

## Parent Sideline Conduct Agreement

Parents play an important role in helping their own children and other players learn good sportsmanship and self discipline. The Pittsburgh Dynamo Youth Soccer Association's mission is to collaborate with families for a fun and child-centered soccer experience for youth in Pittsburgh's East End.

### 1. I understand the fun of soccer is playing, not winning.

Parents should encourage children in skill development, teamwork, self-esteem and good sportsmanship. Putting competitive pressure on children to score and win is not a part of the Dynamo culture and philosophy.

### 2. I will support the team, not just my own child.

Soccer is a player-dominated game, and children are learning how to make decisions on the field. You'll enjoy the game more by understanding soccer skills and tactics, the flow of play, and how the game is played. Show good sportsmanship by remaining positive. Applaud good play by either team. Give encouragement to the entire team.

### 3. I will let the players play.

Soccer is a players' game. Emphasize player development and having fun over winning. Also, please keep in mind that the Pittsburgh Dynamo recreation philosophy is not to keep score or maintain a win/loss record. General positive cheers like "Go Blue" should be the norm. NO coaching or calling out individual players' names by coaches or spectators is permitted. *Parents who have the urge to shout out instructions to players, coaches, or referees should control themselves or find another league.*

### 4. I will let the coaches coach.

Your coach provides guidance, skill instruction, and supervised fun for your children in soccer. Respect the coaches and their decisions. Their concern is the whole team, not just your player. They need your support. Don't undermine, second-guess, or criticize a coach in public. Most coaches will listen to parents in private.

### 5. I will let the referees judge the game.

Support the referees. They are learning a new skill also. They are responsible for controlling the game and enforcing fair play and sportsmanship. They are working with the coach to teach the rules and spirit of the game, improve soccer skills, and encourage teamwork.

### 6. I will be a supportive soccer parent.

**Be on time. Make sure your child has his/her equipment. Make sure the end-of-the-game rituals (like handshakes) reflect good sportsmanship. Make sure that you and your child attend as many practices and games as possible and notify your coach if you cannot attend.** Volunteer to help. Pittsburgh Dynamo is an all-volunteer league. Everybody helps. A listing of volunteer positions can be found on the Pittsburgh Dynamo website.

### 7. I understand that they are only kids and this is only a game.

Allow your child to be a child. Kids see soccer as fun, learning new skills, being on a team, gaining success by touching the ball, and just being involved. You'll see great progress if fun and skill development are your priorities.

### 8. I will remain by the field during practices and games.

To ensure the safety of your own child and to allow the coach to focus on coaching the whole team, please REMAIN AT YOUR TEAM'S FIELD SIDELINE as much as possible. If you do have to leave briefly, designate another parent to be responsible for your child. During games, Spectators are to remain on the field boundary that is opposite from the coaches and players.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

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

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to this Parent Sideline Conduct Agreement.