

University Place Soccer Club  
**SIDELINE BEHAVIOR POLICY STATEMENT**



**I. Purpose:**

1. The purpose of this policy statement is to set forth the policies and practices of the University Place Soccer Club ("UPSC") as they relate to the behavior of players, coaches, volunteers and spectators on the sidelines at games.
2. Games covered by this policy statement include both home games hosted by our club/teams and away games hosted by clubs, teams or organizations.
3. These policies apply to the full duration of the game and include the time before and after games when teams and spectators are arriving, preparing for, or leaving games.

**II. General Policies:**

1. All teams, and their fans, are expected to keep in mind that when participating in games, both home and away, they represent UPSC and the greater University Place community. Many other clubs will have no exposure to our club or community beyond their experience on the field playing against one of our teams. As such all UPSC players, coaches and fans are expected to behave in a responsible, respectful, mature, and sportsmanlike manner at all times. That includes when their team is actually on the field and before and after their games.
2. All teams and spectators are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations of the venue at which the game is being played, whether it is a UPSC home field or an away field.
3. No player, coach, volunteer or spectator will use foul or profane language at any time, before, during or after a game.
4. We recognize the opposing teams as necessary friends. Without them our teams would not be able to compete. They should be afforded the same respect that we expect for our players.
5. With rare exception all the coaches, ours and our opponents, are unpaid volunteers donating their time and energy so that kids can play. They should be appreciated as such.
6. All coaches, players and spectators will keep in mind that the referees working our games are often learning their trade at the same time that players are learning to play soccer. This is particularly true at the younger age brackets where younger refs will be working. They are human and should be afforded the same opportunity to make human mistakes that we afford our players and ourselves.
7. No dogs are allowed at any of our club's home fields. The same rule should be assumed for all away games.
8. No alcohol or tobacco use is allowed on the sidelines at any UPSC team game, home or away.

**III. Coaches:**

1. All UPSC coaches are expected to set an example for their players and spectators by their own behavior.
2. Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team's fans. That includes asking spectators who are not behaving in a manner that is consistent with this policy statement to correct their behavior or leave the game venue. A coach may appoint that responsibility to a team manager or other volunteer associated with the team.
3. Coaches will not direct any unwelcome comment, remark or gesture toward an opposing player before, during or after a game.

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4. Coaches will be respectful and polite in all interactions with opposing coaches before and after the game. Coaches will not direct any comment or remark toward the opposing coaching staff during the game.
5. If a coach has a concern about the behavior of an opposing coach at a match they will bring that concern to the attention of UPSC for follow up. Coaches will not confront opposing coaches at a match, contact them after a match, or contact an opposing club directly to voice a complaint.
6. Coaches may ask a referee for clarification of a call or ruling but at no time should a coach openly challenge the referee's authority, competency, capability, or honesty, nor will they allow their players to do so.
7. If a coach has a concern about the performance of a referee they will address it in a mature and professional manner through the established procedures of our club, our association, and/or the governing body for the referee working the game.

#### **IV. Spectators:**

1. Spectators will remember that all games involving UPSC teams are for the youth players, not the adults. Behavior that may be socially acceptable at a professional or college game is not necessarily appropriate for a youth event.
2. Spectators should strive to reduce the level of competition, not increase it. All players play better when they are playing for the fun of competition as opposed to playing to please a parent or others on the sideline. Encourage, do not criticize.
3. Spectators are expected to help teach our young players to be gracious in victory and learn from defeat, accepting the end result of every game.
4. All spectators will comply with reasonable requests or directions from the team's coaching staff or other UPSC Representative. That includes leaving the game venue if requested.
5. Spectators will not interfere with the coaching staff while they are performing their duties at the game.
6. Spectators will refrain from instructing, coaching or directing players during the game, including the half time interval.
7. Spectators will not interfere with the flow of the game in any manner:
  - A. Spectators will stay in any designated seating area at the game venue. In the absence of a designated seating area all spectators will remain at least 10 feet from the touchline (sideline) and not sit or stand in a location that will interfere with referees, coaches or players movement on the sidelines.
  - B. No spectators will sit or stand behind the goal line (at the ends of the field), or on the sidelines between the 18 yard line and the goal line, unless they are seated in a fixed bleacher or grandstand.
  - C. No spectator will enter the field of play for any reason unless specifically invited on by the referee.
8. Spectators will not direct any unwelcome comment, remark or gestures toward any opposing player, coach or fan before, during or after any game.
9. Spectators will not direct any unwelcome comment, remark or gestures toward the referees or game officials, before, during or after a game.

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10. Spectators will comply with any reasonable direction or request from the game's referee including leaving the game venue if requested to do so.
11. Spectators will not approach any referee or game official after a game to dispute, challenge or ask for clarification or interpretation of a call or calls made during the game.

**V. Miscellaneous provisions:**

1. This Policy Statement was adopted by a majority consent the UPSC Board of Directors on October 15, 2012.
2. This Policy Statement shall remain in effect in perpetuity, or until modified by the Board of Directors of UPSC.