

Player Disciplinary Policy

Board approved: July 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all players, coaches, parents, and volunteers understand how behavioral concerns will be addressed within Carthage Youth Soccer Club (CYSC).

Our objective is to correct behavior through education, communication, and accountability while maintaining a safe and positive environment for all participants.

Discipline will always be handled with fairness, consistency, and respect.

Level 1 – Minor Misconduct

Minor misconduct includes behaviors that disrupt practices or games but do not place others at risk.

Examples include:

- Not listening to coaches
- Poor attitude or lack of effort
- Unsportsmanlike comments
- Excessive complaining
- Horseplay
- Mild disrespect
- Failure to follow team expectations

Possible Consequences

The coach may issue one or more of the following:

- Verbal reminder
- Private conversation with the player
- Brief removal from an activity or drill
- Temporary reduction in playing time during that event
- Communication with the player's parent or guardian

Most Level 1 behaviors should be resolved by the coaching staff without further disciplinary action.

Level 2 – Repeated or Serious Misconduct

Repeated Level 1 behaviors or more serious conduct may require additional intervention.

Examples include:

- Repeated disrespect toward coaches or teammates
- Persistent unsportsmanlike behavior
- Arguing with referees
- Inappropriate language
- Intentional refusal to follow instructions

- Bullying or intimidation
- Disrupting practices or games after previous warnings

Possible Consequences

The coach, in consultation with the CYSC Board when appropriate, may impose:

- Formal meeting with player and parent/guardian
- Temporary reduction in playing time
- Removal from part or all of a practice
- Suspension from one or more practices or games
- Behavioral improvement plan

Documentation of repeated concerns may be maintained by the club.

Level 3 – Major Misconduct

Certain behaviors are incompatible with the values of CYSC and require immediate Board review.

Examples include:

- Fighting
- Threatening another participant
- Physical aggression toward players, coaches, officials, or spectators
- Bullying or harassment
- Discrimination based on race, religion, gender, disability, nationality, or other protected characteristics
- Vandalism or intentional destruction of property
- Theft
- Possession of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, illegal drugs, or weapons during club activities
- Any conduct that places another participant's safety at risk

Immediate Actions

A player may be:

- Removed immediately from the activity
- Suspended pending Board review
- Required to meet with the Board before returning
- Suspended for multiple events
- Removed from the program for the remainder of the season

The CYSC Board of Directors reserves the right to determine the appropriate disciplinary action based on the severity of the incident.

Coach Authority

Coaches are empowered to:

- Address minor behavioral concerns immediately.
- Maintain order during practices and games.
- Temporarily remove players from activities for safety or behavioral reasons.

- Communicate concerns with parents.

Coaches shall promptly notify the Board of any serious incidents.

Board Review

The Board of Directors may review incidents involving:

- Player safety
- Repeated misconduct
- Suspensions
- Serious sportsmanship concerns
- Alleged violations of club policies
- Any incident brought forward by a coach, referee, or parent

The Board's decision shall be final.

Appeals

Parents or guardians may submit a written request for Board review within seven (7) days of receiving notice of a suspension or dismissal.

The Board will review all available information before making a final decision.

Factors Considered

When determining disciplinary action, CYSC may consider:

- The player's age and maturity
- Intent of the behavior
- Previous disciplinary history
- Severity of the incident
- Safety of others
- Willingness to accept responsibility
- Efforts to correct the behavior

Commitment to Growth

CYSC believes that mistakes provide opportunities to learn.

Whenever possible, discipline will focus on:

- Teaching respect
- Restoring relationships
- Accepting responsibility
- Learning from mistakes
- Becoming a better teammate

Our goal is not simply to discipline players, but to help them develop into respectful teammates, responsible leaders, and positive members of our community.