



## CODE OF CONDUCT & ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

This policy has been written by O'Connor Knights Soccer Club to help maintain a healthy balance between fair play and safety. This policy is a club goal to establish a better relationship between coaches, players, parents, committee members and officials. It is the intent of O'Connor Knights Soccer Club to help players, coaches, and fans to be made aware of the true meaning of SPORTSMANSHIP.

**SPORTSMANSHIP** is defined as the practice of participating in sports with a conduct and attitude that is considered befitting of that participant, especially fair play and courtesy. It encompasses both ethical behaviour and acts of integrity.

**ETHICS** is defined as the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a group. It is a system of principles governing behaviour.

**INTEGRITY** is defined as a firm adherence to a code of values that incorporate principles of honesty.

### FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game. Know the rules. If you do not know the rules, refrain from expressing opinions on coaches or officials. The SPIRIT of good sportsmanship depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as the letter of the law
2. Exercise representative behaviour always. Your behaviour influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
3. Recognise and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team. Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
4. Exhibit respect for the official(s) Officials are impartial arbitrators. They have been trained in the laws of the game and are performing to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all participants are part of the game. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the official's decisions.
5. Openly display respect for your opponent. Opponents should be treated cordially and be accorded tolerance. Treat them as you want to be treated. Be a positive Representative for your club and team at all times
6. Display pride in your actions always. Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a club and team representative.

### SPORTSMANSHIP CODE GUIDELINES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

#### COACHES:

- Place the emotional and physical well-being of my players ahead of a personal desire to win
- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete, remembering the large range of emotions and physical development for the same age group.
- Exemplify the highest moral character, behaviour and leadership. Adhere to strong ethical and integrity standards
- Learn the rules of the game and teach them in letter and spirit
- Set a good example for players and spectators. Refrain from:
  - o Arguments in front of your team, parents and committee members

- o Gestures indicating an official or opposing coach does not know what they are doing or talking about
- o Throwing objects in disgust
- Shake hands with opposing coaches **and officials** before and after each match
- Respect the integrity of the official. By giving respect, you get respect.
- Do not use profanity or other objectionable language
- Be responsible for your players and parents on the sideline
- **Make sportsmanship your priority**

#### **PLAYERS:**

- Learn the rules of the game.
- **Treat teammates, coaches, committee members, referees, and others with RESPECT.**
- Come prepared physically and mentally to training sessions and matches.
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following victory or defeat
- Respect the judgment of the official(s), acknowledge them as sir/madam treating them with respect even if you disagree with their judgment will only make a positive impression of you and your team.
- Play for the **fun** of it.
- Control your temper. Not only against the opposing team and officials, but with yourself and your teammates.
- Do not use foul or inappropriate language at any time.
- Shake hands with the other team and **the official** after the game.

**PLEASE NOTE - ANY FINES FOR BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE WILL NOT BE PAID BY THE CLUB. IT WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE PLAYER, COACH, FANS, PARENTS, COMMITTEE MEMBER OR ANY OTHER PERSON WHO COMMITTED THE OFFENCE.**

#### **PARENTS AND SPECTATORS:**

- Always encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Applaud good plays by either team.
  - o Speak about the opposing players in the same manner you would want their parents speaking about your child
- Watch and enjoy the GAME! Let the players play, the coach's coach and the officials officiate.
- Thank your coaches – Win or lose!
  - o Remember ALL of our coaches are volunteers who are sacrificing their own time to coach your child.
- Never ridicule or shout at your child or others for making a mistake or losing the game.
- Refrain from questioning the official's judgment or honesty. Recognize they are symbols of fair play integrity and sportsmanship
- Use no foul or inappropriate language
- Abuse of volunteers whether verbal, in writing or in email will not be tolerated.
- DO NOT COACH YOUR CHILD! – encourage them!
  - o Don't try to "orchestrate" your child's entire playing time on the field with instructions. Your comments may contradict what their coaches have told them to do. Remember that you're not the coach. Words of encouragement should be the only things you're saying

#### **ZERO TOLERANCE / NO DISSENT & SPORTSMANSHIP RULE.**

O'Connor Knights Soccer Club by this document will be enforcing a "Zero Tolerance Policy". The following is intended to outline the penalties for failing to comply with the premise of this policy.

Any player, coach, parent, spectator or referee violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Committee of O'Connor Knights Soccer Club. Disciplinary action may include:

- Probation
- Suspension

- Permanent expulsion of an individual, team or club from the program.

Decisions of O'Connor Knights Soccer Club are final and no protests will be entertained. **If a coach or parent refuses to comply with the penalty, the player will serve the penalty and may suffer expulsion from the club.**

**"Dissent"** includes, but is not limited to:

- Questioning an official's call.
- Voicing displeasure with a call in a manner that can be heard by the official, players and fans.

**"Sportsmanship"** includes:

- Any and all actions, behaviour and language deemed to be appropriate by and in accordance with the Rules of Fair Play and the Spirit of the Game.

The coach and committee of each team is responsible for his players and parents / fans behaviour on his / her respective sideline.

- Therefore, any card given to a parent / fan will also be directed at the coach.
- A red card does not have to be issued for O'Connor Knights Soccer Club to enact penalties against a coach, players or parent / fan if the official deems a report necessary.