

## **Standards of Conduct for Spectators**

The explosive increase in the popularity of soccer in the United States is partly due to spectator enjoyment of the free form, continuous play which characterizes the game. This is in marked contrast to other sports where play is stopped frequently, often giving time for abusive and destructive comments from spectators. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of people who derive personal satisfaction from those situations. We do not need such persons in soccer.

The following standards are set forth to govern spectator conduct, before, during and after soccer matches:

- Take a position on the opposite side of the field from the other team's supporters.
- Do not address remarks to referees, opposing players or opposing fans. This does not apply where remarks convey genuine friendship and encouragement.
- Never use foul language or obscene gestures.
- Avoid remarks toward your own team players who make mistakes. If you are aware of the error, you may rest assured that the player is even more aware.
- Applaud superior play by both teams.
- Give consistent support to coaches and managers whether winning or losing. Coaches are giving hundreds of hours to their players and are committed to their own continued improvement as a coach. In winning they deserve your congratulations, in losing you encouragement.
- Always stay 2 yards or more from the playing field.
- Cooperate immediately with any referee request.
- Avoid comments and gestures which express disagreement with referee calls. Prolonged remarks or abusive disagreement with referee's calls may result in a cardable offense chargeable to your team's coach or manager.

Persons who cannot conduct themselves in the above manner are not welcome at CSYSA soccer matches. Individuals who persist in violating these standards will be asked to leave the playing area and play will be suspended until they do so. Failure to respond to such a request within two minutes will result in forfeiture against the offending spectator's side.