



Waxhaw Soccer Club

Play with Respect Policy

WAXHAW SOCCER CLUB (WSC)

I. BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

To provide the best possible soccer environment for our players. At **Waxhaw Soccer Club**, we believe we have some of the best spectators in the region and across the county. But we want to make it better.

Soccer is a player's game; players need to be given the freedom to make decisions on their own without the fear of failure. Instruction from the sideline, as well as interference in the referee/player/coach dynamics, can negatively affect and influence the game – and more importantly, the development of players. There are three specific components of the game: the players, the coaches, and the referees. Parents are spectators – there to enjoy, cheer, and watch their children as they play. This is no different than our policy regarding parents' and players' observation boundaries during training.

At **Waxhaw Soccer Club**, we all sign specific Codes of Conduct in relation to our role at the club – players, coaches, and parents. We are a club that must hold each other mutually accountable for our actions, both the good and the bad. The *Play with Respect Policy* is designed to fully support the club's goals and values while not restricting anyone's participation in their respective role at the club. This is our commitment to you, our members.

II. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Players

- Players are responsible for their preparation and performance during the game.
- Players are responsible for their actions on the field in regard to teammates, opponents and referees.
- Players are responsible for making decisions on the field (when to pass and when to shoot, etc.).
- Players are instructed to listen only to their teammates and coaches during training and games.

Coaches

- Coaches are responsible for abiding by the code of conduct they signed.
- Coaches are responsible for the safety of the players during the course of the game. They have the authority to take the team off the field if the safety of the players is a concern.
- Coaches are responsible for communication directed towards the referees.
- Coaches are responsible for taking action against parents who violate the code of conduct and put the spirit of the game in jeopardy.

- Coaches are expected to display professionalism in regards to the game, players, parents, and referees. Our coaches are role models for our players, their parents, and the club.
- Coaches are expected to treat officials with respect and dignity and shall teach their players to do the same.
- Coaches are expected to refrain from all forms of abuse and harassment, whether verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment.

Parents

- Parents are responsible for all their actions, including abiding by the signed code of conduct.
- Parents are responsible for leading by example – Respect.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child arrives at the field on time and prepared for their game.
- Parents are responsible for helping to establish proper sideline behavior. This includes no alcohol, fighting, or firearms at any soccer event under the umbrella of the club.
- Parents are entitled to report any violations or improper behavior towards the appropriate club official.
- Parents are responsible for cheering on their child and team, refraining from making instructional comments from the sideline, or making comments towards the referees. Comments towards referees will not be tolerated.
- Parents are responsible for providing a safe environment for their children to play soccer.

III. ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

Waxhaw Soccer Club has a **zero-tolerance policy** regarding negative comments directed at players, coaching staff, association staff, or referees by any spectators, players, or coaches. The coaching staff has been instructed to ask any violators to immediately leave the complex. Should unruly spectator behavior continue, players may be substituted off the field.

Verbal abuse and/or harassment towards players, coaching staff, association staff, or referees will not be tolerated by **Waxhaw Soccer Club**. Any spectator found guilty of these violations will have their membership revoked at the club. In addition, any member (parent or player) engaging in behavior contrary to the culture we are trying to create at **Waxhaw Soccer Club**, including but not limited to disrespectful, disruptive, or abusive behavior, is subject to dismissal from the club.

IV. PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING VIOLATIONS

If you identify a violation or inappropriate behavior (whether from a parent, spectator, player, or coach), the following steps should be followed:

1. **Immediate Response:**

- **Coaches or Club Officials:** If the violation is occurring during a game or training session, the coach or any club official should address the behavior immediately by either:
 - Politely asking the individual to stop.
 - Asking the individual to leave the premises if the behavior persists.

2. **Reporting Violations:**

- If you are a **parent, coach, or spectator** who observes inappropriate behavior, you are encouraged to report it confidentially to the club's designated **NCYSA Discipline and Appeals Liaison**. This can be done through:
 - Filling out a formal **Incident Report Form** located at the bottom of this form.

3. **Investigation:**

- Once a report is received, the club will investigate the situation. This may involve speaking to witnesses, the individual(s) involved, and any other relevant parties.
- If the violation is found to be serious (e.g., verbal abuse, physical altercations, or repeated offenses), further disciplinary action may be taken, including a temporary or permanent ban from club events.

4. **Disciplinary Actions:**

- Disciplinary actions will follow NCYSA Guidelines and will vary depending on the severity of the violation and may include:
 - A verbal or written warning.
 - A meeting with the violator (parent/player/coach) to discuss the incident.
 - Suspension or removal from a game, practice, or event.
 - Revocation of club membership for severe or repeated violations.

5. **Follow-Up:**

- After addressing the violation, **Waxhaw Soccer Club** will follow up with the involved parties to ensure compliance with the club's policies and to maintain a positive environment for all involved.
- Regular communication will be maintained with parents, players, and coaches to ensure that everyone is informed about the expectations and standards of behavior.

6. **Appeals**

- Per NCYSA guidelines and Waxhaw Athletic Association governs, appeals can be submitted to the Club and Association.
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WAXHAW SOCCER INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Date of Incident: _____

Time of Incident: _____

Location of Incident (Field #, Venue, etc.): _____

Person Reporting the Incident

Full Name: _____

Role (Coach, Parent, Player, Referee, Spectator, etc.): _____

Contact Information (Phone/Email): _____

Description of Incident

1. Type of Incident (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Verbal Abuse
- ☐ Physical Altercation
- ☐ Harassment (Sexual, Emotional, or Other)
- ☐ Unsafe Behavior
- ☐ Violation of Code of Conduct
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

2. Persons Involved:

- ☐ Player(s) Involved (Name(s), Jersey Number(s), and Team(s):

- ☐ Coach(es) Involved (Name(s) and Team(s)):

- ☐ Parent(s)/Spectator(s) Involved (Name(s)):

- ☐ Referee(s) Involved (Name(s)):

3. **Describe the Incident:** (Please provide a detailed description of what occurred. Include who was involved, what happened, and any actions taken.)

Witnesses (If Applicable)

Name(s) of Witness(es): _____

Contact Information (Phone/Email): _____

Immediate Action Taken

(Please describe any immediate action taken at the time of the incident, such as intervention by a coach, official, or other staff member.)

Follow-Up Actions

(If any follow-up actions were taken or recommended, please list them here, such as contacting parents, suspending a player, etc.)

Attachments

(Please attach any relevant documents, photos, or videos that could assist in investigating this incident, if applicable.)

- ☐ Photos/Videos
 - ☐ Other Documents (e.g., emails, text messages)
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Report Submission

(Once completed, please submit this form to a designated club official, such as the Club Manager or Safety Officer. If this form is being submitted electronically, please email it to Dan Thompson dan.thompson@dfinsolutions.com our clubs NCYSA Discipline and Appeals Liaison and CC soccerpres@wxwathletics.org and jmercado@wxwathletics.org.)