

Code of conduct for parents ~ Ozark Soccer Club

By registering your child for the 2018-2019 OSC Season, you have read and agreed to these guidelines.

- Be your child's best fan and support him/her unconditionally.
- When you take your child home after a match or practice, please be supportive and always focus on the positive aspects of his/her game. Do NOT bring up the game ~ allow your child to talk about it if they choose to. Sometimes they just need to decompress! Time and Space!!
- Develop a responsibility in your child to pack his/her own bag, pack his/her cleats and take a water bottle to practices and games.
- Do not criticize your child's coach to your child or other parents. If you are unhappy with the coach you should raise the issue with the coach. If you need to speak to the coach, call and make an appointment with them. Do not approach them right before a game ~ they are trying to prepare a team of kids for a game. Do not approach them right after a game ~ as your emotions may be too raw. NEVER approach the coach in the middle of a game. If we have problems with parents overstepping their bounds, your child could be released from the team. If you choose to set up a meeting with the coach, your child will be present.
- Respect the facilities at all times (at games and practices). Younger siblings are not to run unsupervised. At games, siblings running around other parents (OSC or opponents) is distracting. Practices: Coaches are trying to run a focused practice and have a hard time doing so with little ones running in and out of things. Please stay away from behind the sheds as there are critters living under them and do not allow fence climbing. If a sibling wants to kick a ball around, please find a space where there is plenty of room. Please do not have them kicking the ball near the sheds at the high school.
- Encourage your child to speak with the coach if he/she is confused or has questions about his/her position on the team. If your child is having difficulties at practice or games, or can't attend training etc. have him/her to speak directly to the coach. This "responsibility" is a big part of becoming a mature young person. By handling off the field tasks, your child is claiming ownership in all aspects of the game.
- Help your child to focus on growth and performance and not the game result. Remember - winning is not as important as is their growth as a player and teammate.
- Support ALL the players on your child's team. Do not criticize anyone. Remember – children don't mean to make mistakes on the field...it just happens!
- Do not criticize the opponents, their parents or the officials. You are representing all of us from Ozark Soccer Club & the city of Ozark ! If we receive reports back from Lake Country that any of our teams/parents are being disrespectful, we will meet to discuss it. If it happens twice, those parents involved will be suspended from attending two games. A third report will be a more permanent suspension that will involve the OSC Board.
- Never audibly dispute a referee's decision disrespectfully. They will make mistakes. We all do. If you verbally abuse or shout at the referee you are breaking the rules of the game and risk generating an infraction for the team. In extreme circumstances we could even be expelled from the League, or be forced to play without any spectators present.

- Parents will refrain from “coaching” from the sidelines during game or practices. Leave this to the coach or you may cause confusion and erode your child’s confidence. Our coaches have a game plan. Your child needs to hear ONE voice instructing them, and that is where parents must release their children to the game. Cheer them on as much as you like...but please, no instruction.
- Parents must not enter the field of play. If your child is injured during a game or practice, sit tight. If the Coach thinks the parent is needed, they will ask you to come help. Otherwise most of the time the kids will shake it off and be back out on the field in no time. Please note that all our coaches will be required to attend a Concussion Recognition Training. Concussions are extremely serious. Neither the referee or coach will allow a player to re-enter the game if they SUSPECT a concussion (we’ll error on the side of caution!) Parents are welcome to come watch practices, but unless the coach specifically asks for your help, you are a spectator and are not to interrupt.
- Ozark Soccer Club is a competitive soccer club. This means that the coaches have been given a set of guidelines and in those guidelines it states this: “Playing time is not equal. HOWEVER, every player should find themselves with playing time in every game unless you have discussed it with them prior to the game (ie: if they have blatantly disobeyed one of the coaches, broken a rule, are a developmental player, etc... it should not come as a surprise to them that they are not playing. This has never been a problem in the past with any of our teams...but it could) Most players will tell you that they want to win first and foremost, but they will quickly tell you that they want to play and get better ~ and the only way for them to do so is to play in games. It is up to the coach’s discretion as to the quantity of minute each player gets. Be very cautious that no one sits excessively.” (end quote) If you find that your child is receiving less playing time than other kids, have your child ask the coach what they need to work on ~ and then have them work on it at home. We say this often...you can be a good player coming to two 1.5 hour practices per week...but if you want to become GREAT you have to practice on your own, also.
- Please remember – the game is for the children. It is not for the glory of the coach, manager or parents. It is their time to own their successes and failures ~ wins and losses. Let them enjoy. Celebrate with them, but always remember this is THEIR moment. Be sad with them, but always remember that this is THEIRS to learn from. Release them to the game!
- **Parents are not to cross the field after the game is over. Please respect the coach and the few minutes they would like to have with their team after the game. Your child will walk over to you when the coach has released them.
- Practice shirts are to be worn at every practice. This not only shows cohesiveness among our teams, but also our club. The kids can wear them out and about...and to school if they like...but they must be worn to every practice.

The job of a parent of an athletic child is a tough one, and it takes a lot of effort to do it well. The best words to say to your child after they compete?

“I love to watch you play.”

There are FOUR roles in the game of soccer:

1. Player 2. Coach 3. Referee 4. Spectator

You can only be one....