



Code of Conduct

For Parents and Coaches

Parents, players, coaches and fans represent the American Soccer Club when our teams play. The actions of one of us affect the image of all of us. This Code of Conduct encourages us to work together to play with good sportsmanship and to treat players, coaches, referees and parents with respect. It also identifies the possible consequences we will encounter when we can't behave in an appropriate manner.

Treat Referees with Respect

- There are no circumstances in which a parent or coach should confront a referee during or after a game.
- Do not verbally harass a referee. If you must disagree with a call, do so quickly, calmly and let it go.
- Coaches will be held responsible for ensuring that parents comply with this portion of the code of conduct. A coach who, in the opinion of the referee director, age group commissioner, coaching director, or board member, fails to control unruly parents will be subject to suspension.

Treat Your Team with Respect

- Ensure your child and all his/her equipment gets to games and practices on time.
- Pick up your child promptly at the end of games or practices; don't make the coaches wait for you.
- Disagreements with the coach do not belong on the public soccer field before, during or after a game or practice. Questions and comments should be voiced later in an adult atmosphere.

Treat Our Players and Opponents with Respect

- Coaches, not parents, are the ones we entrust to instruct our players. Parent criticism of (or "constructive help" for) other American players is usually not well received by the player, coach or the player's parents.
- Whether you win or lose, do so with class.
- Never yell at or criticize a player on the opposing team. Think how incensed you become when another parent or coach, especially one from the opposing team, yells at your child.
- Avoid confrontations or shouting matches with the coaches, parents, or fans of an opposing team. An effective response is to move to a part of the field where you cannot hear them.
- Constant yelling is very irritating to the people around you (even if you think your comments are positive).
- No alcohol, drugs, profanity or fighting are ever permitted at soccer games or practice.

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Grievances and Consequences

- Your age group commissioner is the first person you should contact if you feel a parent's, player's, or coach's behavior warrants corrective action (e.g., confronting a referee or verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees, or opposing fans). The commissioner will attempt to resolve or correct the issue, but may refer it to the club's Fair Play Committee for further investigation and remedy.
- The Fair Play Committee may impose penalties including reprimands, suspension of playing/coaching/spectator privileges, and expulsion from a team or the club.
- The Alabama Soccer Association and/or the Mid-State Soccer League may respond to certain actions that take place during events they sanction (league matches, tournaments, etc.), such as the following:
 - Confrontations with or touching a referee during or after a game.
 - Confrontations or shoving matches between parents of opposing teams or parents and coaches.

These governing bodies have the authority to impose fines and suspensions above and beyond those imposed by the American Soccer Club.

- In addition to the above consequences, note that Section 13A-11-144, Code of Alabama 1975 establishes up to Class A felony status for the offenses of harassment of, menacing of, or assault on a sports official performing his or her official duties.

SIGNATURE: As a coach or parent of a player in the American Soccer Club, I acknowledge...

- that I have read, understand and will adhere to this Code of Conduct;
- that my continued participation in club activities, and that of my children, is contingent upon my ability to do so; and
- that I will help my fellow parents and coaches when, in the emotions of the game, they need to be reminded of their own commitment to this Code of Conduct.

Team: _____ Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Version 1.0

Adopted September 28, 20003 by action of the Board of Directors of the American Soccer Club

Acknowledgment: This code of conduct was inspired by the one published by the Aiken Soccer Club of Aiken, South Carolina. (www.aikensoccerclub.org)