



DC Soccer Club Positive Sidelines Policy

Our Commitment

At DC Soccer Club, we believe every child deserves to play in an environment that is safe, encouraging, respectful, and fun.

A positive sideline helps players build confidence, allows coaches to coach, enables referees to officiate with confidence, and creates an enjoyable experience for every family.

Creating that environment is a shared responsibility.

Every adult representing DC Soccer Club, including parents, guardians, coaches, team officials, staff, and spectators, is expected to model the values of our club at every game, tournament, practice, and club event.

Our goal is simple: Positive sidelines create positive player experiences.

This initiative builds upon our Parent Code of Conduct and Coach Code of Conduct by providing clear expectations, education, and accountability for everyone involved in our soccer community. It aligns with the educational approach promoted through The Sideline Project, emphasizing shared standards, education, and constructive accountability.

What Positive Sidelines Look Like

Parents and spectators are encouraged to:

- Cheer for effort, teamwork and sportsmanship
- Encourage all players—not just their own child
- Respect referees, coaches and opponents
- Allow coaches to coach
- Demonstrate emotional control
- Model resilience during both wins and losses
- Remember that youth sports exist for player development and enjoyment



Sideline Behaviors We Do Not Allow

Examples include:

- Arguing with referees
- Publicly criticizing coaches or referees
- Personal attacks
- Negative comments toward players
- Coaching from the sideline
- Aggressive confrontation
- Threatening language
- Behavior that disrupts the game environment
- Any conduct determined by DC Soccer Club to be inconsistent with our mission and values

Education First

DC Soccer Club believes education is the best long-term solution for creating a positive soccer culture.

For that reason, each team will designate a **Sideline Ambassador** who will complete The Sideline Project Certification free through our [Soccer Parenting membership](#) (*create an account/log in and go to “Courses”*) and help promote a positive game-day environment throughout the season.

The club also strongly encourages all parents and caregivers to complete the free 15-minute Sideline Project Certification course available through our Soccer Parenting membership. The course is designed to help adults understand how their sideline behavior impacts players and promotes a shared understanding of supportive game-day behavior.

Accountability

Most sideline concerns can be resolved through communication and education. However, when incidents are reported by referees, leagues, tournament officials, club staff, coaches, or through formal complaints, DC Soccer Club may take action.

Responses may include one or more of the following depending on the nature, severity, or frequency of the behavior:

- Educational conversation with club leadership
- Written warning

DC Soccer Club Positive Sidelines Initiative
Building the Best Game-Day Experience for Every Player



- Required completion of **The Sideline Project Return to Good Standing Course** (participant responsible for course fee)
- Temporary suspension from attending games
- Meeting with club leadership before returning to competition
- Additional corrective actions determined appropriate by the club
- Suspension or removal from club activities for serious or repeated violations

Our goal is always education, accountability, and restoring a positive environment—not punishment.

Return to Good Standing

When appropriate, club leadership may require an adult to complete the **Return to Good Standing** course before returning to games.

This educational course helps adults:

- Reflect on the incident
- Better understand the impact of sideline behavior
- Reaffirm club expectations
- Return to participation with a shared commitment to a positive environment