

## **AYSO 33 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS AND SPECTATORS**

Our goal at AYSO Region 33 is to encourage a fun, positive and safe atmosphere for our players, parents, and volunteers.

To do that, we need to create a culture of respect and courtesy for others, especially towards our volunteer referees and coaches.

REMINDER TO PARENTS/SPECTATORS: All Referees and Coaches are “volunteers.” They are not paid. They are difficult to find and critical to retain. We cannot afford to lose them because of rude or threatening behavior by others. As a result, we are announcing a code of conduct that will be enforced by the Region.

### **PARENT/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT:**

#### **1. Sitting/Standing area during a game:**

For U14 and U12 games, parents/spectators shall sit/stand on their half of the field to the left of the coach, between the center line and the penalty/18-yd box.

For U10 games (which have smaller sideline areas available), parents/spectators shall sit/stand between the build-out lines.

For U14, U12 and U10 games, parents/spectators are prohibited from standing or sitting behind the end line/goal line.

All parents/spectators must stand at least one yard behind the sideline so as not to block the view of the assistant referee on their side of the field also and to give room for player throw-ins.

#### **2. Speaking to Referees about a call or non-call during a game is prohibited:**

Once a game begins: parents/spectators may not speak to the referees about any call or decision made (or not made) on the field. This includes making a comment in a voice loud enough to be heard by any referee. A violation will result in a warning to the coach and parent/spectator. A repeated violation may result in a yellow card or ejection of the coach and parent/spectator.

When the game ends: parents/spectators are not to speak to a referee on the field, or when a referee is leaving the field, about any call or decision made (or not made) during the game.

Should a parent/spectator want to discuss any decision made (or not made) by a referee, the parent/spectator should contact the Referee Administrator to discuss the issue either at the Referee Tent or by email ([ayso33refadm@gmail.com](mailto:ayso33refadm@gmail.com)).

**3. Insulting or swearing at a referee** (or in a voice loud enough to be heard by a referee) is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Any violation will likely result in an ejection of the parent/spectator and a minimum 1-game suspension.

4. **Parents/Spectators may NEVER talk to a youth referee during or after a game** (except to thank them for their time and effort). Any issue about the conduct or performance of a youth referee should be addressed to the Referee Administrator.

5. **Talking negatively to, or about players on an opposing team is prohibited:** Parents/Spectators are prohibited from speaking to, or about players on an opposing team in a negative way during or after a game. This includes speaking in a loud enough voice to be heard by any player from the opposing team. A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or ejection of the coach and parent/spectator at the discretion of the referee.

Non-permitted communication includes comments about an opponent playing in a dangerous manner (which may be addressed by the Parent/Spectator to the coach who can address the issue with the referee as permitted by these Rules).

6. **Talking negatively to the opposing team's parents/spectators is prohibited:** Parents/Spectators are prohibited from speaking to, or about parents/spectators on an opposing team in a negative way during or after a game. This includes speaking in a loud enough voice to be heard by any parent/spectator from the opposing team. A violation will result in a warning to the coach and parent. A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or ejection of the coach and parent/spectator at the discretion of the referee.

7. **Going onto the field during a game is prohibited unless summoned by a referee:** The laws of the game prohibit any person from entering the field unless summoned by the center referee. This includes a situation where a player appears to be injured or where there is a fight among players on the field (If a player appears to be injured, when play is stopped the referee will assess the situation and call the coach and/or the parent onto the field if appropriate.) A violation can result in a verbal warning, a yellow card or ejection of the coach and parent/spectator at the discretion of the referee.

8. **A parent/spectator may NEVER make physical contact with any player on the field that is not his/her child.** This includes touching another child who appears to be in an altercation with that parent/spectator's child. Any violation will result in an ejection of the parent/spectator and a minimum 1-game suspension.

9. **Injured Player:** A referee may determine that a player should not be allowed back on a field due to injury or other health concerns which cause repeated stoppages of a game. The referee's decision is final. The Region may require the parent/guardian to provide a doctor's note permitting the player to participate in future games. For further information about this issue, the parent/guardian should contact the Regional Commissioner ([ayso33regcom@gmail.com](mailto:ayso33regcom@gmail.com)).

10. **Parents/Spectators may not coach while spectating:** (As the familiar youth soccer saying goes: "Players play, Coaches coach and You (players/spectators) cheer.") The certified head coach and assistant coach(es) are the ONLY persons authorized to coach during a game. They have completed the required training and have volunteered their time in conducting practices and strategizing with the team. Parents/Spectators are encouraged to cheer but they must refrain from coaching during a game, which includes, but is not limited to, telling players when to take a shot, when to pass, and where to position themselves on the field at any time.

11. **Complaint Procedure:** Should a parent/spectator wish to make a complaint about a referee's actions or inactions, the parent should contact the following persons, in this order: the Coach, the Referee Administrator, the Division Manager, the Dispute Resolution Administrator, and the Regional Commissioner. The contact information for all of these persons is on the AYSO Region 33 Website: [www.ayso33.org](http://www.ayso33.org).

12. **DOGS are NOT permitted** anywhere on the soccer fields (within the fence)  
(Exception: guide dogs and service dogs for a disabled individual)