



Dear Area 11-L Coaches, Parents and Players:

As we enter the Spring 2009 season, it is important to reiterate the standards of expectations for conduct on part of all associated with participation in and attendance at games.

“Safe, fair, and fun” play is not a by product of fighting, abusive language, rude gestures or intentional fouling. Poor sportsmanship and violent behavior are unacceptable and the increasingly ugly incidents leading to red and yellow card violations have become a serious safety issue. The administrators of the Area Spring program are committed to do our part to deliver a quality program with high standards of conduct, but this goal can only be achieved if the coaches, players and their parents understand and support the conduct standards and consequences for ignoring them.

Therefore, this season, the following code of conduct will be enforced:

**Players:**

1. *No fighting.* This is a true ZERO TOLERANCE issue which will carry sanctions in, to include termination of the individual's season..
2. *Respect the calls made by the officials.* No form of abuse is permitted. Player/coach conduct will be monitored to ensure compliance. Physical abuse will be treated as per “fighting” – above.
3. *Respect your opponent.* Over the course of the season, if a player receives three (3) yellow cards for abusing either his opponents or officials, a disciplinary hearing will be held to determine if his/her playing season (and perhaps his/her future involvement in AYSO) will be terminated. That player will be ineligible for play until the results of the hearing have been determined.

**Parents / Spectators:**

1. *Support, or at a minimum be silent regarding the calls of the referee.* Parents can “fuel the fires” from the sidelines and spectator behavior encouraging poor sportsmanship will result in removal of the offending party from the field. Based on the match report, a decision will be made as to the possibility of additional sanctions against the offending spectator.
2. *Do not challenge any official, opposing team's coach, players, or parents.* If any parent or spectator does make such a “challenge” anytime or anywhere during the game or afterwards (example: in a parking lot), then they will not be allowed to attend future games. If they persist in being present, their team's match will be suspended until such time as they leave the field or their team may possibly be forced to forfeit the match.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure proper conduct on part of themselves, their players and spectators. If not, the coach(es) also may face disciplinary action.

These actions are for everyone's benefit. Soccer is a game and we should respect it and enjoy it. If anyone has questions regarding these “standards”, please feel free to contact me. Thank you in advance for your support and compliance to these matters.

*Jim Rosenberg*  
Area Director