

May 5, 2016

To: All MAYLA Clubs
Administrators, Coaches, Players & Parents

Regarding: Expectations of sportsmanship as we strive to teach our kids mutual respect through good sportsmanship and how to “Honor the Game”

As a league we are going into our 3rd weekend of games, and by most accounts we have had many wonderful experiences. However, I must share that I have received numerous second and third hand observations of poor sportsmanship. We have had parents/spectators demeaning opposing players, coaches and Officials. We have had coaches and players demonstrating less than desirable language and gestures towards opponents and officials. We have had spectators in team box areas and official score table areas.

Remember, participating in sport is not inherently good. It is up to the adults involved at every level to remember that we are all expected to model good sportsmanship and mutual respect even when we are competing to the best we can be. It is most critical to demonstrate respect when emotions are high and when an official’s call or play on the field goes against our team.

Reminders:

1. Each team is expected to have a “culture keeper” who should work to set a tone of respect and good sportsmanship on the spectator side of the field.
2. Spectators are not allowed on the side of the field with the teams, or in the team boxes or the score table area.
3. It is never appropriate to demean another person, player, coach or official. Spectators who do so are creating a terrible atmosphere that negatively impacts everyone at the game.
4. We have a shortage of officials and our officials’ associations are working hard to recruit and train young officials. These young officials need to start their officiating careers working youth games. Regardless of any call, we must respect officials at all times. We need to support these young men and women so they will continue to grow as officials and hopefully they will be with us for many years.
5. Coaches should greet their opposing coaches and model mutual respect throughout the game.
6. Parents/spectators should not be consuming alcohol before or during games.