



SOCCKER UNITY PROJECT

MORE THAN PLAY

Soccer Unity Project & Partnered Organizations Code of Conduct Roles/Expectations, Procedures & Zero Tolerance Policies

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Code of Conduct, Roles/Expectations, Procedures & Zero Tolerance

Soccer Unity Project's mandate is to give children in Boston (and adjacent neighborhoods) an opportunity to experience a high-quality soccer program and **engender a love of the game** regardless of prior experience or economic means. We do this through our free programs and partnering with other organizations.

Code of Conduct:

This Code of Conduct is for all **Soccer Unity Project, South End Soccer, Boston Alliance, and Boston Scores teams, and any additional partners**, playing as part of Soccer Unity Project. It is expected that all participants, coaches, and spectators show respect towards teammates, opponents, coaches, spectators, and referees; conducting oneself with honor, dignity, and self-control; exemplifying good sportsmanship during wins and losses; accepting decisions of coaches and referees with class and dignity; and play of the game for the fun, the challenge, and the chance to show your best.

Coach's Role & Expectations:

Soccer Unity Project, South End Soccer, and partners coaches aim to create an environment for players to develop fundamental skills on and off of the soccer field, by creating a fun and safe environment for players by:

- Supporting and practicing Soccer Unity Project Code of Conduct, Massachusetts Youth Soccer's Mission and Policies, BAYS League Rule Book and US Soccer's Laws of the Game.
- Teaching players the Laws of the Game through engaging practices and coaching at games.
- Respecting the age and development of players, by teaching and communicating to their age and ability.
- Creating an environment for the team to respect each other, learn the game, and **have fun**.
- Communicating with players where they should never be ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Developing a team to respect the ability of opponents, opposing coaches, and judgment of referees
- Setting a good example and being generous with your praise when it is deserved.
- Keeping informed of sound principles of coaching and attending coaching courses.
- Checking equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate for the age and ability of your players.
- Following the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.

Player's Role & Expectations:

Soccer Unity Project, South End Soccer, and partners aim to provide an environment where the players can have the most fun, learn the game of soccer, and develop their skills by:

- Being generous when you win. Being gracious when you lose.
- Being fair and respectful to your teammates, coaches, referees, spectators, and the opposing team.
- Obeying the laws of the game.
- Working for the good of your team. Not for the win or for yourself.
- Respecting your coach and thanking them for their time.
- Talking to your coach when you are struggling or need help, he/she is there to help you have fun.
- Accepting the decisions of the officials with good grace.
- Conducting yourself with honor and dignity.
- Having fun!

Parent's & Guardian's Roles and Expectations:

Soccer Unity Project, South End Soccer, and partners realize how trusted adults aid in players' experiences and development as a player. Help us provide the best platform for these players by:

- **Do's:**
 - Being positive or quiet at games - applaud good plays by your child's team and by the opposing team.
 - Helping your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game and practice.
 - Teaching your child that hard work and effort are more important than victory.
 - Letting the coaches coach. These adults may be volunteers and they are giving their time to create a positive experience.
 - Letting the referee's ref and supporting them from the sidelines. Treat them and their calls fairly and respectfully.

- **Remember:**
 - This is a youth developmental level. Your player is currently not playing for an athletic scholarship and there are no scouts here.
 - Support young referees as they are early in their careers and may still be developing
 - Youth sport is filled with mistakes from players to coaches to officials, the only way to grow is to make these mistakes and grow from them.
 - Have fun! This is the best part of parenting or being a spectator, watching children have fun and play.

- **Don't's:**
 - Coach your player or another player on the team.
 - Allow the coaches who have been granted the authority to teach the game and run the team.
 - Stress out over the game.
 - If you find yourself pacing up and down the sideline, anxiously following the action as it unfolds on the field or yelling instructions – Stop. Breathe.
 - Approach the bench or playing area during a game (unless in an emergency or at the coach's request).
 - Respect that this is the coach's teaching space. You are there to watch the game.
 - Speak negatively on the sidelines about the coach, officials, or opponents.

