



Cheltenham Sports

Building community pride... one child at a time

CHELTHENHAM TRAVEL SOCCER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Cheltenham Sports Travel Soccer Program (“CSTSP”) exists for the express purpose of providing an opportunity for the youth of Cheltenham Township and neighboring communities to experience a high quality program of competitive soccer. Soccer, and all other sports in which children become involved, enable our youth to experience many important lessons, which will help form their character as they grow to adulthood. The adults involved, whether as spectators or coaches, have a critical role in assuring that these experiences for our youth are positive and appropriate.

To this end, the CSTSP believes that the following standards of behavior for players, parents, and coaches are essential to our goals.

Players: CSTSP will not tolerate behavior that brings the Program, team or game into disrepute. To this end, players must abide by the following minimum standards at all times:

- Participation in travel soccer involves a commitment to both team and self. When a player is selected for a travel team, the spot taken is a limited one that is now unavailable to another player. A travel roster spot should not be accepted unless the player is able to fulfill the commitment being made for the entire season. Travel uniforms are the property of the club and, at the request of the coach, must be returned at the conclusion of a player’s participation.
- Travel teams typically conduct “training camp” in late August, practice 2 nights a week during the fall season, play 1 or 2 matches on most weekends and participate in 1 or more tournaments over the course of the season. In addition, many travel teams play in the winter and spring, as well, when there is sufficient interest and participation from the players. Regular attendance at practice and at matches is critical to both individual and team growth and by accepting a position on a travel team, the player promises to participate fully in all team activities.
- The player is respectful towards teammates, opponents, coaches and referees and will conduct himself or herself with honor, dignity and self-control.
- Players participate for the fun of the game, the challenge, and the chance to show your best. Be gracious when you lose and generous when you win.
- Accept decisions of coaches and referees with class and dignity. Believe in their judgment and honesty. Although every player should play in every match, playing time is earned and not necessarily allocated equally among all teammates.

Parents: CSTSP believes that the attitude shown by parents toward the coach, the referees, the opposing players and the importance of winning vs. losing are of paramount importance. Inappropriate comments or actions by adults bent on short-term success rather than the long range benefits undermines the essence of competition and introduces stresses which are inappropriate for children:

- Help your player to be at matches and practice on time, properly dressed and ready to play. In large measure, your player’s ability to meet his or her commitment to self and team depends on you, and is your commitment, as well.
- Encourage your player by word and example. The player is counting on you as his primary teacher – in soccer and in life!

- Accept the decisions of referees and coaches with style and dignity. Never criticize a referee's integrity, honesty or judgment. They are there to do an honest job, which few others are willing to undertake.
- Applaud good play by all players. Opponents are friends, for without them, your child could not play.
- During the match, leave the coaching to the coach. Do not shout instructions to your player.

Coaches: CSTSP has high standards for the conduct of its coaches. They must be the standard bearers of good sportsmanship, conduct and ethical behavior at all times. The Program believes that the coach must set and maintain an example for all players and spectators to follow:

- The spirit of the game and its laws are non-negotiable. Coaches need to work hard to create success for the development of players and the team by following the rules and their intent.
- Respect towards officials, opponents and players is absolutely required. Coaches must expect to be treated with respect, honor and dignity and must demonstrate the same at all times.
- The conduct of the players is a reflection of the coach. The coach is expected to uphold high standards of sportsmanship for all players at all times and remember that the reputation of the organization is formed by the behavior of all of its representatives.
- No coach will use profanity in interactions with a player, referee or other person, or strike, push or have other similar contact with any player, coach, official or spectator.

Coaches who fail to abide by these expectations will face disciplinary action by game officials and the Board of Directors.

Procedure to Address Complaints:

The CSTSP has a standing committee to address violations of our Code of Conduct. The link between parent and the committee is the Vice President of Administration, Ed Klaus. In the event an issue arises, the following procedure should apply:

- Address the issue with the person directly, either verbally or in writing, within one week of the incident or issue at hand.
- If there is no satisfactory resolution, then the complainant must, within one week and in written form, notify the Committee.
- All matters that are directed to the Committee will be responded to within one week of the receipt of the complaint.
- Decisions and actions by the Committee to address the complaint are final.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ THE CSTSP CODE OF CONDUCT AND I AGREE TO CONDUCT MYSELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Player Print Name: _____

Player Signature: _____

Parent Print Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Print Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____