

Civitan Soccer Club Code of Conduct

Guidelines for Players, Parents, & Coaches

The Arlington Soccer Association sponsors youth soccer activity with the goal of providing our children an opportunity to develop superior life skills through team play, sportsmanship, competition, and hard work. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club's mission. It is the goal of **Civitans Soccer Club** to display the highest level of sportsmanship and team conduct among all ASA clubs. In short, we will lead by example. See guidelines set forth below, and the parents code on the page that follows.

Demonstrate a Positive Attitude

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches, or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and mission of Civitans Soccer Club.

Set a Good Example

Each person associated with Civitan Soccer Club is accountable for his/her behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and others should remember that children learn by example – it is up to the adults at Civitan Soccer Club to set good examples.

Civitan Soccer Club will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport. Such negative conduct includes: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and taunting of opposing players, coaches, and parents.

*We require thorough self-restraint by all participants- both players and adults.
Coaches & Managers must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.*

Maintaining Good Relationships

Officials The referee's job is difficult. Referees do their best, are human, and can make mistakes. Many calls are judgmental in nature. Allow the referee to oversee games without interference or intimidation. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly may discuss the subject with the coach following the game. The Civitan Club manager will review such incidents and notify ASA if deemed appropriate.

In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a **red card ejection for a player, coach, or parent**. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents.

All Civitan teams are expected to exchange a handshake with the Referee following games.

Opponents- Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share the same values. It is our responsibility to rise above any objectionable behavior from our opponents, and set the best example of good sportsmanship possible.

All Civitan teams are required to exchange handshakes with our opponents following games.

Teammates and Coaches – A successful team cares for each other much like a family. Competition & Jealousy among players can be difficult control. However, at all times, the good of the team must come first. This especially includes respecting the coaches authority over training sessions, field player positions, and game situations. Coaches will do their best to help develop all players, give fair playing time, and fulfill request for field playing positions. If persistent problems occur, the Civitans Club Manager may intercede on behalf of the coach or player.

Parent's Code of Conduct

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence.

Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game & practice. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory – your child will be a winner whatever the outcome of the game!

Always be positive

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Provide vocal positive and general comments during the game. "Go Orange", "Great Play", "Lets Go Civitans", "Nice idea", "and Great try". **Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines.** Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and defeat.

Don't be a Sideline Coach or Referee

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout from the sidelines often confuse the players or give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the team sideline, and gather with team parents in a suitable spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some distance between yourself and the field of play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship – **Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.** Comments such as: "He/She is (tripping, pushing, hitting, etc) our player", "Hey that's offside", "Pass the ball to ____", "Hey Ref that's a (foul, handball, penalty kick etc)" are all inappropriate. **Similar comments should not be directed to your coach.** Allow the coach to run the game. If you have issues with playing time or substitutions, approach the coach after the game to get clarification or to provide constructive commentary.

Demonstrate a Positive Attitude toward Opponents and their Families

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good sportsmanship and represent Civitan Soccer Club in a positive way during games. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. At all times encourage positive support to each team. The referee and opposing coach is responsible for controlling rude or obnoxious behavior. Let them handle the situation. Always let "cooler heads prevail".

Remember that your child wants to have fun

Your child is the one playing the game, not you! Children must establish their own goals- to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.