

SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE **SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY**

The Suffolk Soccer Interleague (SSI) was founded in 1987 for the purpose of providing a safe environment for those players who were interested in playing soccer for their club but no longer had viable age divisions in which to play. In keeping with the spirit in which this program was founded, SSI requires that all participants, including players, coaches, parents, spectators and referees, behave toward others with courtesy and respect.

This policy has been written by SSI to help maintain a healthy balance between fair play and safety. This policy is a league goal to establish a better relationship between coaches, players and officials. It is the intent of Suffolk Soccer Interleague to help players, coaches, parents and fans to be made aware of the true meaning of **SPORTSMANSHIP**.

SPORTSMANSHIP is defined as the practice of participating in sports with a conduct and attitude that is considered befitting of that participant, especially fair play and courtesy. It encompasses both ethical behavior and acts of integrity.

ETHICS is defined as the principles of right and wrong that are accepted by an individual or a group. It is a system of principals governing behavior.

INTEGRITY is defined as a firm adherence to a code of values that incorporate principles of honesty.

FUNDAMENTALS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- 1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game.*
Know the rules. If you do not know the rules, refrain from expressing opinions on coaches or officials. The **SPIRIT** of good sportsmanship depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as the letter of the law
- 2. Exercise representative behavior at all times.*
Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.
- 3. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.*
Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.
- 4. Exhibit respect for the official(s)*
Officials are impartial arbitrators. They have been trained in the laws of the game and are performing to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all participants are part of the game. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the officials decisions.
- 5. Openly display respect for opponent at all times*
Opponents should be treated cordially and be accorded tolerance. Treat them as you want to be treated.
Be a positive Representative for your club and team at all times
- 6. Display pride in your actions at all times*
Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a club and team representative.

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CONDUCT GUIDELINES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

COACHES:

- Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete
- Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership. Adhere to strong ethical and integrity standards
- Learn the rules of the game and teach them in letter and spirit
- Set a good example for players and spectators. Refrain from:
 - Arguments in front of your team and parents
 - Gestures indicating an official or opposing coach does not know what they are doing or talking about
 - Throwing objects in disgust
- Shake hands with opposing coaches and officials before and after each match
- Respect the integrity of the official. By giving respect, you get respect.
- Do not use profanity or other objectionable language
- Be responsible for your players and your sideline
- Make sportsmanship your first priority

PLAYERS:

- Learn the rules of the game.
- Treat opposing players as you would want to be treated
- Wish opponents good luck before the game and congratulate them in a courteous manner following victory or defeat
- Respect the judgment of the official(s), treating them with respect even if you disagree with their judgment will only make a positive impression of you and your team.
- Play for the fun of it.
- Control your temper. Not only against the opposing team and officials, but with yourself and your teammates.
- Do not use foul or inappropriate language at any time.

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS:

- Always encourage your child to play by the rules.
- Applaud good plays by either team
- Watch and enjoy the **GAME!** Let the players play, the coach's coach and the officials officiate.
- Never ridicule or shout at your child or others for making a mistake or losing the game.
- Refrain from questioning the official's judgment or honesty. Recognize they are symbols of fair play integrity and sportsmanship
- Use no foul or inappropriate language

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UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

- Taunting and trash talking
- “IN YOUR FACE” celebrations
- Fighting or violence of any kind
- Use of profanity or other disrespectful language
- Questioning, disagreeing or harassing officials
- Throwing objects onto the playing field
- Booing an officials decision
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches or participants

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

- Congratulating teammates and opponents for effort and excellent performances
- Shaking hands before and after the game
- Thanking officials for their effort and work
- Thanking coaches for their time and help
- Treat competition as a ”**GAME**” instead of a “**WAR**”
- Applaud at end of game for performances of all participants
- Show concern for an injured player, regardless of team
- Helping a teammate or opponent who has fallen or been injured

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FAILURE TO COMPLY

SUFFOLK SOCCER INTERLEAGUE by this document will be enforcing a **“ZERO TOLERANCE / NO DISSENT & SPORTSMANSHIP RULE.”**

