



Mercer Island FC Parent Pledge

*In keeping with Mercer Island FC's mission statement, this Parent Pledge is designed to clarify and define the expectations of our parents. We are committed to promoting the development of self-esteem, fitness, and technical and tactical soccer skills in an age appropriate, positive, healthy, safe, educational, and enjoyable environment. The goal to win is secondary to that of teaching kids "life lessons" and positive character traits that will help them be successful throughout their lives. Each MIFC team depends on the support and cooperation of the players' parents to help fulfill this mission. To that end, we ask each parent to read, sign, and return to the registrar this Parent Pledge.*

1. I pledge to get my child to practice and games on time. I understand that it can be embarrassing for my child to be late and that I may be putting him/her at risk by not providing adequate time for warm up. I will not interrupt the coach during practice, but will wait until a break or practice ends before approaching him/her. I will be on time to pick my child up from all games and practices. This shows respect for the coach, and it tells my child that he or she is my top priority. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I pledge to use positive encouragement to motivate my child and his/her teammates. I understand that less than 1% of youth sports participants receive college scholarships and that the top three reasons kids play sports are (a) to have fun, (b) to make new friends and (c) to learn new skills. I understand that the game is for the players and I will keep the game in the proper perspective. \_\_\_\_\_
3. I pledge to reinforce the principle that winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve and do not let mistakes or fear of making mistakes stop them. I understand that mistakes are an inevitable part of any game and that people learn from mistakes. I understand that children are born with different abilities and that the true measure is not how my child compares to others but how he/she is doing in comparison to his/her best self. I will let my child know that I am proud of him/her regardless of the outcome of the game. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I pledge to "Honor the Game." I understand my actions are a reflection on the team, club, community, association and soccer. No matter what others may do, I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, opposing fans and officials. I understand that officials make mistakes. If the official makes a "bad call" against my team, I will Honor the Game and be silent! \_\_\_\_\_
5. I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions (e.g., "get rid of it," "kick it," "pass it," "shoot," "hustle," "run," "it's your ball") to my child and his/her teammates. I understand that this can confuse the children and undermine the efforts of the coach. I will limit my comments during the game to positively encouraging my child and other players for both teams. \_\_\_\_\_
6. I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my child's coach, trainer or teammates in my child's presence. I understand that this can negatively influence my child's motivation and overall experience. \_\_\_\_\_
7. I pledge to be generous when our team wins and graceful when our team loses. \_\_\_\_\_

*Please read, initial each item, sign, and return to the coach.*

**Parent's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_