

PALATINE CELTIC SOCCER CLUB

Code of Conduct

Welcome to the Palatine Celtic Soccer Club (Palatine Celtic SC). This Code of Conduct applies to all players, coaches, assistant coaches, parents, household members, and spectators.

The values of our league center around **Sportsmanship**, with a dedicated focus on **Commitment, Education, Leadership, Teamwork, Integrity, and Community**. Our core belief is that sportsmanship supersedes all others. This applies to all coach's, spectators and players actions while on Palatine Park District property during and after play and as a representative of Palatine Celtic SC.

All players, parents, coaches, and spectators are expected to:

- Treat referees, coaches, players, and opponents with respect
- Avoid yelling, arguing, or criticizing officials or players
- Accept referee decisions without confrontation
- Support positive behavior over winning at all costs

1. Coach Expectations & Requirements

As a Palatine Celtic SC coach, your character is constantly being evaluated and sets the standards for our players. Your demonstration of character and attitude is more important than the soccer skills you teach.

- **Background Checks:** All coaches are subject to background checks. Based on the results, Palatine Celtic SC reserves the right to deny any application for volunteerism.
- **Role Modeling:** You are expected to be a positive role model for your players, opposing players, opposing coaches and parents. You set the tone for what is appropriate on and off the field.
- **Model Respect:** Avoid yelling at, arguing with, or criticizing other coaches, players, referees or opponents. Support positive behavior and effort over winning.
- **Player Development:** Prioritize player safety and developmental growth over winning at all costs. Commit to teaching fundamentals and sportsmanship fairly to all players.
- **Spectator Responsibility:** Coaches will be held responsible for the conduct of their team's spectators. Coaches will be responsible for serving the disciplinary action.
- **Termination:** Your position as a volunteer coach is subject to termination any time for conduct found to be in violation of the "CODE OF CONDUCT". Suspension,

terminations and disciplinary action are at the sole discretion of the Palatine Celtic SC Board of Directors.

2. Parent, Household Member, & Spectator Conduct

As a Palatine Celtic SC household member you are responsible for the actions of yourself and any guests in attendance at practices or games.

- **The Golden Rule of Youth Soccer:** *“Let the coaches coach, the referees ref, and the players play.”*
- **Sideline Behavior:** Be positive and encouraging from the stands. Do not coach or shout instructions from the sidelines.
- **Model Respect:** Avoid yelling at, arguing with, or criticizing coaches, players, referees or opponents. Support positive behavior and effort over winning.

3. Zero-Tolerance Referee Policy

All referees are certified by the **U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program**. Palatine Celtic SC utilizes adult and minor referees (which can be identified with Green Patches). Coaches, players, parents, and spectators are expected to maintain a controlled, professional, and undemonstrative attitude at all times.

- **No Criticism:** It is **never appropriate** to direct any criticism toward a referee, nor is it appropriate to vocally question a referee's call to either the players or those in attendance.
- **No Engagement:** It is strictly prohibited to confront a referee during or after a game.
- **Reporting Grievances:** Complaints regarding a specific referee must be submitted formally and in writing to the league referee coordinator or house division directors.

4. Player Behavior Expectations

Players are the heart of our community and are expected to uphold the club's core values at all times.

- **Fair Play:** Play fairly, follow the rules of the game, and accept referee decisions without confrontation or complaint.
- **Respect:** Show absolute respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials.
- **Zero Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Taunting, fighting, use of profanity, or disrespectful actions will not be tolerated.

5. Player Safety & Physical Contact Boundaries

To ensure a safe environment, strict boundaries regarding physical contact between coaches and players are enforced:

6. Disciplinary Actions & Enforcement

Violations of this Code of Conduct and disciplinary actions are at the sole discretion of the Palatine Celtic SC Board of Directors.

- **Profanity:** The use of profanity by anyone at practices or games will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Palatine Celtic SC Board of Directors.
- **Cards & Ejections:** Referees can issue yellow or red cards to a coach or player during a game in progress.
- **Red Card Mandate:** Any coach or parent issued a red card is required to **leave Park District property immediately**. Failure to do so could result in the immediate forfeiture of the game plus additional league sanctions.
- **Board Discretion:** Any coach or player issued a red card or found to be in violation of the code of conduct is subject to additional disciplinary action—including suspensions and permanent terminations—at the sole discretion of the Palatine Celtic SC Board of Directors.
- **Minor Referees:** Palatine Celtic Soccer Club is committed to protecting youth officials. In accordance with U.S. Soccer Policy 531-9: Any disciplinary offense committed against a referee who is a minor (under the age of 18) may be subject to a "minor multiplier," resulting in double the standard punishment at the discretion of the Palatine Celtic SC Board of Directors.

Agreement

By participating in, coaching for, or attending Palatine Celtic SC events, you acknowledge that you represent the club and agree to adhere to these standards of integrity and sportsmanship.