



OPTIMIST CLUB OF MARCO ISLAND CODE OF CONDUCT

In an effort to promote good sportsmanship, Optimist Club of Marco Island has pledged to enforce a code of conduct that will provide the physical and emotional well-being of all its participants. Our goal is to ensure that all of our participants will thrive in an environment where respect, team play, and camaraderie abound. Optimist Club of Marco Island recognizes the physical and aggressive nature of sports and, as such, we recognize the need for control. Parents, coaches, and stakeholders, it is our responsibility to lead by example. Therefore, all who are deemed to be in violation of the Code of Conduct are subject to suspension and/or expulsion from the program. Parents who are found in violation may be barred from attending future games and/or forfeit their child's right to participate in the program.

Each player and parent is required to read and acknowledge understanding by signing the Marco Island Optimist's Code of Conduct.

PLAYERS:

It is an honor to participate in the programs provided by the Marco Island Optimist Club. I recognize that OCMI expects me to experience personal growth and athletic success. I acknowledge that I represent my community and OCMI and that I am expected to behave as respectful member of OCMI programs. I understand the need to exercise good judgment and conduct myself with honesty, integrity, and respect for others at all times.

1. Follow and play by the rules set by OCMI and program officials.
2. Never argue with a sport's official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager positively approach the official. The official has the final say and there should be no further discussion.
3. Control your temper at all times. Verbal abuse of officials, coaches or other players is not acceptable. Deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is also not acceptable behaviors in any sport.
4. Cooperate with your team-mates and listen to your coach. Cooperation includes but not limited to
 - a. Putting differences aside for the greater good of the team.
 - b. Listen to each other without interrupting or being dismissive.
 - c. Encourage teammates even when you feel they have made a mistake/error.
 - d. Promote the strengths and abilities of all teammates.
 - e. Take responsibility.
 - f. Willing work toward the success of the team rather than personal success.
 - g. Happily do whatever role is asked of you by the coach.
5. Respect the rights of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion.
6. I will not author, forward, or post vulgar or offensive notes, texts, photographs, or other content that reflect negatively on me, my team, OCMI, or other individuals, or that conflict with the spirit of intent of this Code of Conduct. Whenever possible I will discourage others from posting text or photographs that could be deemed unflattering or damaging to my or others' reputation, or the reputation of OCMI.

PARENTS:

Your child is the one playing sports, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling. Our coaches are VOLUNTEERS, giving up their personal time to coach your child, because of their love of the game and their desire to teach your child that same love and respect.

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his/her soccer development by adhering at all times to the following:

1. We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to Club representative, not verbally.
2. We will give only positive feedback to players.
3. We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome.
4. We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee and coach after the game.
5. We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
6. We understand that improper behavior at a game or abusive treatment, verbal or physical, of the coach may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee or a club official.
7. We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
8. We understand that the leagues can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
9. We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.

I am responsible for my own behavior and for reading, understanding, and abiding by the OCMJ Code of Conduct. I understand that failure to conduct myself responsibly, as stated and implied by the OCMJ Code of Conduct may result in suspension or dismissal for OCMJ programs.

Parent/guardian Signature

Today's Date

Player Signature