



Carolina Mountains Soccer Club Player Behavior Policy

Introduction:

This Player Behavior Policy outlines the expected conduct for all Carolina Mountains Soccer Club players during practices, games, and club-related events. Players are expected to demonstrate sportsmanship, respect for teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and the game itself at all times.

Core Values:

- **Respect:** Treat all individuals with courtesy and dignity, including teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and spectators.
- **Sportsmanship:** Play fairly, follow the rules, and accept the decisions of the referee with composure.
- **Positive Attitude:** Maintain a positive and supportive demeanor on and off the field.
- **Teamwork:** Prioritize the success of the team over individual achievements.
- **Effort and Focus:** Give your best effort at all times during practices and games.

Expected Player Behavior:

- **Arrive on time** for practices and games, properly dressed and prepared.
- **Listen attentively and follow the instructions of coaches and staff.** Coaches are there to help players improve, and their guidance should be respected. Pay attention during drills and lessons. Distracting others, talking while coaches are speaking, or engaging in off-topic activities can disrupt the learning experience.
- **Be Open to Feedback:** Coaches provide constructive feedback to help improve your skills. Accept criticism gracefully and use it as an opportunity to grow.
- **Be respectful of other players:** Treat other players with kindness, both on and off the field. Be supportive of teammates, even when not playing. Disrespect of other players includes, but is not limited to, teasing, bullying, negative comments, inappropriate language, trash talk, bullying, hitting others, abusive gestures, and unwarranted physical contact with intent to harm or embarrass.
- **Be respectful of coaches and staff.** Disrespect of coaches and staff includes, but is not limited to, talking over the coach, arguing with the coach, disobeying or refusing to follow the coach's instructions, inappropriate language, trash talk, and abusive gestures.
- **Play with controlled aggression** and avoid dangerous tackles.
- **Respect the referee's decisions** and let the coach advocate for the team.
- **Represent Carolina Mountains Soccer Club** with positive behavior at all times.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behavior:

- **Verbal Warning:** For a minor infraction of above expectations, the coach will issue a verbal warning. The coach will address the behavior with the player and clearly communicate how the player can correctly participate in the activity like the other players. The player is told that if they continue to behave in such a manner, they will get a time-out of the practice or game.
- **Removal from Practice:** If the unacceptable behavior continues after being instructed, the player will be sent off the field to their parents for a time determined by the coach from 10 minutes to the rest of practice. When the team takes a water break or after the practice or game, the coach should talk to the parent and player in private about the incident including future outcomes if the behavior continues. The Coach will inform the Director of Coaching (DOC) about the incident and the DOC will step in as needed to address behavior.
- **Bench Time:** If the disruptive or uncooperative behavior continues at practice after the removal time from practice, or during subsequent practices, the player is to be sent home. If at a game, the coach or DOC has the right to remove a disruptive player for the entire game.
- **Suspension:** Repeated or serious violations of core values and expectations may result in temporary suspension from practices and games at the discretion of the coach, DOC, and CMSC board.
- **Disciplinary Action:** In extreme cases, disciplinary action may include removal from the team. Future participation and action to be taken will be subject to club and CMSC board review. Parents of the player will be consulted and allowed to share their perspective with the board during the review process.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility:

- **Communication:** Discuss this Player Behavior Policy with your child and ensure they understand its expectations.
- **Positive Support:** Encourage your child to play with sportsmanship and respect all individuals involved in the game.
- **Reporting Concerns:** Report any concerns regarding player behavior to the coach or club official immediately.

Acknowledgement:

By participating in Carolina Mountains Soccer Club, players and their parents/guardians agree to abide by this Player Behavior Policy and uphold the club's core values.

Signature:

Player Name: _____ Player Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Revised: 2/10/25