

CODE OF CONDUCT PLEDGE

As a participant in AYSO, I agree to abide by the standards that promote player development over winning, fair play, and enjoyment of the game by pledging to:

- Place the needs of players first;
- Prioritize the physical and emotional safety of every participant by adhering to all AYSO Safe Haven protocols; (AYSO Safe Haven details can be found at <https://ayso.io/safehaven-policies>;
- Ensure proper supervision and report any unsafe conditions or inappropriate behaviors to local AYSO leadership;
- Be a positive role model of sportsmanship, integrity and respect in all interactions with participants;
- Support the program by volunteering when possible and creating a culture that is helpful and participatory;
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, supporting an inclusive environment free from discrimination, bullying or harassment;
- Refrain from criticizing, yelling, using foul language, or engaging in negative or abusive behavior;
- Respect the policies, rules, regulations and the decisions of AYSO volunteers, and their role in the game or program;
- Promote a team environment that encourages participation, effort and development over winning by encouraging, recognizing and cheering positively for ALL players and youth volunteers in our programs;
- Communicate respectfully with others, addressing concerns and conflicts constructively. This communication includes social media; <https://ayso.io/safehaven-socialmedia>
- Fulfill my responsibilities as a volunteer/parent/player to the best of my ability, completing all required training and keeping informed about AYSO policies, procedures and updates;
- Understand that failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which may include removal from participation in AYSO and US Soccer activities in keeping with U.S. Soccer's Referee Abuse Prevention Policy 531-9 and AYSO's guidelines.

Thank you for agreeing to be a part of a safe, fun, fair, family environment that enriches children's lives.

REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

This document outlines the expected standards of behavior towards referees in accordance with the U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention policy, as adopted by AYSO. Referees are essential to the game and deserve to be treated with respect. We are all responsible for helping kids have fun playing soccer, and taking anger out on referees negatively impacts everyone and the future of soccer.

Key Principles:

- **Respect the Call:** The call on the field stands.
- **Protecting Our Referees:** We are committed to ensuring the emotional and physical well-being of our referees.
- **No Physical Abuse:** There is never a reason to touch a referee outside of friendly handshakes.

Levels of Unacceptable Behavior:

The following outlines different levels of offenses against referees, as described in the sources:

- **LEVEL 1: VERBAL TAUNTING:** This includes insulting, belittling, insinuating, or taunting behavior that undermines referee authority.
- **LEVEL 2: HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION:** This includes harassment, intimidation, retaliation, abusive or threatening language.
- **LEVEL 3: THREATS/DEROGATORY LANGUAGE:** This involves aggression, attacking, derogatory, cyberbullying, doxing, or threatening (physical/violence) language.
- **LEVEL 4: OFFENSIVE OR DISCRIMINATORY ACT:** This includes discriminatory or derogatory words or actions based on race, skin color, ethnicity, nationality, social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, or religion.

PHYSICAL ABUSE: There is **never** a reason to touch a referee outside of friendly handshakes.

Consequences:

The **Penalties Matrix** defines consequences for physical and non-physical offenses against Referees. For more information, please visit WWW.USSOCCER.COM/RAP and review the complete Policy 531-9.

KID ZONE PLEDGE

Parents agree to abide by the following code of conduct as a condition to their child's participation in AYSO activities:

1. I pledge to be on time or early when bringing my child to his/her practices and games. I understand that it may be uncomfortable for my child to be late to a game or practice and that he/she may be subject to physical risk if not provided with adequate time to warm up. I understand that I am encouraged to stay during practices and games, but if I do not, I will be there when he/she is finished. Being punctual shows respect for the coach, who has other time commitments, and it tells my child that he/she is my top priority.

2. I understand that the top three reasons kids play sports are to have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the kids, and I will encourage my child to have fun and keep sport in its proper perspective. I understand that athletes do their best when they are emotionally healthy, so I will be positive and supportive.

3. I will redefine what it is to be a "Winner" in my conversations with my child. Winners are people who make the maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes, discourage them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from their mistakes. I understand that all children are born with different abilities and that the true measure of success is not how my child compares to others, but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self.

4. I will "Honor the Game." I understand the importance of setting a good example of sportsmanship for my child. I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans, and referees. I understand that officials, coaches, and players make mistakes. If the referee makes a call I do not agree with, I will refrain from questioning, insulting or making personal attacks against him or her.

5. I understand that games can be exciting for my child as he/she deals with the fast-paced action of the game, responds to opponents, referees, teammates, and listens to coaches. I will not yell out instructions. During the game, I will make only sportsmanlike comments that encourage my child and other players on both teams.

6. I will not make negative comments about the game, coaches, referees or teammates in my child's presence. I understand this sets a bad example, which can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience. I agree to act in a sportsmanlike manner and make every effort to foster a friendly and nonviolent atmosphere. I agree to honor the AYSO Parent Pledge in my words and actions.

7. I will not use alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes or other vaping products, or controlled substances at any practices or games. I will not bring any weapons to any practices or games.

Acknowledgement: I understand that I am responsible for making my child, my spouse, other family members, and any persons I invite to an AYSO activity aware of this code of conduct and requesting that they agree to abide by this code of conduct as a condition to their participation in any AYSO activity.

By signing I agree to abide by this code of conduct.

Acknowledgment:

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the information presented in this document regarding the prevention of referee abuse. I agree to conduct myself in a respectful manner towards all referees at all times.

Acknowledgement:

By signing, I agree to honor and abide by this code of conduct.

I understand and accept responsibility for ensuring that my child, myself, and any guests I invite to AYSO activities are aware of and agree to abide by the **Parent Code of Conduct**, **Referee Abuse Prevention Program**, and **Kid Zone Pledge** as a condition of participation in any AYSO activity.