

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in the game.

In various national surveys, behavior is the biggest concern in youth soccer today. This included both the abuse of match officials and the unacceptable behavior by over-competitive parents, spectators and coaches on the sidelines.

The NMYSA "Caution: Children @ Play" program goals are to:

1. Provide all children a positive sports experience free from all forms of abuse.
2. Promote exercise and sports participation for the development of healthy lifestyles that will promote wellness through a person's lifespan.
3. Provide a safe environment for learning positive life skills and the enjoyment of a sports experience.
4. Develop awareness of what constitutes mistreatment or abuse.
5. Educate parents and coaches on the different types of sideline communication. Those that are supportive, those that are distracting and what constitutes hostile sideline communication. *
6. Eliminate all types of hostile communication. *
7. Help parents be aware of and help to eliminate distracting communication from the sidelines. *

Accomplishing these goals will result in players having more fun, developing sound character, building self-esteem, increasing confidence, creating lasting friendships, and improving trust.

Examples of the three types of sideline communication. *

Supportive:	Distracting:	Hostile:
"Good Try!"	"Shoot it!"	"That's not good enough!"
"Nice pass"	"Pass it to Veronica"	"Come on Ref, that's terrible!"
"Good work!"	"Go to the ball!"	"Bobby, get in the game!"

*content provided by Soccer Parenting Association

Every parent, coach and player is asked to abide by a Code of Conduct during all NMYSA activities, from State-sanctioned tournaments to regularly scheduled League matches through team practices and activities. These Codes of Conduct are: