



Palo Alto Soccer Club (PASC) Principles and Guidelines for Parent/Player Behavior September 2016

These guidelines are provided for the use of all Club members, Officers, and Contractors. Although the guidelines are not necessarily binding or applicable in all instances, nevertheless the Club expects a recognition and adherence to the principles set forth herein.

As a reminder, each family that filled out the Team Acceptance Form, agreed to summary of the behavior principles and guidelines as noted here. Additional detail and guidelines referenced in the agreement are included afterwards.

Fall 2016 Acceptance Form Agreement:

The following is a summary of more detailed policies are found on the PASC or League websites.

1. Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours. Do not force an unwilling child to participate.
2. Teach your player that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory. Help your player work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship – even in defeat your child will be a winner.
3. Be a positive role model whenever you are around players. Set a good example – do not yell at, ridicule, or criticize your child or any other player. Instead applaud good plays by your team and by those of the opposing team.
4. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.
5. Show respect to all coaches, referees, and tournament officials. We will support a zero tolerance policy as to questioning and harassment of referees. Leave conflict resolution to the club referee coordinator, technical directors or tournament directors when appropriate.
6. Remain on the parent side of the field (not near the goals or player's side). Avoid coaching from the sidelines as it often can be in conflict with the coach's instructions.
7. Following this code of conduct is important to attracting high quality referees given the referee shortage in the Peninsula.

I understand parents or teams that consistently violate the code of conduct may be referred to Positive Coaching Alliance education for continued participation in the sidelines.

Parental Behavior Guidelines

All parents and authorized guardians of players within PASC are members of the Club. As such, they are expected to behave in accordance with the Club's philosophy of Positive Coaching: Respect, Good Behavior and Honor for the Game. Poor parent behavior is detrimental to the ability for youth players to play soccer within the Club and to the reputation of the Club.

The success of players is our highest concern, and players will not be penalized by the Club for the actions of their parents or guardians except as a last resort. Nevertheless, the Club has a duty to protect its Officers, Contractors and Members, as well as its property, and will reserve the right to take such action under law as may be deemed necessary. In serious cases of parental misbehavior, and if there is no alternative recourse, then the Club reserves the right to prevent a player from registering with the Club after the end of the playing season. Players will not be 'dropped' from rosters in mid-season due to parental behavior.

To ensure that PASC remains an organization where children receive professional coaching to play competitive soccer in a positive and supportive environment all parents are asked to do the following:

Show respect to the team

- Have players dropped off and picked up on time for all club and team activities.
- Pay all dues and fees owed in a timely manner.
- If the player is going to be late to a team activity, notify the coach and manager.
- If there are unavoidable conflicts, notify your coach and manager as soon as possible.
- After games or practices, ask your child if he or she had fun; please don't dissect the game or critique. A good question might be, "what was the best part of the game for you?" or "did you have fun?"
- Parents (unless a carded Team Official) are not allowed on the player sideline or behind the goal during games or scrimmages (this is a league rule).
- Please respect every player on the team; do not make critical remarks to others about specific players on your team. Negative comments overheard by the players or their parents are hurtful and foster an unhealthy team environment.
- Please do not criticize or express disappointment (groan) when players make mistakes. The players are well aware of their mistakes, and we believe learning from mistakes is integral to improvement.

- Please be respectful and courteous to the opposing team's parents and players. You will have games against the same teams for years to come. Please model appropriate behavior.

Show respect to the coach

- Please respect your team coach and do not make negative remarks to others about coaching decisions. PASC coaches are professionals and should be treated as such.
- If there are coaching decisions or instructions that you do not understand or agree with, do not interrupt the coach during practices or games. If you need to discuss something with the coach, make an appointment. They are willing to get feedback, take suggestions, and hear issues that you may have, but do not distract them from their appointed tasks. It is neither appropriate nor respectful to interrupt your own or a following team's practice.
- Parents, as always, feel free to communicate any questions or concerns with the coach; it helps if you ask your child first (even our youngest players will understand coaching decisions and can explain them to their parents) and encourage child – coach communication.
- There will be no coaching by parents on the parent sideline. "Go" or "Shoot" or "Send it" are interpreted as instructions and are not helpful to the team or the player. Your positive encouragement is welcome after good play by either team ("Go team").
- In order to learn effectively, players must not be distracted. For this reason, the Club requests that the coach, assistant coach and DOC be the only coaching "voices" during games and practices.
- Thank the coaches for their commitment and effort.
- Show respect to the officials
- Please respect the officials; they are an integral part of the game and at the younger ages, important teachers. Some of our referees are players in our club. The coach is the only person who should make any comment to the officials.
- Thank the officials for doing a difficult job.

Player Behavior Guidelines

The youth players of the PASC represent the sole purpose of the Club's existence. We expect players to respect and honor the game, coaches, parents, officials, teammates, and opponents. We ask you to advise your child of the league rules pertaining to player behavior and also adhere to the following when playing for the PASC team:

- Show respect for the team coach and listen during all team activities.
- No swearing or abusive language on the bench or on the field.
- No lashing out at any official no matter what the call. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating. Anyone being called on a penalty will not say anything to the official and walk away from the play unless requested to speak with the referee about

the play directly. If the referee requests a player to come forward, he or she will calmly approach the referee to hear what the referee has to say.

- Under no circumstances will bullying of another player be tolerated during any practice or game. No fighting of any kind will be tolerated. The player will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all facilities (practice, field, restaurants, hotels, tournaments, etc) during all team functions.
- When a player acts badly they can be penalized, warned, carded and/or ejected from games. More serious infractions may also include game suspensions from the league. The club also takes this seriously. If we hear of situations where a player is acting in contradiction to our stated goals and the guidelines set forth herein, we reserve the right to suspend them or expel them from the Club. This can be in addition to the penalties that are required by the league. We want everyone involved to be proper role models and a good reflection of PASC. We have a zero tolerance policy where violent or criminal behavior is concerned.

Guidelines for Conflict Resolution Any Club member or Official (e.g. Officers, coaches, referees) who has a concern or disagreement with the actions of any other Club member or Official is advised to wait for a period of 24 hours before raising their issues. If after the 'cooling off' period the issue is still worthy of comment please follow the guidelines pertaining to your situation in the "PASC Communication Plan for Issue Resolution" found in the Policy section of PASC Resources.