



## Code of Conduct

Youth sports are meant to be constructive, rewarding and fun for the players. Unfortunately, many parents, fans, and coaches don't realize that their actions can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many children are leaving sports activities because adults unfairly take the fun away. The actions of one of us affect the image of all of us. Parents, players, coaches and fans represent Mississippi Rush when our teams play and practice. That is why **Mississippi Rush** has adopted the following **Code of Conduct** for parents and spectators to abide by at every game. This code of conduct requires us to work together to play with good sportsmanship and to treat players, coaches, referees and parents with respect. The **Code of Conduct** can also be found at [www.jacksonfc.com](http://www.jacksonfc.com) and [www.mfcsoccer.com](http://www.mfcsoccer.com).

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and these core principles: respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good sportsmanship.

### **Parents and coaches therefore agree to:**

1. **Treat referees with respect**
  - There are no circumstances in which a parent or a coach should confront a referee during or after a game
  - Do not verbally harass a referee. If you disagree with a call, do so quietly.
  - Coaches will be held responsible for ensuring that parents comply with this portion of the code of conduct.
  - A Coach who fails to control unruly parents may be subject to suspension
2. **Treat your team with respect**
  - Ensure your child has the required equipment and is on time for games and practice.
  - Pick your child up promptly; do not make the coaches and/or other parents wait on you.
  - Disagreements with the coach do NOT belong on the public soccer field or its surrounding areas at any time. Critical questions and comments should be voiced later according to club policy and procedures. Always observe the 48 hour contact rule.
3. **Treat our players and opponents with respect**
  - Coaches, not parents, are the ones we entrust to instruct our players. Parent criticism of) or “constructive help” for) other players is not well received by the player, coach or the player’s parents.
  - Never yell or criticize a player on the opposing team. Think of how you feel when another parent or coach, especially from another team, yells at or berates your child
  - Avoid confrontations or shouting matches with referees, coaches, parents or fans of an opposing team. Move to another part of the field where you cannot hear them.
  - No alcohol, drugs, profanity or fighting are permitted at a game or practice.
4. **Grievances and Consequences**
  - Your manager should be contacted first if you feel a parent’s, players or coach’s behavior warrants corrective action. The manager will attempt to resolve the issue, but may refer to the club’s directors or the full board of the organization for a remedy.
  - Consequences are outlined within this document



**Players therefore agree to:**

1. **Treat referees with respect**
  - Never touch a referee except to shake hands
  - Always address referees as “sir” or “ma’am” no matter how old or young they are
  - Do not back talk a referee. If a referee speaks to you, your response should be respectful and to the point.
  - Do not question calls that referees make during play.
  - It is possible that the referee made a mistake; this is part of the game and will not change. Do not let it affect your play or attitude of good sportsmanship
2. **Treat your team with respect**
  - Listen to your coach. Do what the coach asks of you without complaining.
  - Be at practice and games on time
  - Be responsible for your own equipment.
3. **Treat your teammates and opponents with respect**
  - Whether you win or lose, do so with class. Shake hands after the game.
  - Never yell or criticize a member of the opposing team.
  - Never criticize your own teammates.
  - No alcohol, drugs, profanity or fighting are ever permitted at a soccer game or practice.
4. **Treat fields with respect**
  - Fields are expensive to build and maintain. The fields and equipment are paid for by your families thru their club dues and community taxes. Never damage the fields, goals, benches, nets, fences or corner flags.
  - Do not leave litter on the fields or grounds. Always pick up any litter in your area after a practice or a game. A quality team or player should not leave behind athletic tape, paper trash, empty drink containers and worn out equipment, etc. on the grounds after a game or practice session. *Offenders may be required to do field service duty.*
5. **Practice goal safety**
  - Do not hang, jump or climb on goals. Do not attempt to reattach nets to goal frame.
  - Report any damaged or unstable goals to your coach right away.
  - Never move or tip goals on your own. Your coach will not ask you to move a goal as it is club policy to involve players in movement of goals.
  - Practice with only the approved goals from the complex.
6. **Grievances and consequences**
  - If you can't play by the rules in this code of conduct, there will be consequences. The penalties may include reprimands, suspension of playing privileges and expulsion from the team or club.

**Consequences**

**All coaches, parents and players** agree to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines and if they fail to abide by the rules and guidelines that they shall be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Verbal warning by an official, head coach, and/or President and/or Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee of Mississippi Rush;
- (b) Written warning;



- (c) Probation with written documentation of the incident kept on file within the organization;
- (d) Game(s) suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file within the organization;
- (e) Season suspension with written documentation of the incident kept on file within the organization and its affiliates; or
- (f) Such other action as the Disciplinary Committee shall determine in necessary and/or proper with written documentation of the incident kept on file with the organization and its affiliates.

In addition to the above Gulf States Premier League, US Club Soccer and US Youth Soccer may respond to certain actions that take place during events that they sanction, such as the following:

- (a) Confrontations involving verbal abuse, threats, profanity or touching a referee
- (b) Confrontations between parents and coaches or parents and opposing team Parents.

These governing bodies have the authority to impose fines and/or suspensions above and beyond those imposed by Mississippi Rush

**Signature: As a coach or parent or player with Mississippi Rush, I acknowledge:**

- That I have read, understand and will adhere to this code of conduct.
- That my combined participation in club activities, is contingent upon my ability to comply
- That I will help remind others within our organization when they need to be reminded of their own commitment to this code of conduct.

Team \_\_\_\_\_ Coach Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signed Name (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Printed Name (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signed Name (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Player Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signed Name \_\_\_\_\_