Zero Tolerance & Code of Conduct Violations

Soccer Unity Project, South End Soccer, and partners consider any violation of the Code of Conduct or Zero Tolerance by parents, coaches, or spectators of our programs and partners' programs a serious issue. Disciplinary action resulting from Zero Tolerance violations is subject to the Sportsmanship Committee and Board's discretion and can include warnings, suspensions, and/or a permanent loss of participation of the player, parent/guardian, or coach. A parent, guardian, or coach does not need to be issued a yellow or red card during the game to be in violation of the zero-tolerance policy. Any comment in the referee's report indicating a zero-tolerance violation could result in disciplinary action.

Coaches, Player, and Spectator Actions and Repercussions:

Proper conduct by all coaches, players, and spectators with Soccer Unity Project, South End Soccer, Boston Alliance, Boston Scores, or any partner teams or programs is expected. We have **ZERO TOLERANCE** for any unruly behaviors. Listed below are minimums for discipline and are subject to change at the discretion of the Soccer Unity Project Sportsmanship Committee including immediate or post-game discipline and/or removal from the program or organization.

Action	Immediate Repercussions	Post-Game Repercussions (Minimum)
Using profane language toward a player, opposition coach, parent, or referee	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic	1 Match suspension. Must be served by dressing for the game and practices.
Spitting on or in the direction of an opposition player, opposition coach, referee, teammate, spectator, or coach	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic	1 Match suspension. Must be served by dressing for the game and practices.
Use of discriminatory language or slurs based on gender, age, race, ethnicity, identity, religion, national origin, mental or physical disability; or any act or conduct described as harassment to the opposition player, opposition coach, referee, teammate, spectator, or coach	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic	1 Match suspension. Must be served by dressing for the game and practices.
Using obscene gestures towards an opposing player, opposing coach, referee, or spectator	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic	1 Match suspension. Must be served by dressing for games and practices
Deliberately throwing, kicking, or punting a soccer ball at an opponent, referee, or spectator	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic and to leave the premise immediately	1 Match suspension. Must be served by dressing for the games and practices
Physically assaulting another player, coach, referee, or spectator	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic, and leaving the premises immediately	2 Match Suspension. Must be served by dressing for the game and practices
Leaving the bench to begin/engage in an altercation on the field in any sense	Benched for the remainder of the game/clinic and to leave the premises immediately	2 Match Suspension. Must be served by dressing for the game and practices

** See below for reporting processes with organization and leagues**

Staff Contacts for Support & Reports

If any of the above situations arise, coach to immediately reach out to:

- Phi Nguyen (617) 799-6668 for players Grade 8 & lower, and any Boston Alliance FC teams
- Ethan Goldman (617) 775-5597 for Boston Scores players in Grade 9 and above

A written report to be emailed to sportsmanship@soccerunityproject.org by the end of the day. In this email please include Phi Nguyen or Ethan Goldman as deemed appropriate.

If the incident occurs during a BAYS game, the coach is to complete the game report on BAYS website.

BAYS Zero Tolerance Policy

Soccer Unity Project supports BAYS Zero Tolerance Policy, which governs the behavior of coaches and spectators toward referees. The policy is designed to foster good sportsmanship, provide a friendly and safe environment, and support the development of referees, many of whom are relatively young and inexperienced. The policy is reprinted below and on BAYS' website.

The policy states that all individuals responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the referee. Failure to do so will undermine the referee's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for the players, the referee, and all the other participants and spectators.

- No one except the players is to speak to the referee during or after the game.

Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions and point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referee if addressed.

- Absolutely no disputing calls, during or after the game, no remarks to the referee to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- **NO YELLING** at the referee, EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game
- If you have feedback regarding a referee, please contact the town soccer club's referee coordinator or visit the BAYS.org website for the game in question.

Parent/Guardian/Player Agreement:

By signing below, parent & player have read and agree to fulfill their roles and expectations, and abide by the Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance:

Player Name: _____ **Parent/Guardian Name:** _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Coach Agreement:

By Signing below, the coach has read and agrees to fulfill their role and expectations, and abide by the Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance:

Coach Name: _____ **Team Name:** _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Team: _____ **Season/Year:** _____ **Age group:** _____