should immediately inform the coach about the problem.

#### Games and Practices

Parents and spectators can take the fun out of soccer by continually yelling or coaching from the sidelines. Parents and spectators should enjoy the game, cheer for good plays and be supportive and encouraging. A team's performance improves by practicing together. Players, even good ones, cannot improve without practice. Practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline and learning emotional control, all of which are important lessons children can use both on and off the field. A player not attending practice regularly may see reduced playing time in games, since it is not fair to the other players who have put forth the time and effort to practice with the team.

#### Good Sportsmanship

Parents and spectators serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction, and approval. One of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to coaches, referees, opponents and teammates. Cheer them on as a team and individually as well. Negative remarks from you reflect poorly, not only on the team and the club, but on you and your child personally.

#### Let the Coach Coach

Your child's coach will be responsible for instructing your child during games and at practices. Coaches receive training and dedicate countless hours on and off the field to make your child's soccer experience rewarding. Some parents not only spoil the fun for their kids on the field trying to coach from the sideline, but also in the car or at home, believing this is the perfect place for instruction. Parents should not contradict the coach's instructions. It is unfair to put children in a position of having to decide who to listen to -- their parents or their coach. **If a parent has a question or feels it is necessary to discuss an issue with the coach, it must be done privately, at least 24 hours after the occurrence of the issue to be discussed, and held at a mutually convenient time OUTSIDE of practice and game times.**

Please remember that the Marathon County United Soccer Club is a program for our children to learn the game of soccer from their coaches and trainers. Parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves as positive role models for good sportsmanship, discipline, and fair play. Interference or inappropriate conduct by any players, coaches, parents, or spectators reflects poorly upon this organization and thus will not be tolerated.

### **Each Spectator will:**

- Respect the game of soccer and its laws, learn these laws, and respect the decisions made regarding these laws.
- Never argue with or verbally abuse a referee.
- Use encouraging language and positive cheering to show their support of their player and the team.
- Strive to be good role models for their children and those around them by showing respect to the coaches, officials, and players and parents of both teams, by always using respectful language, and by being proactive in deterring negative behavior.
- Remain supportive of coaches and players in all situations.

### **Player Code of Conduct**

As a member and representative of the Marathon County United Soccer Club, each player recognizes that it is a privilege to play on a competitive team and agrees to abide by the following player's code of conduct.

### **Each Player will:**

- Respect the game of soccer and its laws, learn these laws, follow them, and play the game fairly.
- Work for the good of the team and give their best effort at all times.
- Never argue with or verbally abuse a referee.
- Show good sportsmanship before, during, and after games. Each player understands that soccer is a game, and that the players on the other team are their opponents, not their enemies.
- Arrive at practice and games within the time frame set by the coach.
- Cooperate with their coach, manager, teammates, and opponents.
- Be modest when they win, and gracious when they lose. Accept defeat with dignity, and remember, "*Good losers earn more respect than bad winners*".
- Help their parents and fans understand the laws of the game so they can watch and enjoy the game better.
- Control their temper and never retaliate, even if they disagree with a decision. Displays of temper will not be tolerated during games or training sessions.
- Practice on their own, come prepared to learn, and give their coaches their complete attention.
- Represent MC United with the highest degree of integrity, commitment, and professionalism both on and off the soccer field.

- Honor your commitment to MCU. Be on time and in proper uniform for all practices and games.
- Live the game! Be a student of the game because the game is the best teacher!

### **Violations of Conduct**

Any violations can fall into one of the three categories outlined below. Interpretations of the severity of any conduct policy violations is at the sole discretion of the conduct policy enforcement committee.

#### **Level 1 Offense Violation**

Results in a meeting with Coach and DOC and a formal apology.

#### **Level 2 Offense Violation**

Results in another meeting with DOC and President AND

- A ban from a certain number of games
- Son or daughter misses games
- A formal apology is given

#### **Level 3 Offense Violation**

Results in the accused no longer being able to be present at any MCU event. If the offender is a parent, the player and parent will no longer be involved with MCU.