

# **MUSC Town League** **Sportsmanship Policies and Guidelines**



## **Club Rules:**

- Equal playing time for All Players
- Send your Parents to the other side of the field. No adults other than a recognized coach should be on the sideline with the Players or behind the goals during the game.
- Coach only from your half of the field, do not cross over onto the other team's half and never coach from behind the goals
- Do not allow lopsided scores. Make your best effort not to let your team run up the score (e.g. rotate skilled players into defensive positions, have them make a re-set number of passes before they shoot at goal, etc.)

## **Dealing with Players:**

- Your job is to teach soccer skills, team play and sportsmanship to the children in your charge. Winning is good, but not your primary mission. You should strive to make practices and game fun for all you players
- Use positive words with your players, avoid negative comments and open criticism
- Do not address or refer to player on the other team other than to acknowledge good plays
- Rotate your players to be respectful of their opponents and the referees. Be mindful of any trash talking during the handshake at the end of the game and stop it immediately if you hear it

## **Dealing with Referees:**

- Treat the Referees with respect at all times
- Remember that although the Referees are licensed and trained, they will make mistakes. The Referees are kids too, and they can very young in the younger divisions, and you should always be mindful of that when dealing with them
- Introduce yourself to the Referee at the beginning of the game and shake their hands at the end of the game
- Do not question a Referee's ruling by shouting out at them on the field. If you have an issue on a call or their performance, talk to them discretely at a break in play or at the end of the game

## **Dealing with fellow Coaches:**

- Introduce yourself to the other coaches if you do not already know them
- Work together to be sure the game runs smoothly (e.g. by agreeing to modify the number of players on the field if the situation warrants it.)
- Use your Commissioner if issues arise during a game that you feel were not resolved properly at the field. They can help solve problems in a discrete, non-confrontational way
- No post game broadcast e-mails

## **Summary:**

**You and the other coaches are co-directors of the game. You have a responsibility not only to direct your own teams but to work together to insure that the game is a positive experience for all the children present, that includes children who may be spectators, players, and referees. Treat them as you would your own children, with kindness. Treat your fellow coaches with respect.**