



EMDSL FAIR PLAY CODE

The EMDSL Fair Play Code for our league encapsulates all of the sporting, moral and ethical principles for all EMDSL members.

These rules not only serve as a credo for EMDSL but they also reinforce the sense of fraternity and cooperation among all members in our league.

1.

Play Fair:

- Winning is without value if victory has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly.
- Cheating is easy but brings no pleasure.
- Playing fair requires courage and character and is more satisfying.
- Fair play always has its rewards, even when the game is lost.
- Paying fair earns respect, while cheating will only bring shame.

Remember: It is only a game, and games are pointless if not played fair.

2.

Play to Win, but Accept Defeat with Dignity:

- Winning is the object of playing any game.
- Never set out to lose, because if you do not play to win, you're cheating your opponents, deceiving your audience and fooling yourself.
- Never give up against stronger opponents and respect the weaker ones.
- Play to win until the final whistle but do so remembering that nobody wins all the time.
- Learn to lose graciously, not seek out excuses for defeat. Genuine reasons will always be self-evident.
- Congratulate the winners and do not waste time blaming the referees or anyone else.
- Be determined to do better next time.

Remember: Good losers earn more respect than bad winners.

3.

Observe the Laws of the Game:

All games need rules to guide them. Without them there would be chaos. The rules of soccer are simple and easy to learn. Make sure you learn them; it will help you better understand the game, which will make you a better player and/or coach. It is equally important to understand the spirit of the rules. They are designed to make the game fun to play and watch. Sticking to them will ensure the game is fair and more enjoyable.

Respect Opponents, Team-Mates, Referees, Officials and Spectators:

- Fair play means respect, and respect is part of the game.
- Without opponents there could be no game. Everyone has the same rights including the right to be respected.
- Team-Mates are colleagues.
- Form a team in which all members are equal.
- Respect the referee and their decisions without arguing and help them enable all participants to have an enjoyable time. They are there to maintain discipline and fair play.
- Officials are also a part of the game and must be respected accordingly.
- Spectators give them game atmosphere. They want to see the game played fairly but must also behave fairly and with respect.
- Never humiliate your opponents by word, action and/or an embarrassing score line (game differential by five or more goals.)
- Coaches, use this as a tool to guide your players in other skill, to respect the opponent and not embarrass anyone.

Remember: You, the coach, have a lot of power in these circumstances to guide the youth you are coaching in fair play.

4.

Promote the Interest in Soccer:

- Soccer is the world's greatest game, but it needs everyone's help to maintain that.
- Think of soccer's interests before your own during the game.
- Think how your actions may affect the image of the game.
- Talk about the positive things in the game.
- Encourage others to watch and play fairly and have as much fun as you do.

Remember: You are the ambassador for the sport you play.

5.

Honour Those who Defend Soccer's Good Reputation:

- Soccer's good name has survived because the vast majority of people who love the game are honest and fair.
- Sometimes somebody does something exceptional that deserves our special recognition. They should be honored and their fine example published. This encourages others to act in the same way.

Remember: You can help promote soccer's good image by publishing its good deeds.

6.

Reject Corruption, Drugs, Racism, Violence, Gambling & other Dangers to Us.

- Drugs have no place in soccer, in any other sport or society as a whole.
- Say NO! To drugs.
- Help kick racism and bigotry out of soccer.
- Treat all players and everyone else involved equally regardless of the religion, race, sex or national origin.

Remember: Together we can make soccer the greatest sport of everyone.

7.

Help Others to Resist Corrupting Pressures:

- You may hear that team mates or other people you know are being tempted to cheat or otherwise engage in behaviour deemed unacceptable – they need your help, not hesitation to stand beside them.
- Offer them strength and support.
- Remind them of the commitment to the game and their team-mates.
- Form a block of solidarity.

8.

Denounce Those who Try to Discredit your Sport:

- Do not be ashamed to report anybody who you are sure are trying to make others cheat or engage in unacceptable behaviour.
- It is better to expose them and have them be removed before they can do any damage.
- It is equally dishonest to go along with a dishonest act: just say no.
- Denounce those misguided persons who are trying to spoil our sport before they can persuade somebody else to say yes.

Remember: If they are breaking the EMDSL rules, then they are hurting the future of the game.

9.

Use Soccer to Make a Better World:

- Soccer has an incredible power which can be used to make the world a better place in which everyone can live.
- Use this powerful platform to promote peace, health, equality and education for everyone.
- Make the game better, take it to the world, and you will be fostering a better world.