

Easthampton Youth Soccer Association

Disciplinary Policy

If a legitimate complaint concerning a coach, player, parent or guardian is communicated to any member of the Board of Directors (Board) it should be noted and presented to the Executive Committee and the Disciplinary Committee as soon as possible. The Disciplinary Committee should consist of at least three members of the Board who are appointed by the President. If the complaint is found to be serious enough to go before the Disciplinary Committee, the process will be as follows:

1. An investigation will take place, to interview and get a consensus of up to 5, but not limited to, parents, children and/or coaches, to determine what transpired during the said time.
2. A letter or phone contact will be made to those concerned specifying the complaint and the time and date of the panel meeting.
3. A meeting with the parents, child and/or coach and the committee will take place. This is to be taken as a warning pertaining to the unacceptable behavior. At this time, all issues will be discussed concerning the degree of severity of the behavior and the subsequent disciplinary action.

OFFENSES - May include, but are not limited to: misconduct/unsportsmanlike behavior, disrespect, vulgarity, endangerment to others/fighting, and verbal or physical harassment.

First Violation - Verbal warning, accompanied by meeting with 3 board members. This should occur as soon as possible after the incident.

Second Violation - Suspension from all participation for a period of up to 2 weeks.

Third Violation - Expulsion for remainder of season.

In order to have a sound disciplinary policy, and to adhere to the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association code of conduct, it is necessary to review expectations of EYSA coaches, players, referees and spectators.

GOALS:

Easthampton Youth Soccer Association's mission is to organize and provide an environment for the children of Easthampton to learn and play soccer at both a recreational and competitive level. The focus of the soccer association's programs is to develop children's soccer skills and educate them in the rules and strategies of soccer in a fun atmosphere. Coaches and parents are encouraged to work together to foster a love of soccer while developing a strong sense of teamwork, sportsmanship, respect and community.

COACHES:

The Board cannot thank you enough for all you do. We understand that you are volunteers and that you are giving your time and energy for our children. The following is a practical list derived from the coaches' code of conduct of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association.

- Any specific problems with children, parents, opposing coaches or referees should be reported to EYSA.
- Constructive criticism of referees may be offered after the game and in private. The coach may not object to a referee's call or judgment on the field. The coach or spectators may not question a referee at any time. Remember that many referees are young and inexperienced and need time to develop.
- Coaches must know the EYSA rules for their age group.
- They must take care of their league issued equipment.
- Coaches should organize practices on the EYSA fields whenever they are available and in consultation with parents and other coaches.
- Coaches are encouraged to utilize parental help with children especially with those who are not cooperating.
- When giving advice to the children, referees, or parents, coaches must remember to model excellent behavior and remain positive. Look for the good in your children and be forgiving of errors.
- Coaches should start games in a timely manner especially *in the latter half of the season*. If no referee arrives for your game, coaches may act as referee and are entitled to the same respect as a referee.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.
- During the game, you are responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team as well as the sportsmanship of your players. You can accomplish this by being an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.
- After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.

KIDSAFE Program:

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and its members have a standard of participation for coaches and referees. All coaches and referees will be screened by CORI to determine their suitability for working with minors.

REFEREES:

In order to have a safe, controlled environment for the children, it is essential that referees take full responsibility, in communication with the coaches, for their field.

- Referees must learn the rules for each age group and consult with the coaches as to the length of the game and the rules for substitutions.
- Referees must be more than on time for games and use their equipment properly.
- Whistles, calls, and time must be highly audible.
- Referees are encouraged to run alongside the children so that they can make the proper call.

- A referee does not have to accept abusive treatment from anyone, including, spectators, coaches or players. To that end, referees should make use of the card system of the league.

Individual Red Card Offenses:

- swearing or offensive, insulting or abusive language
- fighting
- deliberate, unnecessary violence
- vandalism of facilities
- spitting at an opponent

Individual Yellow Card Offenses:

- arguing with the referee
- showing dissent in an unacceptable gesture or action
- abuse of equipment
- dangerous play
- verbal provocation of opponents
- poor sportsmanship, for example, deliberate kicking away of the ball
- inappropriate comments from bench players

Any of these offenses as acted upon by the players, coaches, or spectators may be handled by the referee's discretion.

SPECTATORS:

Spectators are invited to attend games and support the children's efforts. However, in order to ensure that the EYSA's goals are met, spectators must adhere to the EYSA rules.

- Spectators are to stand back at least 3 feet from the sideline. This allows the players to play the sidelines and allows everyone to see.
- Spectators should be on the opposite side of the field from the coaches and players (except when there is only one side available).
- Spectators are expected to cheer on their players but must resist the desire to provide direction or instructions to any player. This is the job of the coach or assistant coach. Cheering your players and shouting encouragement is fine.
- Spectators must resist the urge to criticize any players or coaches, either on their team or the other team, or referees. If a parent has an issue with their child's coach, the issue should be raised away from the field in a private manner. Similarly if they have an issue with a referee, they can provide feedback to the COACH after the game, as coaches have methods to provide feedback to the league about referees and the league can then work with the referee.

PARENTS:

- Please help your coach by arriving on time with your child dressed in uniform, shin guards and shoes properly tied.

- All earrings should be removed or covered and all other jewelry, including rubber bracelets, removed before game time.
- Make sure your child has a water bottle available to him.
- Make sure your child attends practice where he/she will have a chance to learn.
- Please cheer for everyone, especially your child.
- Offer positive encouragement and take notice of new skills and determination.
- Redefine a winner. Winners are people who make maximum effort, continue to learn and improve, and do not let mistakes, or fear of making mistakes stop them. Learning from mistakes is part of the game.
- Remember that all children are born with different abilities and develop at different rates. The true measure of how a child is doing is not in comparison to others but rather in comparison to his/her prior best.

Adopted by majority vote of the Board of Directors on April 28, 2010.