

Code of Conduct

NORTHWEST CINCINNATI SAY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

This Code of Ethics and Penalties applies to all regular season games, Area Tournament games, and State Tournament games. Any suspensions of players, coaches, or spectators not fulfilled in the season in which they occur will be carried forward to the next season in which that person participates. (Example: Fall Season to Spring Season, or Fall Season to the next Fall Season, etc.) Any person found to be in violation of the spirit of the Code of Ethics by the judgment of the Area Board shall be held accountable by the penalties dictated herein.

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

A responsible coach in the Northwest Area will conduct himself/herself using the following guidelines. Coaches should:

1. Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players. Read the rule book and attempt to attend a clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.
2. Abide by the laws of the game and the Soccer Association for Youth rules.
3. Treat the referees with respect, no matter what the call.
4. Exhibit excellent conduct at both practices and games. Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude 10010/9. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the players when they are together as a team.
5. Coach clean, skillful honest, and sportsmanlike soccer by stressing playing hard to win over winning itself
6. Stress good sportsmanship.
7. Help maintain a climate of enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees and other spectators.
8. Work at team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics. Be a "fun leader". Stress individual skill development more that tactics. Minimize lectures and maximize demonstrations. Stress having fun.
9. In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticism. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.
10. Do not use profanity or vulgar language. Remember you are helping to mold the character of your player&

11. Coach talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. Allow players more than their required minimum playing time.
12. Minimize coaching from the sidelines during games. Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing.
13. Pre-plan all practice sessions in detail to be interesting, fast paced, and involve all team members as much as possible (minimize standing around).
14. Welcome feedback from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.

COACH PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

The following rules are to be used in assessing penalties for coaches. Penalties for coaches will be imposed by the District Representatives as assessed by the Area Referee Coordinator, the Hearing Committee, or by action of the Area Board.

1. Excessive, abusive, or threatening words or actions toward officials, other coaches, players or spectators. **Penalty - two games suspension.**
2. Aggressive physical contact with officials, other coaches, players or spectators (i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, pushing, etc.). **Penalty - five game suspension and probation for five games.**
3. Striking an official, coach or player. **Penalty - expulsion.**
4. Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection. **Penalty - two game suspension in addition to the penalty imposed for the original ejection and possible game forfeiture as determined by the Hearing Committee.**
5. Heckling or harassing officials, players, or other coaches. **Penalty - one game suspension.**
6. Instructing players during the game to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner. **Penalty - five game suspension and probation for five games.** Also, this penalty will result in a hearing of the full Board to determine if additional penalties will be assessed, and may result in expulsion.
6. Ejection from the game for any other reason not listed here. **Penalty - one game suspension.**
7. Ejection from the game for a red card given due to spectator misconduct. **Penalty - removal from the game and potential for an additional one game suspension as determined by the Hearing Committee.**

DEFINITIONS

In general, the penalties for a coach on probation will be twice that applied under non-probation status as described above.

A coach under suspension may not attend or be in the vicinity of higher team's game up until 30 minutes before the game time during the suspension- After 30 minutes before the game time, he/she may attend his/her child's game as a spectator only, but not coach any team. A violation of suspension results in automatic expulsion.

A coach under expulsion is out of the program indefinitely. Reinstatement may be made only after a favorable review by the Area Board. An expelled coach may not act in a coaching, managerial, or supervisory capacity of a team. He may not attend or be in the vicinity of his former team's game up to 30 minutes before game time.

The violation of an expulsion will result in possible game forfeiture and/or elimination of the team from league play and/or necessary legal action against the violator.

REFEREE CODE OF ETHICS

In any organized type of athletic contest, it is the accredited official who controls the conduct of the game and to a great degree, the temperament of the crowd. In addition, to enforcing the rules of the contest, the official is charged with the responsibility of maintaining order and minimizing the possibility of injury to the individual participants.

Referees are encouraged to attend a referee training session to obtain S.A. Y. certification, and State and National badges to help improve their expertise.

The ideal official is the one "who notices everything, but is seldom noticed himself". The following Code of Ethics and behavior has been drawn up to exemplify this ideal referee.

