



UFA Game Day Code of Conduct

Instructions for parents in interacting with game officials

- Referees are “Officials” of the game. Respect their decisions.
- Encourage your child to respect the referee through word and conduct.
- Remain outside the field of play and within the Designated Spectators’ Area.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behavior.
- Show respect to others involved in the game, including opposition players, coaches, managers, and spectators.
- Remember that referees make mistakes. No referee can be correct all the time.
- Appreciate that match officials primary aim is to maximize everyone’s enjoyment by ensuring that the game is played in a safe and fair manner.
- Never enter the field of play without the referee’s permission.
- Know the Laws of the Game.
- Understand the referee may change their mind on a decision as long as a restart has not occurred.
- At the end of the game, regardless of the outcome, regardless of how you feel the officiating met your expectations and regardless of your opponent’s behavior, do not approach a referee or follow him/her to the parking lot in a threatening manner.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any or all of the following actions may be taken by the club. I may be:

- Issued a verbal warning.
- Required to meet with a club official or D&P committee
- Required to leave the match venue by the club
- Required by the club not to attend future games
- Required to apologize to the team, the other team, referee, and the club
- Required to leave the club along with any dependents
- Instructions for coaches in interacting with game officials
- Appreciate that match officials; primary aim is to maximize everyone’s enjoyment by ensuring that the game is played in a safe and fair manner.
- Their proximity to play and the positioning they take allows them to see many things a spectator cannot see and thus at times although it may appear from the touchline that a decision was wrong you would actually have taken the same decision were you in the referee’s place.
- Do the simple things you can to help them in the pre-game formalities – be polite, have your roster prepared, make sure players are wearing absolutely NO jewelry.
- If you use player cards, order them to match the sequence on the roster.
- Have your game balls ready – many older teams like to place a ball behind each goal to avoid delays.
- Never enter the field of play without the referee’s permission.



- Make your substitutions in an orderly manner. If you have Assistant Referees, let them know you would like to sub and they can signal the Center using a standard mechanic.
- Know the Laws of the Game.
- Remember that referees make mistakes. No referee can be correct all the time.
- At the end of the game, regardless of the outcome, regardless of how you feel, regardless of your opponent's behavior or, whether the officiating did or did not meet your expectations, please thank the match officials graciously. Have your players do the same.

I understand that if I do not follow the Code, any/all of the following actions may be taken by my club, I may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning.
- Suspended by the club from attending a number of games.
- Required to meet with the coaching committee.
- Required to meet with the Director of Coaching.
- Be required to apologize to the team, the other team, referee or team manager
- Monitored by the Age Group Coordinator.
- Inflicted a fine.
- Fired by the club, if you are a professional coach.
- Forbidden from coaching, if you are a volunteer coach.

To reach the top level of officiating is very hard to do and requires that we start educating, mentoring, and respecting referees from an early age, so we can lower their departure rate. The effort must enlist both coaches and parent spectators to model good sideline behavior, in order to improve the game day experience for our game officials, the players and families.

Skills for Soccer. Skills for Life - Behavior

UFA's mission statement is "Skills for Soccer. Skills for Life."; The "Skills for Soccer"; portion of what we do is obvious; however, the aspect of developing "Skills for Life"; is where we seek to impact our youth players in ways that will enable them to work well with others. UFA has set Its CORE VALUES to be Education, Professionalism, Respect, Inclusion, Honesty, and Enjoyment (FUN!) These values are what UFA seeks to promote, teach, and develop in our youth as they represent our club both on the field and off.

1. Racially Abusive or Offensive Language

As a Club, we have seen a troubling subcultural trend that does not coincide with our Core Values. This season, our Staff has witnessed a growing number of instances of players using racially charged or racially offensive names. There are subcultures where kids are using the "N" word casually, both as term of endearment with their friends but also as an insult. We have had instances where Hispanic, Caucasian, Asian and African-American kids have been called this by players in the heat of battle.



UFA has a NO TOLERANCE POLICY with respect to this type of behavior. Although this language may be accepted in certain subcultures today, music as well as social media, UFA firmly stands in opposition to such offensive remarks and slurs. We pride ourselves in our Diversity and mutual Respect as we seek to be an INCLUSIVE Club. Therefore, it is with good reason that this conduct is NOT permissible under the UFA banner.

2. Bullying and/or Threats

Our primary responsibility at UFA is to provide a safe environment for ALL participants. Any threats or statements about harming others without regard to intent will not be tolerated and WILL be dealt with in a serious manner and reported to the proper authorities as outlined by SafeSport Law. Bullying is the use of coercion to obtain control over another person or to be habitually cruel to another person.

Bullying involves an intentional, persistent or repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended to cause fear, humiliation, or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish, or isolate another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal or electronically-transmitted expression or by means of a physical act or gesture. A threat to harm others is defined as any written, verbal, physical or electronically transmitted expression of intent to physically injure or harm someone. A threat may be communicated directly to the intended victim or communicated to a third party.

3. Referee Abuse

Youth Soccer is experiencing a crisis with a shortage of referees. The main reason for this is the verbal abuse that both young and veteran referees encounter on game day. You would not want your child to be berated in the manner that referees suffer every game. In the same way that we as parents seek to support and encourage our players, it is equally important that we stay positive and support the Referees. In order to Respect the Game, we must in turn Respect the Referees.

We appreciate your understanding and support for UFA's Core Values that we are trying to impart to our players to help them become positive, respectful, and inclusive human beings that will help to make this world a better place. All of you have signed and accepted terms for both Parent and Player Codes of Conduct and have acknowledged the SafeSport Harassment and Abuse Waiver through your Sports Connect Registration.