

OKANAGAN MISSION YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Letter of Commitment

Dear Players and Parents:

The Okanagan Mission Youth Soccer Association (OMYSA) has developed a policy for commitment that will apply to all of its players and their parents.

Players who do not regularly attend practices and games, or engage in disruptive behavior, have a significant negative impact on the development and enjoyment of soccer for the remaining players. These problems have also resulted in a number of coaches deciding to quit. We feel that this is not a problem for the majority of our players however one or more disruptive players on a team can negatively impact both the practices and games.

Player Commitment:

1. Players are expected to attend weekly practices and games during the soccer season. For divisional soccer there is one required practice per week. Games are normally scheduled once a week however, on occasion, there may be a second game. A reasonable excuse for missing a practice or game includes illness, family emergencies and occasional special events such as a school year-end band concert. Any player who cannot make it to a practice or game must phone their coach within a reasonable time frame.
2. Players are expected to show up on time for practices and games. Your coach may request that players show up for a game early to allow for a warm-up and pre-game discussion. This normally would not be more than 30 minutes before a game.
3. Players are expected to come to a practice or game and try their best. They must not engage in disruptive behavior such as talking when the coach is talking or engage in excessive horseplay. Socializing and having fun is encouraged as long as it does not significantly interfere with the practice or game.
4. Fair play and a positive attitude are expected at all times. Criticizing any player, coach or game official during a game or practice is not appropriate. Any player or parent should arrange a mutually agreeable time with the coach to discuss their concerns. Open and honest communication is important but must be done so in a fair and reasonable manner.
5. Players failing to meet these commitment standards may have their playing time reduced. Your coach will be allowed some discretion in applying these policies to accommodate unusual or special circumstances. Please talk to your coach before the first game if you have any concerns. Our club adheres to the principal of "equal play for equal effort."

Parent Commitment:

Our club is run almost entirely with volunteers. It is becoming increasingly more difficult to find individuals willing to donate a few hours to help out the club. With close to 90 teams and over 2000 parents we should not be short of volunteers. The OMYSA has considered several options to encourage individuals to volunteer. Unfortunately most options involve considerable administrative resources that we do not have. We have decided to implement a relatively simple solution that will not put unreasonable strain on the club or its members. The solution is to require each team to contribute 6 hours of volunteer work, if asked, per season. The volunteer work is expected from the parents or players. Coaches are exempt as they already do a lot of work. Six hours per team per season is a token amount, but considering we have close to 90 teams, this really adds up.

Any system needs to be enforceable. If a team is asked to contribute time and does not help out then that team will be disqualified from playing in either the Jamboree or Kelowna Cup. Although this may seem harsh, it really isn't a hardship for a team with, on average, 32 players and parents. Surely this number of people can find a total of 6 hours to volunteer.

These measures have been taken to ensure the long-term viability of our club. Without these changes there would likely have to be significant cuts to the number of teams we can field and also to the number of qualified coaches we can attract.

This Letter of Commitment forms a part of your child's registration. By registering your child in the OMYSA you are agreeing to adhere to the requirements above.

Sincerely,

OMYSA Executive