

Temecula Valley Soccer Association

Codes of Conduct

and

Disciplinary Procedures

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

Temecula Valley Soccer Association values sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among all players, coaches, officials and spectators. This Code of Conduct has been established and adopted to ensure the principles of Temecula Valley Soccer Association are understood and met by all individuals associated with this organization.

The Code of Conduct for coaches, players, parents, and spectators will be thoroughly discussed at the pre-season coaches meeting.

The following codes of conduct will be strictly enforced.

2. Players Code of Conduct

Each player will ensure that his/her playing conduct conforms to the conduct stated below.

- a. Know the rules and abide by them.**
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game.**
- c. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another player at any time.**
- d. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of game. Be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.**
- e. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy and manners of each individual player.**

3. Coaches Code of Conduct

Each Head Coach is responsible to see that their assistant coaches, players, and spectators abide by the respective Code of Conduct. It is also the coach's responsibility to review the Codes of Conduct with their assistant coaches and players.

Each coach will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a responsible adult fairly competing to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the coach is expected to:

- a. Know the rules and abide by them.**
- b. Instruct players in the rules and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.**

- c. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.**
- d. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner.**
- e. Ensure that fans of his/her team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites, and assist the game officials in maintaining control of spectators during the games.**
- f. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.**
- g. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.**
- h. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.**
- l. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.**

4. Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct

Each parent and spectator will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a responsible adult or youth who are positively encouraging all participants to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each parent and spectator is expected to:

- a. Respect the rules of the game.**
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.**
- c. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner.**
- d. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.**
- e. Maintain control of his/her emotions, avoid the use of abusive language, profanity, and gestures of ill temper, and refrain at all times from making hostile or negative remarks about the opposing team.**

- f. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose. Do not interact in a negative fashion with fans, players or coaches of the opposing team or game officials.**
- g. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.**

5. Referees Code of Conduct

It is the referee's responsibility to review and abide by the Codes of Conduct.

Each referee will ensure that his/her conduct is that of a responsible adult and/or authority figure and perform to the limit of his/her ability. To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the referee is expected to:

- a. Know the rules, abide by them, and enforce them fairly.**
- b. Instruct players in the rules in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.**
- c. Respect the coaches, players and spectators of both teams during the play of the game and at its conclusion.**
- d. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.**
- e. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a person's reputation is built not only on their ability, but also on their sportsmanship, courtesy, and manners.**
- f. Understand that he/she represents the Temecula Valley Soccer Association and must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times.**

6. Offensive Actions

Any individual violating the Code of Conduct set forth above shall be subject to penalties and sanctions as set forth in the Disciplinary Procedures below. In addition to conforming to the requirements of the Code of Conduct above, the following actions are specifically prohibited

(“Offensive Actions”):

- a. Refusing to abide by a referee's decision.**
- b. Verbally abusing or assaulting any player, coach, referee, parent, spectator, or Temecula Valley Soccer Association staff.**
- c. Physically assaulting, abusing, or threatening any player, coach, referee, parent, spectator, or Temecula Valley Soccer Association staff.**
- d. Stalking, following, or attempting to intimidate any player, coach, referee, parent, spectator, or Temecula Valley Soccer Association staff.**
- e. Engaging in any other type of violent behavior, such as throwing equipment or other objects.**
- f. Engaging in any lewd or sexual behavior, physically abusing a player, or engaging in any inappropriate physical contact with a player.**
- g. Unless specifically allowed by the rules of the sport, pushing, shoving, or striking any player.**
- h. Using drugs, alcohol or smoking (to include all smoking devices, including but not limited to E-Cigs, Vaporizers, Atomizers, etc...) while coaching, attending, or participating in any Temecula Valley Soccer Association event.**

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1. Reporting Improper Conduct

Temecula Valley Soccer Association provides a forum on its website to allow coaches, players, parents, spectators, and officials to contact Board Members and report issues concerning a variety of topics. When making a report via the website, the reporting party is asked to select the "topic" which deals most directly with the issue. The appropriate Board Member will review the report and decide whether the issue rises to the level where a review by the Disciplinary Committee is required. If so, the information will be forwarded to the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee for review and investigation. If the issue does not require review by the Disciplinary Committee, the appropriate Board Member will handle the complaint in an appropriate manner.

a. Reporting By Coaches

- i. It is the responsibility of every coach to address improper conduct observed by the coach or brought to the coach's attention in a timely and respectful manner.**
- ii. In the event any coach feels that the Disciplinary Committee should be involved in addressing any improper conduct, the coach is encouraged to contact the Disciplinary Committee through the TVSA website.**
- iii. Coaches must report any Offensive Actions to the Disciplinary Committee, including, without limitation:**
 - 1) Any report or allegation of inappropriate physical contact, violence, or threatened violence against any player, coach, official, parent, spectator, or Temecula Valley Soccer Association staff.**
 - 2) Any observed or reported use of drugs or alcohol by any player, coach, official, parent, or spectator during any Temecula Valley Soccer Association event.**
- iv. Coaches shall promptly respond to any request by the Disciplinary Committee for information relating to any incident or violation of the Code of Conduct.**

b. Reporting by Parents and Spectators

- i. Parents and spectators are encouraged to report any improper conduct to the coach and/or the Disciplinary Committee.**
- ii. If a parent or spectator reports misconduct to the coach and feels that the misconduct is not appropriately addressed, the parent or spectator is encouraged to contact the Disciplinary Committee through the TVSA website.**

2. Procedures for Addressing Improper Conduct

a. Officials

- i. Coaches and officials shall promptly address any misconduct that is observed or brought to the attention of the coach or official during an TVSA event.**

ii. TVSA officials have the absolute authority, in their sole discretion, to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any player, parent, or spectator from any game or match if the player, parent, or spectator violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.

iii. Officials have the absolute authority to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any coach from any game or match if the coach violates the Code of Conduct or engages in any Offensive Action.

b. TVSA Disciplinary Committee

i. The TVSA Disciplinary Committee will conduct a timely and reasonable investigation into any misconduct reported to the Disciplinary Committee. The scope of any investigation will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee in its sole discretion, provided, however, that the Committee will provide any person accused of misconduct a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

ii. After a reasonable investigation, the Disciplinary Committee will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code of Conduct and any Offensive Action.

1) Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation.

2) The Disciplinary Committee will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while taking into account the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.

3) The Disciplinary Committee will not discriminate in any manner in determining whether to impose a penalty or in determining which penalty to impose.

iii. The Disciplinary Committee will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation, and shall document each penalty and the reasons for imposing the penalty.

iv. The Disciplinary Committee will ensure all affected parties are notified of the Committee's decision in a reasonable amount of time.

v. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed and heard at the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting, but discipline is immediate and will be served until the appeal can be heard.

1. Penalties

The Disciplinary Committee shall determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of the Code of Conduct and any Offensive Actions. Penalties may include any one or more of the following:

- a. Verbal Warning**
- b. Written Warning**
- c. Suspension:**
 - i. One game suspension**
 - ii. Multiple game suspension, or**
 - iii. Indefinite suspension**
- d. Expulsion from TVSA**

2. Additional Considerations

- a. If a coach or parent is expelled from the league, any child associated with that person may also be expelled from the league.**
- b. If a player or coach is suspended from the Temecula Valley Soccer Association, the Disciplinary Committee has the authority to also prohibit their participation in any TVSA events for the duration of their suspension, such as training.**
- c. There are no refunds as a result of any person being removed from the league.**