



FC CHARLESTON

Parent Code of Conduct

PARENT & SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

A positive environment for every player

FC Charleston is committed to a respectful, welcoming environment where players develop skill, confidence, and character. Youth soccer should be fun for the children. Our words, actions, and attitudes shape their experience.

This Code applies to parents, guardians, and their guests at games, practices, tournaments, and club events, as well as in club-related communications and online activity.

Our commitment as parents and guardians

- 1. Put players first.** Remember that the game belongs to the children. Support their enjoyment and development without adding unnecessary pressure.
- 2. Celebrate effort and growth.** Value learning, teamwork, fair play, and improvement above results, especially in younger age groups. Praise effort and never ridicule a player for a mistake or loss.
- 3. Support every player.** Encourage all players, including opponents. Model respect and courtesy toward coaches, officials, volunteers, and other families.
- 4. Let coaches coach.** Cheer positively without giving tactical instructions to your child or other players during games or practices, unless you are an official team coach.
- 5. Respect the officials.** Accept decisions without arguing, confronting, or directing comments at referees. Young officials deserve the same respect as every other participant.
- 6. Teach fair play.** Help your child follow the rules, take responsibility, and resolve disagreements calmly, without hostility or violence.
- 7. Be a reliable partner.** Communicate respectfully, follow club and facility rules, and notify the coach in advance of absences, scheduling conflicts, injuries, or other relevant concerns.
- 8. Represent FC Charleston well.** Ensure that your guests understand and follow these expectations. Keep club-related messages and online posts respectful.

On the sidelines

Cheer positively. Stay in designated spectator areas. Avoid confrontations and leave coaching to the coaches. Do not enter the field or interfere with play unless directed by an official or coach. If instructed to leave an event, comply promptly.



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PARENT-TO-COACH COMMUNICATION

Respectful conversations support development

Parents and coaches are partners in each player's growth. Communication is welcomed when it is constructive, private, and appropriately timed. Coaches will maintain professional and age-appropriate boundaries. Players are encouraged to speak for themselves as their maturity allows.

Appropriate topics

- Your child's effort, behavior, confidence, or emotional well-being.
- Development goals and ways to support improvement at home.
- Scheduling conflicts, absences, injuries, or health-related needs.
- Clarification of team expectations, training routines, or club policies.
- Playing time within a respectful, development-focused conversation about your child's progress and opportunities to improve.

Topics and approaches to avoid

- Discussing other players, their performance, or their playing time.
- Demands for particular positions, roster changes, or guaranteed minutes.
- Confronting coaches about tactics, strategy, or coaching methods during or immediately after games or practices.
- Raising concerns on the sidelines, in front of players, or in team group chats.

The 24-hour rule

Wait at least **24 hours after a game or training session** before contacting a coach about performance, playing time, or other concerns. Then request a private conversation at an agreed-upon time and place.

Urgent health, safety, or safeguarding concerns should be reported immediately. Routine logistics and absence notifications do not require a 24-hour wait.

Communication channels and resolution

Use **Byga** or the club's designated platform for team logistics and meeting requests. Keep individual development concerns out of team group messages.

- 1. Player to coach:** Encourage players U11 and older to speak with their coach first when appropriate. Parents may assist based on the player's age and needs.
- 2. Parent to coach:** If needed, schedule a respectful private meeting after the 24-hour period. Focus on your child's development and practical next steps.
- 3. Club leadership:** If unresolved, contact the Age Group Director or Director of Coaching. Concerns involving a coach's conduct may be raised directly with club leadership.



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ACCOUNTABILITY

Protecting the game and our community

Behavior that will not be tolerated

- Abusive, profane, discriminatory, or threatening language or gestures toward any player, coach, referee, volunteer, or spectator.
- Harassment, bullying, intimidation, physical aggression, or retaliation against anyone who reports a concern.
- Booming, taunting, mocking players or officials, or confrontations with other families, coaches, or opponents.
- Sideline coaching, interference with play, or refusal to follow directions from officials, club staff, or facility personnel.
- Use of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, or vaping products at youth games, practices, or other player-focused club events.

Accountability and disciplinary action

Violations may be reported to the coach, Age Group Director, or Director of Coaching. Club leadership and/or the Board of Directors will review incidents, consider severity and prior conduct, and determine appropriate action. Parents or guardians will have an opportunity to provide their account.

Consequences may include a verbal warning; a written warning kept on file; removal from a game or event; a ban from attending specified games, practices, or club events; or suspension or removal from the club.

Serious or repeated violations may also affect the family's continued participation, including player suspension or removal, following club leadership and/or Board review. A parent attendance ban does not automatically suspend the player. Any player restriction will be communicated separately.

Consequences need not follow a fixed sequence. Serious misconduct may result in immediate removal or suspension while the incident is reviewed. Applicable league and event sanctions may also apply.