

SUBURBAN COUNTIES SOCCER LEAGUE INC.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage our youth athletes to always embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good citizenship and must lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sports event and shall conform my behavior to the following Code of Conduct:

1. **Safety First:** No person shall engage in conduct that would endanger the health, safety or well-being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
2. **Substance Free Zone:** No person shall use drugs or alcohol while at a youth sports event and I will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in a youth sports event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. **Communication:** I will encourage positive communication at all times and will not engage in or permit others under my supervision to use derogatory, discriminatory or profane language.
4. **Referee Communication:** Only coaches are permitted to address referees. I will ensure that players and parents understand and respect this rule.
5. **Respectful Behavior:** Coaches, parents, players, participants, officials or any other attendee shall be treated with the utmost respect regardless of ability, race, creed, color, gender identity, national origin, sex or sexual orientation.
6. **Non-Threatening and Non-Violent Behavior:** No person shall engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse of any kind or initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
7. **Exemplary Conduct Demanded:** I will uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, setting a positive example for all youth athletes through fair play, respect and self-control.
8. **Field & Equipment Respect:** Fields, equipment, or any property related to the youth sports event shall be treated with respect. I will ensure that my players and others under my supervision understand and respect this rule.
9. **Facility Usage & Compliance:** I will and encourage my players and their family members to follow facility rules and regulations, all local, state and federal laws and ordinances, and have respect for community spaces by maintaining its cleanliness.
10. **Mandated Reporters:** All mandated reporters shall comply with all the legal obligations of Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law and all club members and coaches shall abide by the Mandated Reporter Incident Policy.

I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the foregoing while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a youth sports event I will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to a verbal warning, written warning, ejection, suspension and/or multi-season suspension issued by Suburban Counties Soccer League, Inc, or its Board of Director(s), my home club with whom I represent and the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association.

Name

Signature

Date



REFEREE ABUSE PREVENTION

POLICY 531-9 PENALTY OVERVIEW / YOUTH & AMATEUR

The Penalties Matrix defines consequences associated with physical and non-physical offenses against Referees.

NON-PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

NON-PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Insulting, Belittling, Insinuating or Taunting Behavior Undermining Referee Authority	2	
Harassment, Intimidation, Retaliation, Abusive, or Threatening (Non Physical) Language	4	
Aggression, Attacking, Derogatory, Cyberbullying, Doxing or Threatening (Physical / Violence) Language	6	6 - 24 Months
Offensive or Discriminatory Act	10	12 - 24 Months

PHYSICAL OFFENSES of gross misconduct, abuse, and / or assault

PHYSICAL*	MIN. GAMES	TIME
Minor or Slight Deliberate Touching	3	1 - 6 Months
Pushing, Grabbing, Pulling, Squeezing, Pinching, Lightly Slapping, Use of Object in Non Striking Manner, or Physical Property Damage	10	6 - 24 Months
Hitting, Punching, Elbowing, Kicking, Biting, Spiting, Choking, Tackling, Throwing or Use of Object or Any Part of Body (Forearm, Knee, Head) in a Striking Manner		12 Months - Lifetime

(*) **Disclaimer:** These are only a few examples of abuse – other actions or statements may also fall into this category.

KEY PENALTY FACTORS

- Single offenses are at **minimum the prescribed game penalty or time penalty** for non red zone offenses
- Penalties can be **both game and time depending on severity** / circumstances
- Second time offenders receive **double punishment**
- Third time offenders receive a **lifetime ban**
- More than one offense at the same time is **at least the punishment for the most serious offense**
- Offenses against minors are automatically subject to a **“minor multiplier”** resulting in **triple punishment**
- **One offense warning per league** to be managed by states and leagues collaboratively
- Game consequences are **inclusive of 1 game penalty for any red cards given**
- Optionality for **50% penalty for first offense from a minor**