A good S.A.Y. referee should:

1. Know the rules, rule changes, and mechanics of officiating.
2. Be on time for the contest. Allow enough time for a pre-game conference with your fellow official. Cover all game duties properly.
3. Look like a referee. Be proud of the appearance that you make on the field. Be well equipped. Whistle, watch, rulebook, game card, and pencil are absolute necessities.
4. Be prepared to be physically in the game and mentally alert. Stay on top of the play, but not out of the way.
5. No smoking on the field. Do not consume alcohol before or during the game.
6. Do not use abusive language or profanity at any time.
7. Address all players by their number and coaches by their title: "Coach", "Sir", or etc. Avoid using first names while performing as a referee.
8. Do not socialize with the coaches, players, or fans immediately before, during, or after the game. Remember, this is not a popularity but an athletic contest for which you are hired; however, do not hesitate to explain rules and calls.
9. Do not use a dictatorial approach. Respect the players and inform them that you expect the same conduct in return. Be courteous and considerate without sacrificing firmness.
10. Always deal with actions that could result in injury to a player. Maintain control of the game through good officiating.
11. Be pleasant but firm and alert. Maintain poise and calmness at all times. You cannot afford to "lose your head". Knowing the rules and mechanics of refereeing can help, but this must be applied with common sense.

12. Do not make statements about the game except to clarify a rule interpretation during and/or after the game. Maintain your "cool" with an irate coach. Do not argue. You cannot win. Remember, "when emotion takes over, reason flies out the window".
13. Be professional with fellow officials. Do not discuss other officials with coaches. Any criticism should be constructive and conducted in private with the official concerned.

REFEREE PENALTY FOR MISCONDUCT

Failure to do any of the above may result in expulsion or probation as a referee. You will be reviewed regularly by your District or Area Referee Coordinator.

PLAYER CODE OF ETHICS

Responsible players in the Northwest Cincinnati Area are encouraged to read the rulebook and attend clinics to enhance their knowledge of the game. Players will conduct themselves using the following guidelines. Responsible players will:

1. Know the rules of the game and abide by them.
2. Treat the referees with respect.
3. Demonstrate good sportsmanship to teammates, opposing players, referees, coaches or spectators.
4. Refrain from making negative remarks to, or harassing players, referees, coaches or spectators.
5. Do not use profanity or vulgar language.
6. Do not fight or provoke other players.
7. Play hard and aggressively, but fairly.
8. Listen to his/her coach and work diligently at learning the sport.

PLAYER PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT

The following are the penalties for player misconduct concerning Wings, Strikers, Kicker, Minors, and Seniors Penalties for misconduct concerning Passers will be determined by the Hearing Committee, not to exceed those outlines for players in the older divisions. Penalties will be imposed by the District Representative as assessed by the Area Referee Coordinator and the Hearing Committee, or by action of the Area Board, Whether or not multiple penalties are assessed will be determined by the Hearing Committee. If multiple penalties are assessed, they will be served consecutively.

1. Abusive language to an official. **Penalty - one game suspension.**
2. Threatening actions or words towards officials. **Penalty - two game suspension.**
3. Aggressive physical contact with the referee (i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, pushing, etc.). **Penalty - five game suspension.**
4. Striking an official. **Penalty - expulsion for the season (minimum five games).**
5. Refusal to leave the playing field after a ejection. **Penalty - two game suspension in addition to the penalty imposed for the original ejection.**
6. Striking a player. **Penalty - two game suspension**

7. Ejection from the game for any other reason not listed above. **Penalty - one game suspension.**

SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

It shall be against the rules of the Northwest Cincinnati Soccer Association for a spectator, coach, or player to threaten, harass, or intimidate soccer officials in any way. This includes before, during, or after all games sanctioned by the Northwest Cincinnati Soccer Association. Failure to comply with this rule could mean immediate expulsion from the game and field area (in sight of or in earshot of the official) and/or loss of the game by judgment of the Area Board- Any physical contact with the soccer official could mean legal action by the Northwest Cincinnati Soccer Association or others.

NOTE: Any spectator ejected from a game may have a one game suspension issued by his/her team District Representative to be served at the team's next home game.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Spectator misconduct may result in the coach receiving a yellow and/or red card, and the possibility of the suspension of the game, the outcome of which would then be decided by the Area Board (i.e. game forfeiture, replaying of games less than 1/2 in duration, declaring a winner of games over 1/2 in duration).