



Salem Youth Soccer Association

Travel Parent / Player / Coach Sideline Conduct and Ethics Policy

Parent and Coaching Conduct

Parent & Spectator Conduct:

Please be respectful of the game officials and coaching staff and allow coaches to coach. Parents are encouraged to support their players' development, but not during games or practices. This includes refraining from comments or instruction on the field—especially following mistakes.

Outbursts, negative remarks, or disruptive behavior from parents, spectators, or players will not be tolerated. Such actions may result in removal from the team and/or the organization.

Sportsmanship & Conduct:

Good sportsmanship and professional behavior are expected at all times from players, coaches, and parents. All participants are expected to:

- Show positive support for your child and teammates while also refraining from any negative comments directed toward opponents.
- Demonstrate respect and restraint toward coaches, officials, opponents, and fellow spectators in the event decisions and calls on the field are made that you may not fully agree with.
- Refrain from conversations with referees, coaches, players, or parents regarding calls or plays on the field.

SYSA reserves the right to dismiss any player, coach, or spectator who violates these standards of sportsmanship or ethics.

Game Reports & Sideline Conduct:

After each game, officials and coaches are required to complete reports that are submitted to the NHSL. Any incidents that occur are documented in these reports. The NHSL has made it clear that it will not tolerate poor sideline behavior and may suspend coaches or fine clubs if issues persist.

To protect our club and its players, SYSA has developed its own **Sideline Conduct Policy**. This policy sets clear expectations for players, coaches, and spectators, and outlines the consequences of failing to meet those standards. By following these guidelines, we can ensure that the focus remains on player development, respect for the game, and a positive experience for all involved.

Disciplinary Process:

1. Email received from the league regarding the incident.
2. Email sent to the league for further clarification of the accusations. Travel VP and SYSA President both included in the thread.
3. Email sent to the involved/accused SYSA parties to hear their side of what went on. Travel VP and SYSA President both included in the thread.
4. If SYSA finds that this conversation uncovers things that the league should be made aware of, then SYSA will reengage the league in conversation about the incident.
5. If the offense is found to be credible, the 1st, 2nd or 3rd offense consequence will then be issued in an email to the involved person(s) with all Executive Board members being made aware of the situation.

NOTE: The league may take actions of their own depending on the severity of the incident. SYSA has no control over what the league chooses to or not to do.

Parent Consequences of Violating the SYSA Sideline Conduct Policy:

- **First Recorded Offense:** Written email advising you to avoid future confrontations by walking away to diffuse the situation.
- **Second Recorded Offense:** Written email informing you that you are to remain in your vehicle in the parking lot at the next game while your child plays.

- **Third and Final Recorded Offense:** Written email informing you that you are to remain in your vehicle in the parking lot for the remainder of your players time in the SYSA program while your child plays in their games.
- All above consequences are superseded by any decision that may come down from the NHSL itself as consequences of their own policies and procedures.

Player Consequences of Violating the SYSA Sideline Conduct Policy:

- **First Recorded Offense:** Written email to your parents advising you to avoid future confrontations by walking away to diffuse the situation. Speak calmly with your coach about any issues you may have with opponents, parents or officials.
- **Second Recorded Offense:** Written email to your parents informing you that you are suspended for one game.
- **Third and Final Recorded Offense:** Written email to your parents informing you that you are no longer eligible to play in the SYSA program.
- All above consequences are superseded by any decision that may come down from the NHSL itself as consequences of their own policies and procedures.

Coach Consequences of Violating the SYSA Sideline Conduct Policy:

- **First Recorded Offense:** Written email advising you to avoid future confrontations by walking away to diffuse the situation.
- **Second Recorded Offense:** Written email informing you that you are suspended for one game.
- **Third and Final Recorded Offense:** Written email informing you that you are no longer eligible to be a SYSA head or assistant coach.
- All above consequences are superseded by any decision that may come down from the NHSL itself as consequences of their own policies and procedures.

Parent and Coaching Ethics

Parents:

- **Prioritize your child's well-being:** Place the emotional and physical well-being of your child ahead of a personal desire to win.

- **Ensure safety:** Insist that your child plays in a safe and healthy environment and is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- **Be a positive fan:** Support coaches and officials to encourage a positive experience for everyone.
- **Promote fun:** Make youth sports enjoyable for your child and remember that the game is for them, not the adults.
- **Instill respect:** Ask your child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect, regardless of their differences.

Coaches:

- **Prioritize player well-being:** Place the emotional and physical well-being of your players ahead of winning.
- **Provide a safe environment:** Ensure players have a safe playing situation and are free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- **Lead by example:** Demonstrate fair play, good sportsmanship, and respectful behavior toward everyone.
- **Treat players as individuals:** Recognize the different emotional and physical developments within the same age group.
- **Develop character:** Focus on teaching technique, sportsmanship, and fair play, developing good citizens and athletes.
- **Be knowledgeable:** Understand the rules of the sport and teach them appropriately to your players.

Players:

- Players, look to your parents and coaches to set a proper example for you and refer to your **Travel Player Code of Conduct** as a guide to what good sportsmanship is all about.