SSI requires that all participants, including players, coaches, parents, spectators and referees, behave toward others with courtesy and respect. As such, SSI has a **zero tolerance policy** in regards to abuse, dissent and unsportsmanlike conduct as outlined by the following:

“Abuse” includes, but is not limited to:

- Verbal or physical abuse of an opponent by a coach, player or spectator,
- Verbal or physical abuse of a player by the player’s own coach,
- Verbal or physical abuse of a referee by a coach, player or spectator,
- Comments of any kind that can be construed as abusive, threatening, racist or unsportsmanlike,
- Physical violence (fighting, spitting, attempting to strike).

“Dissent” includes, but is not limited to:

- Questioning an official’s call.
- Voicing displeasure with a call in a manner that can be heard by the official, players and fans.

“Unsportsmanlike Conduct” includes:

- Any and all actions, behavior and language deemed to be not appropriate by Suffolk Soccer Interleague and in not accordance with the Rules of Fair Play and the Spirit of the Game.

Any player, coach, parent, spectator or referee violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by SSI, including:

- Fines
- Probation,
- Suspension,
- Permanent expulsion of an individual, team or club from the program.

The coach of each team is responsible for his players and parents / fans behavior on his / her respective sideline.

Therefore any card given to a player or parent / fan will also be directed at the coach.

If a red card is issued, then the coach and the offending person will be required to **leave the field**. If the team does not have an approved assistant coach on the sideline, then the game will be called.

A red card does not have to be issued for Suffolk Soccer Interleague to enact penalties against a coach, players or parent / fan if the official deems a report necessary.

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THE PENALTIES FOR DISSENT OR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT to any Coach:

1st YELLOW CARD = 1 GAME SUSPENSION

2nd YELLOW CARD = 2 GAME SUSPENSION

RED CARD = 2 GAME SUSPENSION

Second offense on any of the above will be doubled and or probation with a \$ 100.00 fine.

SSI will review all incidents of dissent or unsportsmanlike conduct and will require timely input from coaches, referees, Club Interleague Coordinators, Club Director of Referees and Club Presidents in order for SSI to make an informed decision on appropriate disciplinary action.

If required, the Sportsmanship committee will conduct a fact-finding meeting at a neutral location.

When convened, there will be a **MANDATORY** attendance requirement by the coach and a member of his/her board of directors at this meeting. If the card was issued to a player or a parent/fan, then they will also be required to attend the meeting with the coach and a member of their board of directors.

All attempts to accommodate the schedules of all involved will be instituted.

It will be the responsibility of the Sportsmanship Committee, based on the facts presented, to determine if the offending party will be allowed to continue to coach, play or attend that team's future games.

If a card is issued at the end of a season, then that penalty will be enforced at the next season's scheduled games.

Failure to attend this meeting will result in automatic expulsion from Suffolk Soccer Interleague.

No protest is honored: Decisions by SSI are final

Arbitrations: Only honored if rule was mis-applied.

Procedure:

- 1) **Request for Arbitration must be submitted within 72 hours after SSI has notified said Club and/or Coach of the disciplinary decision. Request must be on Club letterhead and be signed by a Board member.**
- 2) **Fee to request Arbitration: \$150.00**
- 3) **Must submit Request & Fee by registered certified mail to**
SSI
PO Box 279
Lake Ronkonkoma NY 11779
- 4) **Arbitration Committee will be notified and convene a meeting at a neutral location within 10 days from receiving the Club Request**
- 5) **Only those individuals affected by the SSI ruling will be allowed to attend.**
See Failure to comply under sportsmanship
"ZERO TOLERANCE / NO DISSENT & SPORTSMANSHIP RULE"
- 6) **Any Board member of the club may attend with the coach and or player.**
- 7) **Committee can increase the disciplinary actions determined by SSI.**
- 8) **Refund of fee if ruling is over turned by committee.**

