

AYSO Region 87 Misconduct and Disciplinary Action Policy

AYSO Region 87 is a nonprofit community service organization, which promotes the positive development of our youth through the beautiful game of soccer. If you play, parent, coach, referee, cheer, or drive someone to the field, you have a role in the success of AYSO. The purpose of this document is to define the AYSO Region 87 code of conduct and our various responsibilities. To assure that each AYSO family complies with this policy, a signed Code of Conduct Agreement is required prior to the first game of the season.

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the social and emotional development of children. It is essential for all Region 87 participants to conduct themselves consistent with the six core principles of good sportsmanship: Trust, respect, responsibility, fairness, empathy and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these six cornerstones of character.

There are many reasons to play and support the game of soccer. However, in all of our passion and excitement, we may forget the reasons that we signed up with AYSO. We may forget that all of the players are our children, and that our neighbors and friends are sitting next to, or across from us. We may forget that the soccer field is our opportunity to parent, teach, encourage, and thank everyone who helped to make the game possible. Winning a soccer match is a wonderful accomplishment. However, watching the best parts of our character lift and carry our children through defeat: is equally rewarding.

Volunteers

Our Coaches dedicate a large part of their time and energy to create a fun and rewarding soccer experience for all of our players. Our volunteer referees are dedicated to ensure that our children are safe, while upholding the spirit and laws of the game. Behind them are the board members, Team parents, field parents, snack parents, team coordinators, spectators, and everyone else.

Derogatory comments, or persistent complaining about the referee, the coach, or players does not model good sportsmanship and does not contribute to a positive experience. Furthermore, it creates an unsafe environment for all volunteers. Nobody enjoys working hard, and giving of themselves, when their efforts are received with harsh criticism, ignorant dissent, or ingratitude. If we cannot attract and retain active volunteers, AYSO cannot continue to provide the valuable youth development opportunities for our community. There is no rational reason to accept, excuse, or exhibit disrespectful behavior while participating at an AYSO soccer event.

Coaches

The coach of each team has the responsibility for creating and maintaining a positive team attitude. A team can only play as well as it practices. The attitudes, and behaviors brought to the game, are not created there. Any behavior problems that arise during a soccer match will be managed through the coach. The coach is responsible for establishing behavior expectations and managing all player and spectator activities. This is a major responsibility that requires everyone's cooperation and respect. To assist the coach with this difficult task, the misconduct and disciplinary action policy will be reviewed with each player's guardian and a signed code of conduct will be required prior to the first season game.

Referees

The Referee Team consists of a Center Referee and Assistant Referee's. The Center Referee has full and final authority as to the interpretation and application of the laws of the game. The Assistant Referee's are to be given clear right of way to the entire length of the sideline. The Referee team is not to be approached, or distracted. The Center Referee is responsible for controlling the match and has full authority to stop or abandon the match, for any infringement of the laws or for outside interference. The Center Referee may, at his or her discretion, expel a coach or spectator who fails to conduct them selves in a responsible manner. If you have questions during a game you may direct them to the coach. Under no circumstances should comments, questions, or complaints be directed to the referee team during a match.

Region 87 Board

The AYSO Region 87 Board is committed to maintaining the highest standards of positive coaching, good sportsmanship and player development. In accordance with FIFA laws of the game and AYSO National Guidelines, misconduct during a match will be judged at the discretion of the Center Referee as he (she) interprets FIFA Laws and Region 87 Exceptions to Laws (Specifically, Region 87 - Misconduct and Disciplinary Policy). In instances where coaches, players, or spectators cannot control their comments or behavior during a match, the Center Referee may direct the coach to remove offensive or distracting persons, and play will not resume until the coach has assured compliance. If the coach is asked to leave, the game will be forfeited unless a qualified replacement is available.

All match misconduct that results in a sendoff, requires a misconduct report to be filed by the Center Referee and a minimum 1 game suspension for the individual that was sent off. The Region 87 Disciplinary Review Board (DRB) will review the misconduct report, and additional sanctions may be applied to the player, coach, or spectator. The nature of these sanctions will depend on the circumstances and severity of the misconduct and may include banning of specific individuals from future AYSO participation. All DRB decisions are final with no opportunity for appeal. In all instances of physical violence, participating individuals will be banned from future AYSO activities and the Board will cooperate with law enforcement.

Region 87 Code of Conduct Agreement

I _____ am a parent or guardian of a registered AYSO Region 87 player. I have read and reviewed the AYSO Region 87 Misconduct and Disciplinary Action Policy with my coach and agree to abide by the following guidelines on good sportsmanship to help ensure all our games will be a positive and safe experience for our children, volunteers, and spectators.

1. I will remember that we are supporting the game of soccer for the player's enjoyment.
2. I will inform the coach of any player injuries, disabilities, or limitations.
3. I will be a positive role model and demonstrate support, respect, and courtesy for all players, spectators, coaches, and referees.
4. I will not boo, taunt, use profanity, gesture, or otherwise communicate disrespect for the game or anyone.
5. I will not encourage unsportsmanlike behavior that may endanger the health or well being of any athlete, coach, referee, or spectator.
6. I understand that the Center Referee makes all decisions related to the conduct of the game. I will respect the Referee's authority and will not challenge, discuss, question, or confront any Referee. I accept that the Center Referee's decisions are final.
7. All spectators agree to be under the authority of the coach. If your behavior is not consistent with a safe and positive experience for everyone, your coach may ask you to leave. I agree to be immediately obedient and cooperate with all of my coach's instructions during a match.
8. Positive coaching is encouraged, but not from spectators. As a courtesy to my coach, I will not interfere with player directions. I will cheer for the team and avoid commenting on any individual player.
9. All comments should be positive. Dissent, the inciting of dissent, misconduct, foul play or excessive force will not be tolerated. The Center Referee will make all judgments and decisions in this regard and they are final.
10. I will demand that all AYSO activities be free from alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.

I have read and understand the AYSO Region 87 Code of Conduct and agree to abide with the guidelines of good sportsmanship for the benefit of everyone.

Signed: _____ Date: _____