



Spectator Policy for ALL SYSA Games

SYSA's goal is to encourage a positive, collaborative atmosphere for players, coaches, referees, and spectators. To achieve that end, SYSA follows the "Side By Side" policy for spectators at all SYSA games.

The goals of the Side By Side policy are:

- To improve the overall atmosphere for players
- To make it easier for coaches to communicate with their players
- To promote camaraderie and a shared experience for spectators
- To help defuse the tensions that sometimes run too high among partisan spectators
- To allow the referees to better hear and see coaches in their Technical areas.
- To emphasize to all that the games are played for the kids

The Side By Side concept is simple, and is mandated by many soccer organizations and youth leagues across the country. All spectators at games must be on one side of the field. Across the field, on the opposite side, will be **only the players, registered coaches and managers** (that is, any player or adult on the roster) for each team.

In addition, SYSA encourages adult spectators to consider acting as role models to emphasize the important elements in a youth soccer game: good effort, sportsmanship, fair play, and fun. We ask parents to embrace their shared experience as soccer parents and join together, regardless of which team their child plays for, and applaud the efforts of all players.

Compliments and positive comments for players ON BOTH TEAMS send a strong message to players that while winning is good, playing well and fair and with respect for your opponents is what is important.

Further Guidelines for Side By Side on Game Days

- The home team chooses which side of the field BOTH teams take, and which half of that sideline they want to set up on. The away team locates on the other half of that side.
- All spectators must remain on the OPPOSITE side of the field from the teams. Spectators should remain on the opposite side of the field away from the teams from warm-ups through until the final whistle is blown.
- Referees have the right to remove any spectator whose behavior is disruptive, including failure to follow the sideline policy. Coaches are directed to assist the referees in enforcing this policy.
- No spectator, players or coaches shall be any closer than 20 yards from the goal line or corner. No spectators are allowed in the buffer area between the two adjoining fields.

Spectators should abide by the Code of Conduct (signed at the beginning of the season):

1. Always be supportive of your child, their teammates and coaches.
2. Never badger the opposition or argue with their supporters.
3. Be appreciative of good play from both sides.
4. Never harass or criticize the referees and/or assistant referees.
5. After each match, have a positive attitude and show an appreciation for the importance of your child's effort.