



## PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

### THE GOALS OF OFA

- Help each individual player fully develop his/her skills, understanding, and passion for the game of soccer as well as learn life lessons along the way.
- Instill into each individual the highest standards of commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity, loyalty and passion for the game.
- Field competitive and developmental teams while having fun!

### SECTION I—COMMITMENT

- **Year-Round Program:** The OFA is a year-round soccer program. Players must be committed to their team. A player is expected to attend all practices, games, and other team events, unless there are conflicts with academics, family emergencies, other life events (see below), and/or an arrangement has been made with the team's head coach. Injured players are expected to attend and support their team at games.
- **Tournament Attendance:** Players are expected to attend tournaments, as they do league games. Tournaments are very important to promote OFA teams and players. Teams apply for tournaments months in advance through a rigorous, formal process; admission is not guaranteed and fees are paid in advance.
- **On Time and Ready to Play:** Parents are expected to make their best effort to get players to practices and games on time and properly equipped.
- **Reasonable Notification:** If a player cannot participate in a practice or game for any reason, his/her parent should notify a member of the coaching staff by email or phone at least 24 hours in advance.
- **Life Events:** Players may need to miss practices or games due to illness, death in the family, wedding, or other important life events beyond one's control. Birthday parties, vacations, weekend trips, etc., are not acceptable "life events" in this sense and should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with games and tournaments. Please notify the head coach as soon as possible if you cannot attend. If a player must reduce his/her long-term participation in the program due to family matters, illness, or academic non-performance, the parent should notify the head coach of this development as soon as possible.

## **SECTION II—SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT**

- **Sideline Behavior:** Parents are expected to be supportive of our OFA teams, players, and coaches. The most important way to show support is by positive example and encouragement. This is an integral part of teaching sportsmanship, therefore:
  - Only the coaching staff may communicate with game officials. During games or scrimmages, parents should not speak with or shout at game officials, or members of the opposing team, or interfere with the game in any way.
  - During practices, scrimmages, or games, parents must not coach or speak with any players, including their own child. Please do not pull your kid off to the sideline or approach them to talk to them. It is very distracting to that player or the other players on the field. Just remember to encourage and applaud them and cheer them on with positive words. **DO NOT COACH!**
  - No shoving, punching, insulting of an official, coach, parent, or player during a sporting event. This constitutes assault, and violators may be subject to arrest.
  - Parents will do their best to encourage other parents and sidelines guests to observe these rules and maintain a positive decorum. In line with Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), we encourage each team to have a “Culture Keeper” to help maintain a positive, controlled sideline.

## **SECTION III—POSITION ASSIGNMENTS AND PLAYING TIME POLICIES**

- Coaches are expected to provide positive and encouraging instruction in all areas of soccer, including skills, team play, strategy, conduct, and conditioning. Coaches make the final decision relating to a player’s position and playing time. Playing time will be based on a team’s age group, player’s ability, attendance and attitude at practices/games, the opposition and the time of year (e.g. State Cup).

## **SECTION IV—PARENT FEEDBACK/PRIVATE CONFERENCES**

- The coaches encourage one-on-one discussions with parents to delineate any feedback concerning a player on the team. Please arrange these meetings in advance so as not to interfere with the coach’s practice or game preparations. Please don’t approach the coaching staff after a game.

## **SECTION V—TEAM BUSINESS**

- **Representation:** Conducting team business is the sole responsibility of the OFA director and/or coaching staff. No parent or player should represent him/herself as an official of OFA to officials and/or other soccer organizations.
- **Parent Meetings:** Coaches will organize periodic meetings with parents to discuss team business (including scheduling). At a minimum, meetings will be held just after the team selection process and prior to the play season. All parents and coaches should be present at team meetings due to the fact that schedules and other team related issues would be reviewed and determined.
- **Grievance Procedure:** Allegations of non-performance or misconduct of a coach, assistant coach and/or manager should be pursued through the OFA Grievance Committee. This committee will include highly experienced coaches from both girls' and boys' teams. Contact the executive director to directly file a grievance.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE STATEMENT**

- Parents with actions that are deemed inappropriate and do not adhere to the Parent Code of Conduct will be dealt within the team setting first. If the problem persists and/or is of a serious nature, the OFA Board will review the situation and determine appropriate action. This could resort, but is not limited to a warning, suspension, and dismissal from OFA.

I have received, read, and I understand the Parent Code of Conduct/Contract.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_