



PAYSА Code of Conduct

Portland Area Youth Soccer Association's (PAYSА) programs are available to all Portland youth ages 3-14 with the purpose to foster a love of the game and to build developmental skills through appropriate competition. We strive to build confidence in team and individual effort while also promoting fair play and good sportsmanship.

Under USYS, SoccerMaine is the governing body for PAYSА and youth soccer within Maine. Through their website you can find resources for leagues, coaches, referees, ODP, and much more.

While we uphold the Zero Tolerance Policy from SoccerMaine, we also expect parents, coaches, fans and players to abide by the PAYSА Code of Conduct as outlined below.

PLAYERS

All players shall:

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by example and encourage it from fellow players and parents.
- Play by the rules of the game.
- Play soccer as an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- Show respect toward other players, coaches, referees and spectators at all times.
- Not argue or complain about referees' calls or decisions.
- Make every effort to attend ALL practices and games and arrive on time, ready to play.
- Give 100% at practice and games.
- Not engage in verbal or physical abuse towards any other coach, teammate, player, parent, participant, or official.

Violation of these expectations will be disciplined by game officials, the coach, and, in extreme situations, the Board of Directors.

PARENTS

All parents shall:

- Encourage good sportsmanship and self-discipline in their children and their teammates through example.
- Make athletic participation for their child and others a positive, fun experience.
- Give encouragement to their child's team.
- Attempt to minimize the pressure of competition and place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of a desire to win.
- Be respectful toward coaches, referees, your child, other parents and their children.
- Accept decisions made by referees and coaches and all other volunteers of the



organization.

- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sports activities.
- Refrain from coaching and refereeing “from the sidelines”. Applaud all player’s efforts.
- Make every effort to drop off and pick up players at designated practice and game times.

Violation of these expectations may result in being asked to leave the field by the referee, the coach, or any PAYSА board member.

COACHES

All coaches shall:

- Be a positive role model for their players and parents, by consistently acting in a positive, controlled and mature manner expected of all PAYSА coaches.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.
- Remember the purpose of PAYSА soccer is for the enjoyment and benefit of the players.
- Understand the rules of soccer, and earn at least a basic certification.
- Maintain the safety and well being of all players.
- Explain to parents what is expected of them and their children.
- Provide a positive, enjoyable atmosphere for the players and parents.
- Refrain from arguments with referees and other coaches.
- Ensure equitable playing time (as specified by SoccerMaine.)
- Discipline players in a fair and consistent manner.
- Refrain from making negative comments about other coaches, players, parents and referees.
- Maintain a consistent practice schedule that is both fun and challenging for the players.

Coaches who violate these expectations will face disciplinary action by game officials and the Board of Directors.

Procedure to Address Complaints:

Any complaint received by the PAYSА Board is reviewed by a Committee of the PAYSА President, Travel Director, REC Director and other necessary board members. The committee will work together to resolve any issues fairly and quickly with PAYSА’s mission of serving the youth of Portland as our guide.

If there is an issue believed to be contrary to our Code of Conduct, we ask that you:

1. Address the issue respectfully but directly, when possible.
2. If you feel that you are unable to confront the issue directly, please notify the Travel Director, REC Director or Board President ASAP.
3. Respect the decisions and actions by the Committee to address the complaint.