

Dear Members of the Bel Air Soccer Community,

The Bel Air Soccer Program has established a code of conduct and responsibilities that applies to its players, coaches, and parents. It is important that this code of conduct be adhered to in order to ensure that the experience of playing soccer is a positive one for the girls and boys in our program. To that end, players, coaches, and parents are required to read the attached code of conduct. Failure to abide by the code, as determined by the commissioner and/or chairperson may lead to sanctions including reprimand, suspension and, in extreme cases, expulsion from the program.

The purpose of the Bel Air Soccer Program is to encourage participation in youth travel soccer and to teach soccer in a manner which balances discipline and achievement with your child's fullest enjoyment of the game. Unfortunately, coaches, parents, and fans, despite their best intentions, do not always realize that their actions, both verbal and non-verbal, can have a lasting and negative impact on our children's enjoyment of soccer. The ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, dignity in victory and graciousness in defeat are concepts that are part of the foundation upon which our children can grow to become the adults we want them to be. As adult role models we all share a great responsibility in molding our children. Our adherence to the code of conduct that follows will ensure that we are doing our part to make this a program of which we can be proud.

Thank you,

Bel Air Soccer

# Bel Air Soccer Code of Conduct

## Code of Conduct: Players

- 1) Show up to practices and games ready to play and learn regularly.
- 2) Play by the rules.
- 3) Play fairly and exercise good sportsmanship and positive teamwork.
- 4) Work equally hard for myself and my team. My team's performance will benefit.
- 5) Cooperate with coaches, teammates, opponents and officials. Without them there would be no game.
- 6) Show respect to teammates, coaches, officials and opponents at all times.
- 7) Be gracious in defeat and dignified in victory.
- 8) After each game, offer congratulations or say "good game" to the opposing team.
- 9) Play for the fun of soccer!

## Code of Conduct: Coaches

- 1) Promote fun (on & off the field of play), friendships & learning new skills.
- 2) Referees, administrators, parents, players, and opponents should be treated with respect and dignity.
- 3) Only provide positive reinforcement and encouragement. Remember, it's only a game, so have fun with it.
- 4) Adhere to the 75% minimum playtime policy if the players/parents have met their commitment to the team. Remember, players only develop if they are off the bench.
- 5) Adhere to the guest player policy which requires prior approval of the commissioner as well as the collection of age eligibility proof and applicable Guest Player fees. Guest player approval may only be requested if regular players will be absent or unable to play.
- 6) Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of all players. This also means a coach must bring a first aid kit to every game and practice as well as emergency contact information for each player.
- 7) Keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young players. Travel Head coaches must agree to obtain their NSCAA certifications within the first year of coaching a travel team or risk removal as the head coach.
- 8) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their ability, cultural background or religion.
- 9) Understand that my attitude can influence the players, coaches and spectators.
- 10) Official decisions should be accepted, no matter how unfair they seem.
- 11) Attend regularly scheduled coach training sessions and/or meetings as well as maintain good communication with administrators, leagues and team.
- 12) Always conduct yourself for the good of the game and the good of Bel Air Blaze Soccer. Remember, you and your team (including parents) represent the Bel Air program as well as Bel Air's community at every game/tournament/team event/soccer related activity. Please keep our reputation a positive one!

# Bel Air Soccer Code of Conduct

## Code of Conduct: Parents

- 1) Be my child's best fan! Support my child unconditionally and make her feel like a winner every time! Ditto for her teammates!
- 2) Remember that children participate in sport for **their** enjoyment, not mine.
- 3) Encourage children to participate, do not force them. However, players have made a commitment to their coaches, teammates and parents which are expected to be honored or the loss of playtime and removal from the team could be at risk.
- 4) Focus on the child's effort and performance rather than winning or losing.
- 5) Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- 6) Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a game whether it's your child or another.
- 7) Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
- 8) Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from all soccer activities.
- 9) Be kind and respectful to your child's coaches, officials and program administrators. These volunteers give their personal time to provide a recreational activity for your child. These people are providing a valuable community service, often without reward, other than the personal satisfaction of having served the community and making a positive difference in the lives of Bel Air children. The best way to better the program is to volunteer to help in any way you can. There will be a team volunteer requirement to assist the program since the program does a great deal to support the travel teams.
- 10) Be sure my child is available for most practices and games. Practices are as important as games.
- 11) Report to the coach all injuries, special medical conditions or extenuating circumstances that may affect the player. This includes food allergies, etc.
- 12) Send my child ready to play. My child will be dressed in uniform and arrive on time. They will have all of the required uniform and gear at every game and every practice. (Jewelry is not permitted, so please remove it ahead of time.)
- 13) Ensure my child is picked up from practices and games on time and coaches are aware of any arrangements for pick up where the person picking up your child is someone other than you. We know carpools are the norm, so please communicate this to the coach and indicate if it will be a regular occurrence.
- 14) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- 15) Do not openly question the referee's judgment and never his/her honesty. In fact, never say anything to a referee or try to make calls for the referee. Please remember that some referees are still children (young adults) learning how to ref, so please give them a break. Accept the results of each game and encourage your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by working towards improvement. A child will

not remember the results of a game but will remember how they felt because of your actions. In addition, referees can penalize your child's team for your behavior, so please keep this in mind and don't let down the team.

- 16) If you have a problem with a member of your child's coaching staff, please give a 24 hour cooling off period before contacting the coach, commissioner or chairperson. He/she may have done something for reasons you are unaware of so please do not make assumptions but consider asking questions instead. Then, approach the conversation in a polite way with a respectful tone because kindness will be the best ingredient to sharing your point of view and actually having the coach, commissioner or chairperson hear what you have to say and openly consider your point of view. Don't forget...the best way to create change is to volunteer!
- 17) Realize that the program has provided the tools necessary for your child's coach to be the best coach and role model possible for your daughter. You may feel as if you know more about soccer than your child's coach. Maybe you do; maybe you don't. However, you should respect the fact that the coach has volunteered his/her time. Stalking up and down the sidelines barking orders to the team undermines the coach's authority and sends confusing messages to the child which increases their level of frustration. Let the coach's coach. Please have a seat, relax, and enjoy the game. Coaches have been given the authority to remove your child from the game if she begins to listen to you instead of her coach. If you want to coach, please let us know and we will find you a volunteer spot and send you for training.
- 18) PLEASE keep our home fields clean of debris, or we risk losing them in the future. Trash cans are conveniently placed throughout the area, please make sure you, your guests, your children and those of our opponents utilize them to prevent issues which could terminate our use of these fields.

# Bel Air Soccer Code of Conduct

Being a player, manager, coach, parent/spectator, I have read and understand the Bel Air Soccer Code of Conduct. I agree to abide to this code of conduct and practice good sportsmanship throughout the season. I agree to help enforce this conduct as written to better the soccer experience for all.

Age group: \_\_\_\_\_ Coach's name: \_\_\_\_\_

| Team Member     | Printed Name | Signature/Date |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Player          |              |                |
| Parent/Guardian |              |                |
| Parent/Guardian |              |                |
| Coach           |              |                |