



Heavens Eleven Football Club

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND CODE OF ETHICS

- I pledge to provide positive support and encouragement for all children participating in the Heavens Eleven Football Club.
- I will encourage good sportsmanship by supporting all players, coaches and officials at every game and practice.
- I will contribute to providing a safe, healthy environment ensuring all children have a positive and enjoyable experience.
- I will provide a sports environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for young people - not for adults.
- I will encourage my child, by example, to treat all players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

Bleacher Behaviors

- **Don't pay attention to yourself, either positively or negatively.** Most kids are mortified when their parents do anything to distinguish themselves from the crowd.
- **Stay out of it.** Your child is the one playing the game. Let him/her play.
- **Cheer for the whole team, not just the superstars.** Learning the names of everyone on the team helps bond the players, and kids love hearing their names when a goal is scored.
- **Be a good sport.** There is no need to insult anyone on or off the field, and that includes the referee.

Most parents are wonderful fans, & acting properly at a game comes naturally. However, the sportsmanship issue needs a little more elaboration because it really embodies the essence of sports in the first place. In fact, it is one of the most cited reasons for having a child play sport. Unfortunately, some parents forget to practice what they preach. We will all have a great season, if we simply remember to respect each other, and let the children play.

You Are Not the Coach

Our Club is built on Volunteers. All our House League Coaches are volunteers, doing their best for your child and everyone else on the team. The Club does its best to assist coaches wherever possible, and to hold development clinics for coaches throughout the summer and winter. Please be mindful of this, and if you wish to assist the coach, don't hesitate to step forward to offer your help.

That does not mean that you should never step in. If you feel your child is being mistreated in some way, then it's your duty to have a chat with the coach to see if you can work it out. The time to chat, however, is later, away from the game or practice. Call the coach on the phone or figure out a time when you can get together. What you do not want to do is create a scene in front of the other parents and players because this will only mortify your child and put the coach on the defensive.

Let the coach be the coach. After all, they volunteered when you did not. Respect the coach's position, much as you would expect them to respect yours. You would not want the coach criticizing your ability to raise your child in front of the entire town.

(Taken from D.W. Crisfield's book The Complete Idiot's Guide to Soccer)