

PARENT COMMITMENT/PLEDGE

Dear Jr Irish Parent:

Following is a list of pledges that we want all parents to read and commit to. Please review it carefully and sign the team sheet which your coach or team representative will be passing out.

- 1. Honor the Game:** I pledge to "Honor the Game." I understand the importance of setting a good example for my child. No matter what others may do, *I will show respect for all involved in the game including coaches, players, opponents, and opposing fans.* I understand that referees can make mistakes. If a "bad" call is made against my team, I will Honor the Game and remain silent!
- 2. Your Child's Emotional Tank:** I pledge to use positive encouragement to fill my child's Emotional Tank because athletes do their best when their "Emotional Tank" is full. I understand 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 sports in the proper perspective.
- 3. Effort, Learning, Mistakes:** I pledge to reinforce 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 part of any game and that everyone learns from mistakes. Each child is 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.
- 4. Work with Your Child:** I pledge to be a participant, not just a bystander, even if I have no soccer training. Whether it's passing with them, or simply asking your child "show me something you learned at practice/games today" will help your child learn.
- 5. Work with Your Team:** I pledge to help my child's team and coach as my work schedule permits. Getting involved shows my child I care about his/her experience. *I realize that no soccer experience is required* for these tasks and I will volunteer my time when asked by a coach or team rep.
- 6. Be On Time:** I pledge to get my child to practices and games on time. Being late can put him/her at a disadvantage and at risk for injury by not properly warming up. Arriving on-time at the start (and end) of practices and games shows that you "Honor" your child's coach and teammates. Schedule permitting, I will attend every possible game, and I will advise my child's coach as early as possible if my child will be absent from any practice or competition.
- 7. One Voice (the Coach's):** I pledge to refrain from yelling out instructions to my child. In the midst of a chaotic play, hearing multiple (and often conflicting) instructions causes most kids to "freeze". I understand that instruction is the coach's job, and *I will limit my comments during the game to encouraging my child and players of both teams.*
- 8. Coach Interaction:** I pledge to refrain from making negative comments about my child's coach in my child's presence.