



PEMAA Soccer League Policy on Conduct and Discipline

Effective Date: July 12, 2024

Parents, Coaches, and Players,

In order to maintain a safe and positive environment for all participants in our soccer league, we are implementing the following policies regarding conduct and discipline. These policies are designed to ensure fair play, respect for others, and the overall enjoyment of the game.

Zero Tolerance for Violence and Physical Abuse

We maintain a strict zero-tolerance policy towards any form of physical abuse or violence on the field. This includes, but is not limited to, punching, intentional kicking, or any other aggressive acts towards players or coaches. Such behavior will result in immediate disciplinary action.

Handling Incidents

If/when an incident occurs:

1. The coach/referee must identify the player(s) involved to the PEMA soccer committee.
2. The player(s) will be suspended for 1 game as per our violence policy.
3. Any intentional retaliation, particularly after the whistle, will result in a 2-game suspension.
4. If the event of a second offense, the player(s) will be removed from the soccer league for the duration of the season.
5. Refunds will not be issued to any participant that is removed from the program and repeat suspensions could preclude the participant from being rostered in subsequent seasons.

Addressing Physical Contact

We recognize that light pushing, or similar actions can occur in play. Referees are instructed to intervene promptly to prevent escalation. There will be no yellow or red card system; rather, a zero-tolerance approach will be applied.

Parent and Coach Conduct

- Parents are expected to address any concerns with their own team's coach. They should not approach parents, coaches, or players from opposing teams.
- Coaches are to interact solely with parents of their own team and avoid interactions with parents or players from other teams.
- In the event of an incident, discussions should be limited to coaches and referees. Parents are not to interfere during these discussions but may communicate with their coaches afterward.
- Behavior contradictory to the above may result in a formal warning and repeat warnings may preclude access to the program in the future.

Reporting Concerns Any concerns or issues not resolved at the team level can be escalated to the league for review and further action.

This policy is effective immediately and applies to all teams within the league. We believe these guidelines will uphold the integrity of our league and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a positive environment for our young athletes.

Sincerely,

PEMAA Soccer League Committee