

Laguna Beach Football Club Parent Code of Conduct

Mission Statement

Laguna Beach Football Club is a community-based soccer program that will collectively promote excellence within the sport and positive character values. LBFC will implement quality, age-appropriate training with professional coaches, who prioritize development over winning, and strive to have fun and inspire our players.

The guiding principle of the Laguna Beach Football Club is the belief that participation will promote player development while culturing habits and traits that lead to success in life. LBFC aims to develop skills, a positive attitude, confidence, and a deep interest in the sport that extends beyond practice and games. Players are expected to embrace the discipline needed to excel and work with others in pursuit of a common goal.

The Laguna Beach Football Club will strive to produce not only quality players but more importantly, role models, good students, and dedicated athletes. An LBFC player will embody the following attributes: passion, teamwork, sportsmanship, work ethic, and loyalty. LBFC athletes are expected to behave at a standard that brings credit to themselves, the club and our community. Ultimately, LBFC will provide our local high schools with dedicated student-athletes who are able to enjoy soccer as a lifelong activity.

Role of Parents

Please help your child understand the commitment involved in playing for the LBFC. In particular, practices are not optional. Players should arrive a few minutes before practice begins ready to play. Most of the learning and development takes place at practices, and we expect players to attend. Occasional scheduling conflicts are expected and understood, but if your child has other planned activities that will keep her or him from attending a significant number of practices and games, you need to discuss the situation with your child and the coach. In some cases, such as a child wanting to participate in two or three after-school activities, choices may have to be made.

During the Fall season, LBFC expect that games and practices are every player's priority. In spring, participation in matches is optional but player availability must be communicated before the season to the coach and team manager.

Sideline Behavior

Please help our players learn good sportsmanship by setting a good example. Criticism of players, coaches, or officials does not belong on the field. If you have legitimate concerns, talk to your child's coach in private at another time. Our area leagues have a zero-tolerance policy to protect referees from harassment or abuse. You may never address the referee during or after a game, nor may you do anything to convey criticism of a referee's call. Being a referee is a

lot harder than it appears, and even the most experienced referees will make mistakes. Coaches or parents who violate this policy may be asked to leave the game and may be subject to other sanctions.

Resist the impulse to coach your child from the sidelines. This includes instructions such as "kick it" or "pass it" or "shoot". Your instructions only serve to distract and confuse the player. LBFC is trying to teach our players to think for themselves on the field. The game is the best teacher! Only the coach may give instructions during games, and even that should be rare. Parents should limit themselves to cheering ("Good Effort", "Go Laguna", "Nice Ball", "Great Defense").

No player should be sitting on the bench for an entire game. Every prepared player should have the opportunity to play in every game, except for injuries, behavior problems or repeated attendance issues.

Communication

Parents should feel free to arrange meetings with their child's coach to discuss their son or daughter. Please remember that immediately after a game is generally not a good time for a conference. A standard 24 hour cooling off period is recommended for all game-related issues. As players mature, they are expected to try to resolve issues directly between themselves and their coach without parental intervention. Issues should always be discussed with the coach directly rather than other parents on the team or the team manager.

Discussions between coaches and parents or players are most likely to be productive when the meeting is focused on the player. For example, what can a player improve on to earn more playing time (keeping in mind that specific amounts of playing time are not guaranteed). Logistical, physical or emotional issues that may affect the player's training or game performance are also appropriate as are health concerns regarding other players.

It is not appropriate to discuss coaching decisions, including positions or opinions of other players and team formations.

If a parent or player feels they cannot discuss a topic with their coach, they should communicate with the club director of coaching or administration. If a parent is still unsatisfied, they can communicate in writing to the LBFC board, through the secretary, for a final decision on the issue.

Any parent who is abusive to players, opponents, coaches, spectators, or referees or repeatedly disruptive may be prohibited from attending LBFC games.

Club Policies

If financial obligations are not met a player may be suspended from games until their account is current or payment arrangements are agreed upon.

Minor disciplinary issues should be dealt with between the player and coach. The coach will discuss the problem with the player and allow the player to correct the problem. The coach may use tools such as withholding playing time to provide an incentive for the player to fix the issue.

The coach or director may institute sanctions for reoccurring minor problems until the problem is corrected.

Players are subject to reasonable discipline at the coach or club's discretion. Players may be suspended from training or games for a length of time depending on the offense. Sanctions can be appealed through written communication to the LBFC board secretary.

Major violations of club, league, or Cal South policies include verbal abuse or physical assault on a teammate, coach, opponent, referee, or spectator; recurring sideline behavior problem by a parent; excessive red cards will result in sanctions and likely additional discipline from the league or Cal South.