



BMYSL CODE OF CONDUCT

Blue Mountain Youth Soccer League (BMYSL) expects and requires all member clubs, club officials, players, referees, spectators, and others participating in BMYSL activities to behave responsibly, courteously, and respectfully at all times. BMYSL is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to providing the Lehigh Valley community with a safe and supportive environment to play recreational-level soccer, while also learning and exhibiting good sportsmanship and teamwork. These objectives cannot be met unless all of those involved adhere to the highest level of conduct. Poor sportsmanship and disrespectful or irresponsible behavior will not be tolerated at any time.

The following guidelines are intended to help member clubs and their participants to be aware of the types of behavior that are expected of them. These guidelines are not substitutes for clear thinking, and do not necessarily address all situations. Everyone must exercise sound judgment in deciding how to handle different situations.

Violations of the BMYSL Code of Conduct may be subject to punishment in the form of fines and/or suspensions, as decided upon by the BMYSL Executive Committee and in accordance with the BMYSL By-Laws.

CLUBS

Member clubs and their representatives are expected to:

- 1) Be aware of the BMYSL By-Laws and follow them accordingly when dealing with club matters that require league action and/or approval.
- 2) Act respectfully when dealing with other clubs, their representatives, and/or the BMYSL Executive Board.
- 3) Impress upon their coaches and players to treat all facilities, fields, etc. throughout the BMYSL with respect, as if they were playing at their own fields or facilities.
- 4) Place the emotional & physical well-being of your club's players ahead of a desire to win at any cost. Recognize that children participate in soccer to have fun, and that the game is for the players. Recognize that the benefits of development, teamwork and fun far outweigh the benefits of winning at any cost.

COACHES

- 1) Become familiar with all and follow all BMYSL rules, policies, and By-Laws. If you do not understand them, contact a representative of your club to try to get a clearer understanding of them.
- 2) Lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players and teams.
- 3) Take appropriate steps to control scoring in runaway games.
- 4) Be knowledgeable of the Laws of the Game, and teach them to your players at a level that they will understand.
- 5) Treat other coaches, players, officials, and fans with respect.
- 6) Ensure that your team and spectators treat the opposing team and referees with respect, and assist the game officials in maintaining control before, during, and after game play.



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7) Place the emotional & physical well-being of your players ahead of a personal desire to win at any cost. Recognize that children participate in soccer to have fun, and that the game is for the players. Recognize that the benefits of development, teamwork and fun far outweigh the benefits of winning at any cost.

8) Recognize that refereeing is a difficult job, and that by the Laws of the game, the referee is given the full and sole authority to judge the match. Do not argue or make any negative comments to the referees before, during, or after the match. Show respect and support for the referees, and accept their judgments.

REFEREES

Every referee is expected to:

- 1) Treat all game participants with respect
- 2) Apply the rules fairly to both teams.
- 3) Avoid the appearance of favoritism.
- 4) Be dressed in proper uniform, with jersey tucked in and an overall presentable appearance.

The players, coaches and spectators do not expect perfection, but they want a game that is called fairly and evenly.

PLAYERS

- 1) Demonstrate good sportsmanship by example and encourage it from fellow players.
- 2) Play by the rules of the game.
- 3) Remain respectful towards other players, coaches, referees, and spectators.
- 4) Never argue or complain about referees' calls or decisions.
- 5) Recognize that refereeing is a difficult job, and that by the Laws of the game, the referee is given the full and sole authority to judge the match. Do not argue or make any negative comments to the referees before, during, or after the match. Show respect and support for the referees, and accept their judgments.

SPECTATORS/ PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

The role of parents/guardians and spectators is one of support to the players, coaches and referees. Parents should not engage in "coaching" from the sidelines, or criticizing players, coaches or game officials. Every parent and spectator is expected to:

- 1) Be supportive to the coaches and players.



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- 2) Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning or criticizing their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
- 3) Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team. Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile.
- 4) Never approach a game official before, during or after a game. Complaints should follow the chain of command through your team's coach, or your club representative.
- 5) Teach and practice good sportsmanship by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues at all times.
- 6) Acknowledge outstanding play by your opponents.
- 7) Recognize that refereeing is a difficult job, and that by the Laws of the game, the referee is given the full and sole authority to judge the match. Do not argue or make any negative comments to the referees before, during, or after the match. Show respect and support for the referees, and accept their judgments.

BY BEING A MEMBER CLUB OF THE BMYSL, AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE AS OUTLINED IN THE BMYSL BY-LAWS, ACTING AS A HEAD OR ASSISTANT COACH OF A PARTICIPATING TEAM, OR HAVING A CHILD PARTICIPATE IN ANY/ ALL BMYSL ACTIVITIES, you acknowledge and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. If you fail to abide by any of the league rules, procedures and guidelines, you will be subject to disciplinary actions that include, but are not limited to: (a) warning; (b) probation; (c) suspension; or (d) banishment from any and all BMYSL-related activities.

You also understand that the BMYSL Code of Conduct acts as its own document, and exists in conjunction with any Codes of Conduct of member clubs. Disciplinary actions for violation of the BMYSL Code of Conduct are enforced by member clubs, ***in addition to*** any violations of the Codes of Conduct of said clubs.



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The Blue Mountain Youth Soccer League's intention is to have a violence and obscenity-free atmosphere that can be enjoyed by parents, coaches, referees, and children alike. To that end, please be aware of the following.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

- Obscene or abusive language spoken loud enough for others to hear, whether or not directed at game officials, coaches, players or spectators.
- Abusive actions or language directed at referees.
- Fighting or threats of violence toward anyone.
- Unwillingness to abide by league policies and rules.

Consequences of exhibiting above conduct

Questionable conduct may be reported by anyone to a coach, referee, club official or league official. Repeat offenders may be denied access to future BMYSL activities.

Authority for removal from the fields will be a decision of the game official with the help of the coaches.

BMYSL attempts to foster good sportsmanship and provide an atmosphere conducive to learning and enjoying the sport of soccer for our BMYSL Youth.

The above policy is an attempt to enforce that atmosphere.

This policy is enforceable at any facility where a BMYSL club member team is participating.

As the parent or guardian of a BMYSL soccer player, I pledge to adhere to the following:

1. I will set a good example for the players. I realize that verbal abuse of any coaches, players, referees, or club/league officials will not be tolerated. My job at the games is to cheer, support the team, and display good sportsmanship. I understand that if I do not display proper behavior at games, the referee or any league official has the right to ask me to leave the field before play is continued.
2. I will place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of my personal desire to win. Although we always strive to win, winning is not the most important thing.
3. I will remember that the game is for the players, not the adults.
4. I will remember that the coach is the coach, and playing time for my child is at the coach's discretion (within the rules defined by the League). If I am not the coach, I will not coach from the sidelines. Too many coaches will confuse players.
5. If I have a complaint, I will try to resolve it with my team's coach. This will not be done at a game, while other people are in the area.
6. If I am not satisfied with the results of my discussion with the coach, I will contact my club's soccer commissioner.
7. I will support my team and others, regardless of their performance. I will encourage players to always do their best and to display good sportsmanship.

Parent Acknowledgment

By consenting that your child(ren) play soccer in the BMYSL, you are agreeing to comply with the rules, policies and regulations of the BMYSL organization and understand that failure to do so could result in the loss of privileges of participating in the BMYSL.