



## MEMORANDUM

September 16, 2019

**TO:** AAYSA Commissioners and Coaches  
**FROM:** AAYSA Board  
**RE:** Parent Conduct

As you all know, the start of the fall season is days away; players have been working hard at practice to prepare and coaches have been selflessly giving their time to get the players ready for the season. Before the games start, we wanted to remind everyone of the dos and don'ts regarding spectator behavior during games.

- Let the coaches coach. Parents coaching from the sidelines is counterproductive and can cause confusion and sometimes frustration for the players which can take away from their excitement for the game. Also remember the players are watching and listening and may think arguing with their coach is acceptable behavior because they see others do the same from the sidelines. We need to remember that the coaches are volunteers who devote a significant portion of their time to your children, and therefore deserve our respect.
- Parents are expected to respect the authority of the referee and his or her assistants. Parents should not harass, abuse, or berate the referee during or after the match. Parents should not disagree with, question or criticize the referee. This applies even if the referee makes a mistake. Be tolerant of the referee's calls, whether you agree with them or not.
- Under no circumstances is a parent permitted to walk on to the field unless requested to by a referee or coach.
- Parents and spectators may not criticize their own players, coaches and assistants nor the opposing players, coaches and parents. Only positive comments are permitted. Cheer in a way to reward the good play of both teams and promote fair play.

Remember that our organizations' success is only made possible by the coaches, assistant coaches, and other volunteers. They invest a lot of their own time in working with the players in teaching them not only the rules of the game, but more importantly respect for the game. This means respect for teammates, coaches, opposing players and referees.

At the end of the day, our focus should be on enjoying watching the games as much as players enjoy playing them. Make this about them and not take away from that by exhibiting negative behavior.