

Freeport Area Soccer Association Code of Conduct

The mission of the Freeport Area Soccer Association (FASA) is to provide a safe, fun learning environment for its members. We strive to create an opportunity for kids to work together as a team toward common goals. We emphasize sportsmanship, teamwork and respect for authority figures (Directors, Coaches, and Referees). Our focus is on developing good life skills through the sport of soccer. We recognize the impact we may have on those programs in our area.

FASA is a member club of PAWest Soccer Association and as such, must abide by the Youth Division Playing Rules of the governing body. All FASA Directors, Coaches, Players, and Spectators must also abide by the Youth Division Playing Rules, and are subject to disciplinary action by PAWest Soccer Association in addition to disciplinary action taken by FASA pursuant to this Code of Conduct.

FASA will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse of its volunteer coaches, referees, or players from any Parent, Player, or Spectator. Spectators, as well as the players and coaches, are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct described herein at all FASA events (practices, games, tournaments, or travel to and/or from). While most of the adults and children in the program will abide by this code without being instructed, it is being published to protect the children, the integrity of our program, and emphasize the values of FASA. This Code of Conduct as set forth below, is not intended to limit the scope or application of any laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Borough of Freeport, to the extent such laws, rules or ordinances are applicable.

Coaches Code of Conduct

1. As a Coach, You (through your actions and words) set an example for your Players, Parents, and Spectators. You set the tone and lead by example.
2. Read the Players, Parents, and Spectators this Code of Conduct. Understand what is being asked of all participants in your sport. Actively promote this Code of Conduct.
3. Coaches must place the well-being and safety of each Player above all other considerations, including the development of performance.
4. Ensure that each Player is correctly dressed with the necessary safety equipment before being allowed to practice / play.
5. Get treatment for an injured Player immediately. Cooperate fully with medical personnel in the best interest of the player.
6. Never physically or mentally push Players beyond their abilities. The game is a minor consideration when compared to the child's future health and well-being.
7. Encourage and guide Players to accept responsibility for their own behavior and performance. Never condone unacceptable behavior.

8. Accept the decisions of the Referees on the field as fair, and called to the best ability of the Referee. The Referees are in charge of all games, and their decisions are final.
9. Always be prompt, courteous, and direct when dealing with opposition Coaches, and Referees.
10. No FASA team will win any game by a goal differential larger than 6 goals. (See the Director of coaching for a list of steps that can be taken during a game to ensure this rule is followed)
11. Read the PAWest Rules and assist your Players and Parents in understanding them.
12. Agree to a PAWest mandatory background screening with regards to your suitability to work with children
13. Inappropriate language on the practice or game field is prohibited.
14. Any Coach under the influence of drugs or alcohol during practice or games is prohibited.

Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct

Soccer can be a valuable, memorable, and rewarding experience for all participants. The experience can serve as a foundation for youth and adolescent development. At any FASA event, practice, or competition, any adult who verbally abuses, attempts to intimidate, is flagrantly rude to, or does not control their language or actions with a Player, Referee, Coach, Spectator, or FASA Board Member will be asked to immediately leave the event. In addition, he or she may receive written warning regarding their behavior from the FASA Board of Directors. If the adult fails to leave upon request, law enforcement authorities may be called to remove the spectator. Any adult that commits a second similar offense will be banned from FASA events for the remainder of that season. Any adult who physically assaults a Player, Referee, Coach, or FASA Board Member will be banned from FASA for one year from the date of the offense. After one year, the parent may apply for reinstatement. If the adult commits a second offense, he or she will be permanently banned from all FASA events. The term physical assault includes, but is not limited to; hitting, slapping, pushing, spitting, kicking or striking in any way with any part of the body or any physical implement.

As a parent or spectator, I will:

1. Support the Players, Referees, and Coaches and help teach the value of commitment to the team, sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
2. Support my child's team and help my child and FASA make athletic contests a positive education experience.
3. Direct constructive criticism of my child's team program to the Coach and/or FASA Board Members at an appropriate time.

4. If a negative situation occurs during a game or practice which you believe requires a discussion with the Coach; FASA requires that you wait 24 hours before doing so to be considered a cool down period, unless the situation involves the health or safety of a child.
5. Accept decisions of the game Referees and Coaches on the field as fair and called to the best ability of the said officials. The Referees are in charge of all games, and their decisions are final.
6. Exhibit exemplary sportsmanship at all times.
7. Emphasize that good athletes strive to be good students that are physically and mentally alert.
8. Abstain from being under the influence of, or in possession, of alcoholic beverages and any illegal substance, on game and practice fields.
9. Remain behind the designated Spectator Sideline during a game. Spectators are not allowed on the Team Sidelines, on the Field during a game or allowed behind the goal line, except with Coaches approval (i.e.-child injury).
10. Do not express complaints about Coaches in stands, or to Coaches in the presence of Players (i.e. right after a game or practice).
11. Strive to make every soccer activity serve as a training ground for life, and a basis for good mental and physical health by being present to support the children.

As a parent or spectator, I will not:

1. Interfere or interrupt the Coaches during games or practices.
2. Criticize Referees or Coaches, direct abuse or profane language toward them, or otherwise subvert their authority.
3. Criticize an opposing team, its Players, Coaches, or Spectators by word of mouth, by gesture, or by deliberately inciting unsportsmanlike behavior.
4. Undermine, in work or deed, the authority of the Coach or FASA.

Players Code of Conduct

I will:

1. Have fun!
2. Be a good sport (win or lose), be honest and fair.
3. Learn the value of commitment to the team; sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
4. Show courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents, coaches and officials.
5. Know that athletic contests are educational experiences.
6. Give complete attention to the instructions of my coaches and league officials.

I will not:

1. Use profanity, talk “trash”, or taunt others before, during or after any game.
2. Display any unsportsmanlike behavior.
3. Strike or bully any teammate or opposing player.
4. Criticize my teammates or players from other teams.
5. Act in any way that may incite spectators.

Consequences of Behavior

Anyone who fails to conform their conduct to the preceding Code of Conduct while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in a FASA event will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following, in any order or combination.

1. Verbal warning issued by FASA.
2. Written warning issued by FASA.
3. Suspension or immediate ejection from a FASA event issued by authorized officials of PA West or FASA.
4. Suspension from multiple FASA events issued by authorized officials of PAWest or FASA.
5. Season suspension or multiple season suspensions issued by FASA.