

# **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following code of conduct expresses what is expected of you as a player, coach, manager, and/or owner participating in a Southwest Premier/West Coast Adult Soccer League ("SWPL/WCASL"). SWPL/WCASL holds its teams, players, coaches, managers, and owners to a code of conduct and feels it is equally important that all know their responsibilities both on and off the field.

## **TEAMS**

SWPL/WCASL values commitment, competence, community and character both on and off the field. As a league, we believe that a team's full commitment to competition will not only help the league's success but will also contribute to that team's players' personal ability to continually improve, as well as the team's quality of play.

Athletes play soccer to experience joy, to learn, to express their passion for the game, and to be a part of the larger soccer community. In doing so, they represent the league, their club & team, coach, and community.

Teams are expected to field a team for every scheduled game. If a team cannot field a team due to unforeseen circumstances, then a team representative is required to notify a SWPL/WCASL official as soon as it is possible to do so. Any change requests must be made 30 days in advance. SWPL/WCASL only allows for game reschedules in the event of participation in a sanctioned state or national soccer tournament.

SWPL/WCASL expects its competitors to maintain a high level of sportsmanship and fair play. All participating in SPC/WCASL must show respect for the game, the coach, teammates, opponents, and the authority of the referee and his/her assistants. This is demonstrated as follows:

## **PLAYERS**

Will play within the laws of the game and spirit of the game

Are expected to be on time (meaning arriving at the requested time, not when the match starts) and prepared for matches and training sessions

Will display self-control in all situations and will not use foul or abusive language at any time; before during or after a match or training session

Shall compete to the best of their ability, have a positive attitude and encourage others to do the same.

Negative comments by players will not be tolerated. The team manager/coach/owner should speak to the player to make sure they understand what is acceptable and what is not. Failure to uphold these codes of conduct will result in warnings. The first offense is a warning and should be used to educate the player. The second offense can result in a game suspension, and the third can possibly be expulsion from further participation in SWPL/WCASL

Will show respect towards the referee and his/her assistants as well as towards the opponents. They will not harass, abuse, or berate a referee for any reason.

Soccer is the players game. The paramount concern of coaches is the holistic development, welfare, enjoyment and safety of their players.

## **COACHES/MANAGERS/OWNERS**

Coaches bear responsibility for teaching their players to strive for success while playing fairly, observing the Laws of the Game and the highest levels of sportsmanship.

Coaches shall treat officials with respect and dignity and shall teach their players to do the same. Our opponents are worthy of being treated with respect. Coaches will model such respect for opponents and expect their players to do likewise. In both victory and defeat, the behavior of a coach shall model grace, dignity and composure.

Coaches shall adhere to the highest standards and the regulations of the institutions they represent: their teams, clubs, SWPL/WCASL, US Club Soccer, USASA, and USSF.

Coaches have a responsibility to promote the interests of soccer, including treating media with courtesy, honesty and respect.

Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including, but not limited to, racism and sexism, at all levels of soccer.

Coaches are responsible for taking an active role in education about, and prevention and treatment of, drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, both in their own lives and in the lives of their players.

Coaches shall refrain from all manner of personal abuse and harassment of others, whether verbal, physical, emotional or sexual, and shall oppose such abuse and harassment at all levels of soccer. Coaches shall respect the declared affiliations of

all players and shall adhere to all guidelines and regulations on recruiting established by the governing bodies having oversight of their teams and leagues.

Coaches / Managers / Team Owners are not to approach any players on another SWPL/WCASL team to attempt to recruit them from that team. If there is interest in a player you must approach the team's coach/manager/owner to ask permission to invite the player to join your team. Coaches shall seek to honor those who uphold the highest standards and principles of soccer and shall use appropriate protocol to oppose and eliminate all behavior that brings disrepute to the sport -violence, abuse, dishonesty, disrespect and violations of the Laws of the Game and rules governing competition.