



Barnstable Youth Soccer Association Parents' and Spectators' Guidelines

Watching our children play sports can be a rewarding experience. It allows us to witness their development of skills like dribbling, shooting, and passing, as well as their understanding of sportsmanship and teamwork. It also teaches them how to handle both victory and defeat gracefully, fostering their growth into respectful and well-rounded individuals.

We take pride in our children's achievements in soccer. However, it's important to address the increasing issue of inappropriate behavior among parents and spectators at youth sports events. To effectively address this problem, Barnstable Youth Soccer Association, along with all affiliated organizations, has established these guidelines for Parents and Spectators. The Board of Directors urges everyone to embrace these policies to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and successful season.

All individuals associated with Barnstable Youth Soccer Association are required to uphold values such as honesty, sportsmanship, and respect for team participation and play within the organization and other related sports entities. All individuals associated with Barnstable Youth Soccer Association must comply with the Safe Soccer Policies of the organization, in accordance with U.S. Soccer and the U.S. Center for Safe Sport requirements, and any similar guidance in effect and adopted as needed.

Match officials have been instructed to halt play when parents, guardians, or spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior that interferes with coaches, players, or other spectators. Referees or club/league officials will identify violators to the coaches to remove them from the viewing and match area. Play will resume once they are removed, with no additional time added. Violators may also face further disciplinary action or legal consequences for inappropriate and disruptive behavior, including but not limited to:

- Using obscene or vulgar language in a disruptive manner.
- Taunting players, coaches, officials, or other spectators through baiting, ridicule, threats, or actual violence, whether in person, online, or on social media.
- Throwing objects in a manner that intimidates or harms others or creates safety hazards within spectator areas, player areas, playing fields, or parking areas.

Repeated violations of the policies here within will result in suspension from our fields and/or expulsion from Barnstable Youth Soccer Association participation without the possibility of refund.

Parents' and Spectators' Guidelines:

1. Let your child choose their level of participation in sports.
2. Applaud and encourage good plays, rather than dwelling on mistakes. Children play sports for fun, friendship, and skill development.
3. Remember that children emulate their parents' behavior. Be a positive role model, as disruptive conduct can influence your child and others negatively.
4. Avoid giving personal instructions from the sidelines. While cheering is appreciated, coaching from spectators is not allowed. A good rule to follow is, "No coaching from the sidelines!"
5. Give the coaches physical space to do what they volunteered to do, coach! This will help avoid mixed messages coming from the sidelines for players.
6. Encourage your child to engage in other activities besides soccer.
7. Respect the coach's decisions and expertise; don't put your child in a position where they have to choose between you and the coach.
8. Promote fair and sportsmanlike play; let the referees determine fouls.
9. Emphasize the importance of practice over the excitement of matches in the long run.
10. Stress the value of teamwork.
11. Remember that you are a role model for your child and others.
12. Treat the opposing team with respect; they are opponents, not enemies.
13. Understand that mistakes are part of the learning process; offer positive reinforcement.
14. Take the time to learn the rules of the game and the policies of the club and league.
15. Appreciate that coaches and administrators are volunteers dedicating their time to the growth of your kids.

Barnstable Youth Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Verbal & Physical Abuse Policy

All parents, guardians, and spectators are expected to adhere to the Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy:

1. Any parent, guardian, or spectator who threatens, harrasses or attempts to cause physical harm to anyone associated with Barnstable Youth Soccer Association or its affiliated organizations (Towns/Clubs/Leagues) may face immediate suspension from play and/or other league activities for up to one year, at the discretion of the governing authority where the incident occurred.
2. A second instance of attempting to threaten or cause physical harm will result in a minimum one-year suspension for both the player(s) and the parent/guardian from any involvement.

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