



## CODE OF CONDUCT

At Lake Wales Soccer Club parents are expected to support the players, coaches, and officials. All parents and spectators must:

- **Support all of the players in a positive manner.** Spectators should refrain from making negative remarks about or to the opposing team, its parents, or its players. They should maintain control of their emotions and avoid actions, language, or gestures which may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating, including and especially obscene language or gestures;
- **Refrain from complaining, making derogatory remarks, or trying to influence the referees.** These behaviors not only diminish the quality of the contest, but also demonstrate to young players that it is acceptable to lose control of one's emotions and to ignore the authority of the officials. All parents and spectators must demonstrate respect to all referees at all times and they must cooperate immediately with any referee request;
- **Refrain from coaching from the sidelines.** This serves only to distract the players from what their actual coaches have instructed them to do. Parents should not criticize players, coaches, or game officials and they should not in any way try to influence the makeup of the team at any time;
- **Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship** at the conclusion of a game, regardless of the outcome. Parents must enforce the expectation that each player practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating a commitment to these values;
- **Develop a positive perspective on winning and losing** and promote the concept that soccer is a game to be enjoyed by all who participate. Players and coaches of other teams are not the enemy; they are fellow participants who make the sport possible. Without them, there would be no contest.

Parents must demonstrate by example how to be not only humble and gracious in victory, but also proud and courteous in defeat;

- **Situate themselves on the opposite side of the playing field** from the teams and coaches and remain at all times a minimum of 2 yards from the playing field; and
- **Be ambassadors for our city and Lake Wales Soccer Club**, both at our fields and throughout the state. As a host for visiting teams, parents and spectators must welcome opponents to our fields and make sure that visitors leave with respect for our dignity, sportsmanship, and overall behavior during the contest ... no matter the result. As guests, parents and spectators must represent all of the ideals set forth above.

**Failure to comply with this code of conduct will result in the expulsion of the offending spectator(s) -- play will be suspended until the spectator leaves the area.**

**Failure to respond to an official's request to leave within two minutes will result in forfeiture against the offending spectator's side. All expulsions will be reviewed by the**

**Disciplinary Committee of the LWSC Board of Directors and may result in a season-long ban on attending any LWSC match, home or away.**