

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

Youth Sports play a vital role in encouraging physical, social and emotional growth of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage their youth players to embrace the values of good sportsmanship, discipline and character development. All compliance infractions will be reviewed by the Board for appropriate actions(1).

- Have fun!
- Be a good sports (win or lose), be honest, fair and always show good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, officials and fans
- Learn the value of commitment to the team
- Put personal goals aside for the betterment of the team
- Show courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents and coaches
- Realize that athletic contests, including practice sessions are educational experiences and opportunities
- Players will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct
- Players will not engage in rude behavior
- Players will treat everyone, including coaches, parents, players and officials with respect regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, or sex

PARENT/SPECTATOR/VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents are vital to the development of young athletes. Whether sitting on the sidelines or helping out as a volunteer, parents must set a positive example. Parents and adults involved in youth sports should be models of good sportsmanship and lead by example on and off the playing field. All compliance infractions will be reviewed by the Board for appropriate actions(1).

- Give constructive criticism during a private moment, never in front of other parents, players, officials, spectators, etc
- Support your coach and officials, refrain from “sideline coaching”
- Refrain from using profanity
- Abide by doctor’s decision in all matters of players health and injuries, and physical ability to play
- Accept the decisions of officials on the field as being fair and called to the best ability of the officials. Parents must stay off the field, away from player benches and remain under control in order to set a good example for players and other spectators
- Do not criticize an opposing team, its players, fans, coaches or team, by words or gestures
- Support the coaches, players and officials and help teach the value of commitment to the teams, sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play
- Inappropriate behavior is cause for immediate removal from the sidelines. Repeat offenses can result in being suspended from future games and league sponsored activities. This applies to all spectators
- Parents will not encourage their child, or any other person, to engage in unsportsmanship conduct with any coach, parent, player, participants, officials or any other attendee
- All Volunteers must adhere to the SSUSA/SUFC Code of Conduct, Mission and Philosophy

SSUSA Expectations for all Players, Parents/Guardians and Fans:

- To have an understanding of the rules & an appreciation for the game
 - Please refrain from expressing opinions regarding rules to coaches or officials. All concerns can be discussed with a board member
- To comply with behavior that represents our league
 - Treat others with the respect you, yourself would like to be treated with. Your behavior influences others
- To recognize & acknowledge quality plays by either team
 - We are all out here to support our athletes and watch them grow. One Club. One Culture. One Family.
- To show respect for the officials & abide by their decisions
 - The officials have been trained in the rules of the game & are officiating to their best ability. Mistakes are bound to happen and calls missed. It is your coaches responsibility to address their concerns with the official in a respectful manner

Parents/Guardians & Fans are expected to:

- Learn the rules of the game & assist your player in understanding and applying them on the pitch
- Accept & not question an officials judgment
 - All officials are volunteers and will be treated with respect
 - Your coach will address any concerns respectfully with the official and/or the board
- Use appropriate language
 - This includes but it not limited to profanity, threats, heckling
- Let the players play, the coaches coach and the officials officiate. Do not coach or officiate from the sidelines.
 - This is confusing to the players and hinders their progress
- Thank your coaches – WIN OR LOSE!

We as parents are held to a higher standard as we are the example for our athletes. We must understand that we are role models to all of our athletes and our actions are being watched and emulated. Because of this SSUSA/SUFC has high expectations for all its participants and has enacted a zero tolerance policy for the behaviors listed below. This list is subject to change as needed.

Unacceptable behaviors

This included but is not limited to;

- Verbal or physical abuse of anyone

- Please note that and physical altercation can result in being banned not only from the fields but also the complex pending the decision of the Board and/or Parks and Rec Director for the city of Smiths Station
- Taunting or trash talking
 - To players, coaches, officials, spectators
- Use of profanity
- Harassing officials or booing their decisions
- Abuse of any volunteer verbally or in writing (email, social media, etc., ...)
- Use of alcohol or drugs in connection with SSUSA activities

Consequences

To include but not limited to;

- Probation
- Suspension
- Permanent Expulsion

1st yellow card – player/parent/spectator/guardian/coach receives a warning

2nd yellow card – player/parent/spectator/guardian/coach is on probation

3rd yellow card – player/parent/spectator/guardian/coach is suspended next match

1st red card for player/parent/guardian/spectator/coach is removed from fields – the player/parent/guardian/coach will be suspended for but not limited to, their next match. Sideline behavior can result in a coach receiving a red card or the forfeiture of the game. In the event this happens the spectator will receive but not limited to, a suspension from the next 3 games.

2nd red card for player/parent/guardian/spectator/coach is removed from fields – the player/parent/guardian/coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season

If there is a compliance infraction of the above Code of Conduct, the procedure for remediation will be as follows:

1. The player/parent/coach/spectator will be contacted by the Director or a Board Member.
2. The Director or Board Member will schedule a time to meet with the coach, player, board member to discuss the infraction. The meeting will take place as soon as possible after the infraction is incurred.
3. The Director or Board Member will evaluate and offer an opinion to the SSUSA/SUFC Board for a Vote – this could result in probation, suspension, or expulsion from the program depending upon the infraction.

4. Upon a vote from the SSUSA/SUFC Board, the coach, player, parent or board member will be notified of the Board's position and the appropriate action will be followed.
5. If an additional meeting is needed one will be scheduled.
6. Failure to abide by the Board's decision can result in removal from the program.

POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

We ask that all families review this SSUSA/SUFC Policy against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying with their children. Together we can ensure that all of our children and SSUSA/SUFC participants have a better understanding of the issue and can help make all SSUSA/SUFC programs enjoyable for everyone.

Smiths Station United Soccer Association and Smiths United Futbol Club. prohibits and will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation and bullying (including cyber-bullying). "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, including social media, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or
2. By any other distinguishing characteristic; and that
3. Takes place in relation to any program function or team; and that
4. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a player or damaging the player's property, or placing a player in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
5. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any player or group of players; or
6. Creates a hostile environment for the player by interfering with a player's participation or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the player.

Notification of any alleged harassment, intimidation or bullying shall be made to the affiliated Coach, Director or Board Member. The procedure for remediation will be as follows:

1. If the Coach of the alleged victim is notified, the Coach is obligated to report the allegation to the Director or Board Member.
2. The Director or Board Member will gather all pertinent information in a fair, respectful and confidential manner regarding the alleged harassment, intimidation or bullying and review with both the accuser and the accused.
3. The Director or Board Member will evaluate and offer an opinion to the SSUSA/SUFC Board for a Vote – this could result in penalties, up to and including expulsion, or suspension from the program depending upon the infraction.
4. Upon a vote from the SSUSA/SUFC Board, the accused will be notified of the Board's position and the appropriate action will be followed.