

MCLEAN YOUTH SOCCER

POLICY NUMBER: 117

Policy Topic: **Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

In order to promote a positive environment for MYS participants and their families, all parents/guardians are expected to comply with the following Code of Conduct (Code). Underlying this Code is the principle that the reputation of each team and MYS is built not only on the skills of players, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of all players, parents, guardians and other persons affiliated with MYS.

Each parent/guardian is expected to:

- a. Respect the rules of the game.
- b. Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
- c. Place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- d. Maintain control of their emotions and avoid the use of abusive language, profanity, and gestures of ill temper; and refrain at all times from making hostile or negative remarks about or to, or engaging or threatening to engage in physical behavior against the opposing team, any coach, parent, player, MYS board member, MYS staff member, officials, or any other sports attendee, or from encouraging any of the behavior outlined in this paragraph or its subsections by any other person. Consistent with this paragraph (d), parents/guardians must not engage in:
 - (i) any behavior constituting harassment, intimidation or bullying toward any coach, parent, player, MYS board member, MYS staff member, official or any other sports attendee. For purposes of this Code, harassment includes, but is not limited to, conduct that (1) reasonably causes fear or humiliation; offends or degrades; or creates a hostile environment or (2) reflects discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual or group based on age, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, national origin, or mental or physical disability; or (3) would constitute harassment under federal or state law;
 - (ii) Cyberbullying acts directed at any coach, parent, player, MYS board member, MYS staff member, official or any other sports attendee. For purposes of this Code, cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including blogs);
 - (iii) Using drugs or alcohol while attending or participating in any MYS sporting event.

- e. Follow all field rules and regulations.
- f. Respect, at all times, the property of others.
- g. Leave school/facility/practice grounds in a timely fashion after the conclusion of a game.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

a. Coaches

- i. Coaches shall promptly address any conduct that violates this Code that is observed or brought to the attention of the coach and shall promptly report such conduct and any actions taken to address it to the Executive Director.
- ii. Coaches have the absolute authority, in their sole discretion, to issue verbal warnings and/or eject any player, parent/guardian, or from any game or match if the player, parent/guardian violates this Code.

b. MYS

- i. The Executive Director, the MYS Board, or any individual delegated by the Executive Director or MYS Board, will conduct an investigation into any observed or reported violation of this Code. The investigation shall include an opportunity for any person alleged to have violated this Code to speak with the Executive Director, MYS Board or such delegate.
- ii. Upon the conclusion of a reasonable investigation, the Executive Director will determine the appropriate penalty for any violation of this Code and may consult with the MYS board in doing so.
 - 1) Penalties will be based on the nature and severity of the violation and may include one or more of the following: verbal warning, written warning, suspension of one or more games in duration and/or expulsion from MYS.
 - 2) The Executive Director will strive to treat all similar offenses in a similar manner, while taking into account the individual facts and circumstances of each violation.
 - 3) The Executive Director will not discriminate in any manner in determining whether or not to impose a penalty or in determining an appropriate penalty.
- iii. MYS will keep reasonable and appropriate records of each reported violation and shall document each penalty imposed and the reasons for imposing such penalty.
- iv. All decisions of the Executive Director made under this Code are final and cannot be appealed.

c. Additional Considerations

- i. If a parent/guardian is expelled from MYS, any child associated with that person is also expelled from MYS.
- ii. There are no refunds as a result of any person being expelled from MYS.