



# VILLARREAL VIRGINIA ACADEMY

## Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents and Coaches

### Introduction

Villarreal Virginia Academy (VIVA) sponsors youth soccer activity with the goal of providing our children an opportunity to develop superior life skills through team play, sportsmanship, top competition, and hard work. Our mission is to provide Villarreal Virginia Academy players the opportunity to play soccer at the highest level commensurate with their individual ability, potential, and interest. An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club's mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all VIVA players, parents, and coaches. These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between VIVA players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our core values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed. The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles: (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude; (2) Setting a good example; and (3) Maintaining good relationships with all youth soccer participants - including officials, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents, and coaches.

### 1. Demonstrating a positive attitude

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of Villarreal Virginia Academy.

### 2. Setting a good example

Each person associated with VIVA is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples. VIVA will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults. Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.

**3. Maintaining good relationships with Officials** - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human, and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. Managers should make reports through appropriate channels, including mail evaluations where available. In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection for the player, coach or parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters. Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of soccer, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score. In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coaches' authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.

### Parent's Code

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game.

### 1. Support your child

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort

are often more important than victory.

## **2. Always be positive**

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the **opposing** team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

## **3. Don't be a sideline coach or ref**

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty. Parents will be asked to leave the field if they are being negative, coaching, complaining about refereeing decisions. It is imperative that the voice of the coach is heard, and only the voice of the coach, teammates and referee. Players are extremely embarrassed when they hear their parents yelling at them. Villarreal Virginia Academy are 100% committed to our players growth, development and enjoyment.

## **4. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families**

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent the VIVA Club in a positive way when visiting other clubs. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches. No one has ever regretted letting "cooler heads prevail."

## **5. Remember that your child wants to have fun**

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

We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my manager and my club representative, not verbally. • We will give only positive feedback to players. • We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match

without regard to the result. • We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game. • We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee, or a club official so the coach does not receive a yellow card caution or a red card ejection due to the action of the parent spectator. • We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.

## **6. Financial Obligation**

VIVA requires that all necessary fees, associated with being a rostered player, be paid in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of each family to understand their financial obligation before a player card is signed. In matters where there is an unforeseen circumstance, the Senior Staff will make a determination as to the amount of the fee to be collected. If a player decides for any reason to leave a team based on their own free will, the total amount of the fee will still be required to be paid.

## **Acknowledgement**

I have read, understand and hereby agree to abide by and support this VIVA Parent's Code of Conduct.

Parent's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Team: Villarreal Virginia Academy (Year) \_\_\_\_\_ (Gender) B / G