

# BURLINGTON UNITED FC: CODE OF CONDUCT

**Mission Statement:** Burlington United FC is dedicated to providing a professional, competitive, and supportive environment for youth soccer development. This Code of Conduct ensures that all participants contribute to a positive culture that respects the game, the opponents, and the Club's staff.

## PART I: PARENT & GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

### 1. The Role of the Parent: "Support, Don't Coach"

- **Cheering vs. Coaching:** Parents are encouraged to cheer for their child and the team (e.g., "Great effort!", "Go United!"). Parents must **avoid** giving tactical instructions (e.g., "Pass it!", "Shoot!", "Kick it hard!"). This confuses players and directly contradicts the professional coaching staff.
- **Sideline Location:** Parents must remain on the spectator side of the field, at least 2 yards from the touchline. No parent is permitted on the team bench side or behind the goals during matches or training.

### 2. Respect for Officials

- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Verbal abuse, harassment, or arguing with referees is strictly prohibited.
- **Acceptance of Calls:** Referees make mistakes. Parents must accept decisions and move on.
- **Consequences:** If a referee ejects a parent, that parent faces an automatic minimum 1-game suspension from Club activities. Repeated offenses may result in a season-long ban.

### 3. Communication Protocol (The "24-Hour Rule")

- **Cooling Off Period:** Emotions are high after games. Parents agree to wait **24 hours** after a match before contacting a coach with grievances regarding playing time, tactics, or game management.
- **Appropriate Channels:** Issues should be discussed privately with the coach, never in front of the player or other parents.
- **Chain of Command:**
  1. Head Coach
  2. Director of Coaching (DOC)
  3. Club Director/Owner *Bypassing the coach to contact the Director first is a violation of protocol.*

#### 4. Sideline Etiquette

- **No Negativity:** Comments about opposing players or other parents' children are prohibited.
  - **Alcohol & Tobacco:** Consumption of alcohol, tobacco, or e-cigarettes/vapes is strictly prohibited at all youth soccer fields and training grounds.
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## PART II: PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

### 1. Commitment & Attendance

- **Punctuality:** Players must arrive at training and games at the time designated by the coach (typically 15 mins before practice, 30-45 mins before games).
- **Notification:** Parents should notify the coach via the team app at least 24 hours in advance if they cannot attend a session.
  - Players for older teams can notify the coach themselves

### 2. Respect for the Game

- **Opponents:** Treat opponents with respect. Shake hands after every match, regardless of the result.
- **Officials:** Players will not argue with referees. Only the Team Captain may respectfully ask for clarification on a rule.
- **Teammates:** Bullying, hazing, or exclusion of teammates will not be tolerated.

### 3. Training Standards

- **Equipment:** Players must bring their own ball (properly inflated), water, and shin guards, and wear the official training kit to every session.
- **Focus:** When the coach is speaking, players are listening (eyes up, mouths closed, ball still).
- **Effort:** Playing time is earned in practice. Players are expected to give 100% effort in training.

### 4. Social Media & Digital Conduct

- Players represent Burlington United FC on and off the field. Posting negative, bullying, or inappropriate content about teammates, coaches, or opponents on social media (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc.) is grounds for suspension.
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## PART III: VIOLATIONS & DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Club operates on a **Three-Strike Policy** for behavioral infractions, though severe violations may warrant immediate expulsion.

1. **First Offense (Warning):**

- **Player:** Verbal warning from the coach; extra fitness or temporary removal from practice.
- **Parent:** Verbal warning from the Coach or Club Director regarding sideline behavior.

2. **Second Offense (Suspension):**

- **Player:** Suspension from the next scheduled match.
- **Parent:** Suspension from attending the next scheduled match and a written warning placed on file.

3. **Third Offense (Expulsion):**

- **Player/Parent:** Removal from the Club for the remainder of the season.
- **Financial Consequence:** Per the Registration Agreement, **no refunds** will be issued if a family is expelled for violating the Code of Conduct.

### **Zero Tolerance Offenses (Immediate Expulsion):**

- Physical assault or violence.
- Racist, sexist, or homophobic language.
- Theft of Club or teammate property.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**I have read and agree to abide by the Burlington United FC Parent & Player Code of Conduct.** I understand that failure to follow these rules may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the Club without refund.

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_