



## **Recreational Soccer Code of Conduct**

Our goal is to maximize the enjoyment of all involved and to facilitate the development of both players and coaches. This Code of Conduct will establish policies and procedures which the Recreational program will use to hold players, coaches and parents responsible. Participation in Recreational soccer by players, coaches and parents is a privilege not a right. Our expectation is that Good Sportsmanship will be observed at all times, both on the field of play and off. Persistent violations could result in consequences up to suspension, removal from a team or banishment from the sidelines and LWYSA Rec programs.

### **Coach Role and Responsibility**

- Be on time and prepared for practices and games
- Be respectful of *all* players
- Teach soccer skills to challenge and increase the ability of individual players
- Instill the values of Good Sportsmanship to players and parents
- Before the season begins, communicate with players and parents your philosophy of coaching and playing soccer. Review your expectations for practice, games, fair playing times, behavior and problem resolution. There must be uniformity in their application. Continue to communicate effectively throughout the season.

### **Player Role and Responsibility**

- Be on time, it is *your* responsibility. Be prepared to play in practice and in games. This includes proper rest, nutrition, hydration (water) and equipment.
- Players must take responsibility for communicating with their coach.
- Be respectful of your teammates, opponents, their coach and referees.
- Always display good sportsmanship, both on the field and off.
- Play to the best of your ability and strive to improve your performance.

### **Parent Role and Responsibility**

- Cheer and support the whole team. Do not be afraid to acknowledge an opponent's good play.
- Educate your player to be on time, prepared and properly attired for practice and play.
- Follow LWYSA instructions for:
  - Problem Resolution (refer to LWYSA Problem Resolution policy)
  - Sideline behavior
- Notify the coach of player absence from practice or a game well in advance. This may become a player responsibility when age appropriate.
- Aid your player in being on time by providing for delivery and pick up for practice and games. Do not be late. It is not the Coach's responsibility for care of a player unless you have made prior arrangement with them.
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- Be respectful of the Coach's philosophy, time and effort. Do not interfere with the conduct of the team, games or with referees.
- Assist the team for practices and team functions if asked.
- Parents should learn the Laws of the Game (as modified) and abide by the rules of good sportsmanship on the sidelines.

### Problem Resolution

LWYSA will not act upon a problem that is not in writing/email. LWYSA will not address problems that have not been directed initially to the appropriate Club\* for resolution.

The following are general procedures for problem resolution:

- If a problem is alleged with a Coach, Parents/Player should first discuss the problem with that Coach
- If verbal resolution is not achieved, the Parents/Player may submit in writing/email the details as they understand them to the appropriate Club President. The Club will investigate the problem and render a decision within 15 calendar days of receipt of the complaint.
- Should resolution still not be achieved, the Parents/Player may submit their problem (via the Club President) to a panel of Club Presidents and the Vice President of Recreational Soccer. They will render a decision within 30 calendar days.
- Other categories of problems should be managed in the same manner with the Coach being the first step.

It is understood that Coaches have the right to remove a player and/or family from the team roster for persistent disciplinary problems. Lack of player ability will NOT be the cause of removal.

Parents have the right to remove their Player from a team and request reassignment through open registration if they cannot reconcile a coaching philosophy, ability to coach or competitiveness.

Coaches are expected to review and use the "Guidelines - Management of Team Problems". Club Presidents will not address an issue if no attempt was made to use these procedures.

### **Guidelines - Management of Team Problems (Players/Parents)**

#### Safety Violation:

Includes but is not limited to any conditions during a game or practice that poses a threat to the safety or endangerment of players, coaches, spectators or referees.

First Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Issue warning. Educate violator on the importance of good safety practices
- Warn violator playing time may be reduced (reduce time if appropriate)
- Notify the Club President if necessary

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Second Occurrence/ The Coach can:

- Reduce violator's playing time
- Notify Parents of problem
- Notify Club President

Third Occurrence/ The Coach can:

- Suspend Player for one game
- Notify Parents of problem
- Request Club President intervention

### Sideline Behavior Violations:

Includes but is not limited to any actions that are taken by a Parent, Player or spectator that disrupts or makes a mockery of the game; use of obscene or vulgar language or gestures; baiting or inciting opposing players, coaches, parents or officials; throwing or kicking equipment; artificial or mechanical noise making, including but not limited to: air horns, whistles, vuvuzelas, cow bells, rattles, drums, devices that amplify sound.

First Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Issue a warning and educate the violator(s) on appropriate sideline behavior and good sportsmanship conduct.
- Notify Club President if appropriate.

Second Occurrence/ The Coach can/will:

- Suspend violator(s) from the sidelines for the remainder of the game.
- Notify the Club President.

Third Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Suspend violator(s) from the field for the remainder of the game. The violator(s) can also be suspended for one additional game.
- Notify the Club President
- Refer to Panel of Club Presidents and Vice President of Recreational Soccer. A season suspension or removal from the team is a possible outcome.

### Harassment

Includes, but is not limited to, unsolicited remarks, gestures, or physical contact; display or circulation of written material or pictures derogatory to gender, racial, ethnic or religious groups; basing personnel decisions on a volunteer's, member's or official's response to a sexually oriented request. Sexual harassment occurs when this type of verbal or physical conduct is sexual in nature or is gender based.

First Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Redirect the behavior of the Player to more appropriate actions
- Place Player in "Time Out"
- Discuss the incident with Parents within two hours
- Warn Player that playing time can be reduced if behavior continues
- Notify Club President if appropriate

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Second Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Reduce Players playing time
- Notify Parents within two hours
- Notify Club President

Third Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Sit Player out for one game
- Notify Parents
- Refer to Club President's Panel and Vice President of Recreation Soccer. Possible outcomes are removal from team and dismissal from all LWYSA Rec programs.

### Assault

Includes, but is not limited to the following acts: kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into, the act of throwing any object that could inflict injury or damage property.

First Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Redirect the behavior of the Player to more appropriate actions
- Place the Player in a "Time Out"
- Discuss the incident with the Player's, Parents within two hours
- Suspend the Player for one game
- Notify the Club President

Second Occurrence/ The Coach will:

- Suspend Player from practices and games
- Notify Parents within two hours
- Notify Club President
- The Club President will refer the issue to the President's Panel and Vice President of Recreational Soccer. A second assault will result in permanent dismissal from LWYSA Rec programs.

\*As of this date, 091516, LWYSA Rec Clubs include:

Juanita Club

Kirkland Club

Redmond Club

Union Hill Club

Eastlake Club

Club structure may change in the future but all Problem Resolution should begin at this level.

Rev 091516

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### Addendum: Guidelines for Effective Team Management

#### Minimum Playing Time Rule

Micro/Mod Soccer (U-7 through U-12): 50% playing time during the regular season

Competitive Recreation/District 2: 33% playing time during the regular season

\*If a player has unexcused absences from practices or games, or disciplinary problems within the team, the coach does not have to follow this rule.

\*\*Tournaments, Jamborees and other matches outside the regular season subject to Coaches discretion.

#### Coaches

During pre-season Team meeting discuss your philosophy on:

- Competition
- Sideline behavior
- Practices
- Dropping off and picking up players
- Explain minimum time rules
- Procedures for problem resolution
- Disciplinary issues and actions

Coaches are encouraged to have a Team Manager who will manage and seek volunteers for: snack schedule, team parties, awards, schedule changes, collection of monies, team communication/phone tree, carpooling, tournaments, etc.

Coaches of U8 and U9 teams should enlist the assistance of a parent volunteer to act as Referee for the team during one half of each match. Clinics are held prior to the start of the season to educate volunteers on the modified rules of competition.

All Coaches should seek other adults who may become licensed by USSF and represent their team in the Referee Pool.

Coaches should work on improving their skills by: attending coaches' clinics, study the Laws of the Game, getting appropriate licenses, using the LWYSA coaching resources, watch soccer games other than your own, read instructional material, "share" with other coaches, request a Club mentor, ask the Club President for assistance with problem areas (as of this writing, all Presidents are experienced coaches).