

Vineland Soccer Association Code of Conduct For Coaches, Players, Parents and Spectators.

Children's sports are supposed to be fun and enjoyable. Unfortunately, many parents, fans, coaches and even players don't realize that their actions, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because the fun of the sport is unfairly taken away by behavior in the sporting environment.

That is why the *Vineland Soccer Association*, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the healthy development of youth soccer, created the following *Code of Conduct* for Coaches, Players, Parents and Spectators to abide by at every game, practice, or team function.

Parents, Players, Coaches and Spectators following this simple code can help reinforce what sports are all about.

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship*. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

1. I will not force a child to participate in any sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the games is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the leagues and clubs.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for the children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or other team event/function.

6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gesture during any practice, game or VSA event.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach the children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that the children treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
10. I will teach the children that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that a child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise the children for competing fairly and trying hard, and make the child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at children or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit the children over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of a personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials(referees)and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for the children that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
18. I will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct towards VSA and its players, coaches, and staff through posting on Social Media Platforms.
19. I will not bully or harass other teammates or players, on or off the field or in the Social Media environment.

20. I acknowledge and accept that I may be subject to removal or suspension from attending any VSA game or event for engaging in any physical threat, taunting, or unsportsmanlike conduct towards any player, official, coach, spectators during any League sponsored game or VSA sponsored game. I also acknowledge that I may face penalties or costs associated with any damage I am found responsible for at any facility hosting or under use by VSA.

By registering my child to participate in Vineland Soccer, I agree to abide by the rules of conduct set forth by Vineland Soccer and understand that in case of violation of said conduct I am subject to suspension and if necessary, prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. I understand that as a parent, guardian, spectator, or fan of a registered VSA player participating in any VSA sponsored event, while in attendance I must still honor and abide by the Vineland Soccer Code of Conduct.

*MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS FOR
COACHES, PLAYERS, PARENTS, RELATIVE &
SPECTATOR OFFENSES*

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| 1. Use of foul or abusive language. | 2 Games |
| 2. Screaming at, threatening, or otherwise intimidating players of a team. | 2 Games |
| 3. Screaming at, threatening, or otherwise intimidating referee, official, linesman, coaches, or spectators. | 3 games |
| 4. Encouraging or instructing players in any way to deliberately trip or otherwise foul players of opposing team. | 1 Game |
| 5. Striking a player, coach, referee, or spectator. | Life |
| 6. Threatening or threatening to strike or touch, whether by language or bodily movement, a player, coach, referee, or spectator. | 1 Year |
| 7. Bribing (or attempting to) a referee or other official. | Life |
| 8. Deliberate and serious misrepresentations of facts to referee league official or Vineland Soccer Board for the purpose of gaining an advantage. | 1 Year |
| 9. Deliberate and intentional limitation of playing time for a player to less than two quarters or equivalent of an intramural game. (except for disciplinary reasons) | 2 Games |
| 10. Participation while suspended or knowingly allowing participation of a suspended player or coach. | 1 Season |
| 11. Allowing an un-rostered player or a player from another team to play. | 3 Games |
| 12. Stealing Team Referee funds or refusal to pay for registered league events. Full review and investigation by VSA Board may result in suspension of coaching for Life or Length determined by Board vote. This also may result in full reimbursement of said funds. | |
| 13. Any sanctions for offenses not listed above shall be at the sole discretion of the Vineland Soccer Association Board of Directors. | |