

## Longmont United Soccer Association Membership Application (Conduct)

### Colorado Youth Soccer Standards of Conduct for Spectators

The explosive increase in the popularity of soccer in the United States can be attributed to the sports free form of continuous play, which greatly increases spectator enjoyment. This is in marked contrast to other sports where play is stopped frequently, giving ample time and opportunity for abusive and destructive comments from spectators. Unfortunately, a limited amount of spectators exist who lack the required self-control and consequently derive personal satisfaction from these set of circumstances. Youth soccer in Colorado does not need this kind of spectator more commonly referred to in Europe as “hooligans.”

The following standards are set forth as your obligation as a spectator and as rules to govern your conduct before, during and after soccer matches.

- Please keep in mind that youth soccer is played for the benefit of the participant. Game day is an important step in the learning process. Let game day be a special day only about the participant. There are appropriate times and places to air complaints instead of becoming a disruption during game time. All comments about players shortcomings should be kept to yourself.
- DO NOT address remarks to referees, opposing players or opposing fans, no matter how harmless you perceive the remark to be. For example, screaming “Susie don’t let No. 10 push you around” may seem to be a benign remark to you, but is directly hurtful to No. 10, opens the door to aggressive play and is not your job. This does not apply where remarks convey genuine friendship and encouragement. A good rule of thumb to remember: if you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all.
- It must be understood that there will be an element of human error in refereeing. A referee’s responsibility is to not only control the players behavior during a game, but also the spectators behavior. A referee is responsible for the behavior of 30 – 80 people during any given game.
- Never use foul language or obscene gestures.
- Applaud superior play by both teams.
- Understand that the players on the field are not professionals, will exhibit many differing levels of skill and are participating to learn the game and have fun. Comments and looks of disapproval from the sidelines can damage the soul of any player. Be kind and courteous to all players, and exclude none.
- Give consistent support to coaches and managers whether winning or losing. Coaches, in addition to being employed, are giving hundreds of hours of their time to their players and are committed to their own continued improvement as a coach. In winning they deserve your congratulations, in losing, your encouragement.
- Always stay 2 yards or more from the playing field.
- Cooperate immediately with any referee request.
- Avoid comments and gestures, which express disagreement with referee calls. Prolonged remarks or abusive disagreement with referee’s calls may result in a cardable offense chargeable to your team’s coach or manager.
- LUSA also reminds you that spectators are there to enjoy the game and to cheer on the whole team. Please resist the urge to be helpful and leave the coaching to the coach.\*

Spectators who cannot conduct themselves in the above manner are not welcome at CYS soccer matches. Spectators who persist in violating these standards may be asked to leave the playing area and play may be suspended until they do so. Failure to respond to such a request within two minutes may result in forfeiture against the offending spectator’s side

\*Modified by Longmont United Soccer Association (10-16-2006)

Parent/Guardian Name (sign) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_