

# Solana Beach Soccer Club

## Code of Conduct

### Introduction

The Solana Beach Soccer Club sponsors youth soccer activity with the goal of providing children an opportunity to develop skills through team play, sportsmanship, competition and hard work. The Code of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principals: (1) demonstrating a positive attitude, (2) setting a good example, and (3) maintaining good relationships with all youth soccer participants, including referees, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents and coaches.

The Code of Conduct is a covenant between the players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. The Solana Beach Soccer Club encourages positive support and enthusiasm for players and teams and prohibits criticism of referees, players and coaches. It also prohibits spectator coaching from the sidelines because it undermines the coach's authority and creates confusion. The Code of Conduct is in place to ensure that coaches, players, parents and spectators have a positive and safe experience during the season. It is essential that the Code of Conduct be honored and followed.

Any inappropriate conduct, threats, harassment, or abuse (verbal or physical) directed towards coaches, players, referees, parents, or spectators will not be tolerated. Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in an immediate and indefinite suspension from games, practices, and tournaments for the family or family member involved. Serious violations will be brought before a disciplinary board (consisting of members from SBSC, Cardiff, Encinitas, and Rancho Santa Fe).

In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials, and spectators characterize all competition sponsored by US Club Soccer, the following Code of Conduct has been established. It is the obligation of all program administrators, coaches, parents, and players to create an environment that promotes this objective. Those who willfully violate this code jeopardize their participation in the US Club Soccer program.

### Coaches

The coach's role is one of teaching soccer skills and sportsmanship to the players. The coach is responsible for communicating practice and game times to the players and parents. The coach is also responsible for monitoring the behavior of the players and parents during practice and games. All coaches within the soccer program will promote good sportsmanship among players, foster team camaraderie, and help participants have fun while teaching players the technical skills of soccer. Unsportsmanlike conduct of coaches will not be tolerated by the program. Such unsportsmanlike conduct includes berating or making unkind comments to a player or referee that would reasonably be expected to cause substantial embarrassment to the player or referee. Other examples include the intentional abuse or attempt to abuse the player selection system or willful failure to follow program rules. Each coach agrees to the above code of conduct, certifies that he/she has read all US Club Soccer Rules and will abide by them and acknowledges that coaching in the soccer program is a privilege and not a right.

In addition, each Coach will ensure that his/her conduct sets a good example for team members and spectators. To meet these responsibilities, the Coach is expected to:

- Play each player a minimum of 50% of the game time.
- Know the official Laws of the Game of soccer and the rules of US Club Soccer and abide by them.
- Instruct player and parents in the rules and motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
- Respect the game officials at all times. Refrain from questioning their decisions or challenging their authority.
- Ensure that US Club Soccer rules are followed by all players and spectators.
- Ensure that fans of his or her team exhibit sportsmanship and maturity at all times and assist league and game officials in maintaining control of spectators during games.
- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team before, during, and after the game.
- Take appropriate steps to minimize scoring in runaway games.
- Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
- Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.

Remember that soccer is a game, and treat players and coaches on other teams as opponents, not enemies.

## **Players**

Every player is expected to:

- Know and respect the rules of soccer and US Club Soccer and abide by them at all times.
- Show respect and courtesy to officials and coaches by following their instructions and directions.
- Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during or after the game.
- Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive or profane language, taunting or humiliating remarks, and/or gestures and physical assault upon another player at any time.
- Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and display sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game and be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- Follow all Association rules, respecting at all times the property of others.

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## **Parents and Spectators**

The parents' role is one of support to the players and coaches. Parents should not engage in "coaching" from the sidelines, criticizing players, coaches or game officials or trying to influence the makeup of the team at any time.

Every parent and spectator is expected to:

- Learn and respect the rules of soccer and the rules of US Club Soccer.
- Show respect and courtesy to game officials, coaches, and players at all times.
- Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.

- Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team. Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- Ensure that your child is at all games and practices at the required time or provide the coach with an appropriate excuse beforehand.
- Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.
- Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating commitment to these virtues.
- Promote the concept that soccer is merely a game, and that players and coaches on other teams are opponents, not enemies.
- Follow the "24 Hour Rule"; if you have a complaint resulting from a game (or practice) situation, speak with the coach on the following day.

## **Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

### **By Players**

Individual breaches will be dealt with by the coach. Serious breaches may be referred to the Solana Beach Soccer Club Board. Consequences may include suspension for the game, subsequent games or the season.

### **By Parents or Spectators**

Breaches of conduct during practices and/or games shall be handled by the coach.

1. The parent or spectator shall receive one warning from the coach or coach's designee.
2. If the offending conduct persists, the coach will request the parent or spectator to leave the field.
3. If the parent or spectator refuses to leave the field, the coach will remove the parent's son/daughter from the game.
4. If a player is removed from the game under these circumstances, the player may not play in future games without the prior written consent of the Solana Beach Soccer Club Board.

### **By Coaches**

All breaches will be dealt with by the Solana Beach Soccer Club Board. A review hearing may be called and all involved parties will have an opportunity to be present. Upon completion of the hearing, a decision shall be made as to the future of the coach with the team. Possible consequences may include a reprimand, a suspension or the dismissal of the coach from the team.

## **Disputes**

If a conflict cannot be resolved satisfactorily, an appeal to the Solana Beach Soccer Club Board may be made by sending an email to the President or Vice President of the Club (contact list on the Club's web site: <http://www.solanabeachsoccerclub.com/>), by mail to P.O. Box 409, Solana Beach, CA 92075, or by phone (see web site for contact information).

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