



PARENT and SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

POLICY STATEMENT

Inter Halifax Soccer Club (IHSC) believes that everyone is entitled to an enjoyable soccer experience. To ensure the proper operation of IHSC soccer programs and in order to maximize IHSC's member's enjoyment of the game, this *Code of Conduct* is applicable to all parents and guardians of players, participating at any level in the IHSC soccer Programs, including spectators.

PURPOSE

This *Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct* policy provides the guidelines for the IHSC's expectations for its Parent's or Guardian's actions when watching or interacting with IHSC. These guidelines embrace the *Canada Soccer Associations Code of Conduct and Ethics*. The expectation and attitudes of parents, guardians and spectators have a significant bearing on a player's attitude towards other players, referees, coaches and managers, and their long-term enjoyment of the game of soccer.

WHY IS THIS POLICY IMPORTANT?

IHSC takes this *Code of Conduct* issue very seriously and as a result we will ensure that an appropriate action is taken to protect our IHSC's excellent reputation built up over so many years by hundreds of players and officials. Parents or spectators failing to follow the *Code of Conduct* may face discipline at the team and/or club level depending on the severity of the incident. Discipline may also extend to the player should the incident warrant such action.

PROCEDURE

Obligations toward the Game

Every IHSC Parent, Guardian or Spectator should:

- Set a positive example for others, particularly younger players and supporters
- Always have regard to the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game
- Never engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, parent or player, such as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures
- Make every effort to understand FIFA Laws of the game
- Cheer, support and encourage all players
- Avoid any sideline coaching or instruction of any players
- Parents and Guardians should consider completing "*Respect in the Sport Parent Program*" online training course.



Obligations toward the Player

Every IHSC Parent, Guardian or Spectator should:

- Remember that youth soccer programs are for the players, not for parents and other adults
- Teach the player to play by the rules, and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility
- Demonstrate and encourage good sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by expressing positive support for all players, coaches and Officials
- Ensure players have and wear appropriate training and game attire (e.g. footwear, shin pads, socks, etc.)
- Ensure players are on time for training, games and team related activities.

Respect toward the Opponent

Every IHSC Parent, Guardian or Spectator should:

- Treat opponents and other spectators with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.

Respect toward the Referee

Every IHSC Parent, Guardian or Spectator should:

- Accept the decision of the Referee without protest
- Avoid words or actions that may mislead the Referee
- Show due respect towards the Referee.

Respect toward the Coaches & Team Officials

Every IHSC Parent, Guardian or Spectator should:

- Abide by the instructions of their Coach and Team Officials, provided they do not contradict the spirit of this Code
- Notify the Coach and/or Team Officials in advance if a player is unable to attend a training session or game
- Show due respect towards the Coach and Team Officials of both their own team and opposing teams
- Respect the authority of coaches at all times; never criticize, contradict, or interfere with coaches during training sessions or games
- Refrain from coaching or instructing players from the sidelines; allow coaches to provide all technical and tactical direction
- Address any concerns or feedback in a respectful and constructive manner, and never in the presence of players or other spectators



Communication Expectations:

- Follow the 24-hour rule: allow a minimum of 24 hours after a game or training session before raising any concerns or complaints
- All formal concerns or complaints must be directed appropriately and respectfully, with communication cc'd to Erin McLeod (td-IHSC@interhalifaxsc.ca)
- Use the club's official communication platform (Spond app) for all communication with coaches and team officials unless otherwise directed
- Do not call or text coaches on their personal phones unless explicitly invited to do so by the coach

Conflict Resolution:

- If an issue arises, follow the IHSC Conflict Resolution Policy through to completion
- Approach all discussions with the goal of positive resolution and in the best interest of the players and the club
- Acknowledge that, in youth leagues, team coaches, managers, and club officials are not responsible for the supervision of any child; any child requiring supervision must be supervised by a parent or guardian

Respect of Facilities

Every IHSC Parent, Guardian or Spectator should:

- Adhere to the policies of all facilities including: water only (no other beverage or food) on artificial turf; no pets anywhere at schools or other fields that do not allow them; no wet shoes in gyms; no parking in prohibited areas
- Place disposable packaging and other garbage or recycling in containers provided, or if none are available, take them for disposal at home