



FC CHARLESTON

Player Code of Conduct

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS & FAIR PLAY

Play with pride. Respect the game.

FC Charleston helps players grow in skill, confidence, and character through soccer. Every player contributes to a team environment where learning, effort, and enjoyment matter. This Code applies at training, matches, tournaments, team travel, club events, and in club-related digital communications.

Parents, guardians, and coaches should review these expectations with younger players and help them understand and practice them. Expectations will be applied with consideration for each player's age and maturity.

As an FC Charleston player, I will:

- 1. Give my best effort.** Work hard, try new skills, and learn from mistakes. Stay positive when a task is difficult or a result is disappointing.
- 2. Be a good teammate.** Encourage others, include everyone, and celebrate team progress. Avoid blaming teammates or criticizing someone for making a mistake.
- 3. Respect others.** Treat coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, volunteers, and spectators with courtesy. Respect different backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives.
- 4. Be ready to participate.** Arrive on time with the required uniform, shin guards, appropriate footwear, water, and equipment. Help my family notify the coach about lateness or absences.
- 5. Listen and learn.** Pay attention to coaching, accept constructive feedback, and participate without disrupting others. Ask respectful questions when I need help.
- 6. Compete fairly.** Play honestly and follow the rules. Do not cheat, deliberately deceive officials, or try to gain an advantage through dishonest behavior.
- 7. Show sportsmanship.** Win and lose with dignity, recognize good play, and take part respectfully in postgame greetings when directed and appropriate.
- 8. Represent the club well.** Care for fields, equipment, facilities, and shared spaces. Respect teammates' privacy and keep messages and online activity kind and appropriate.

Respect FIFA / IFAB and SCYSA rules

I will learn and follow the **IFAB Laws of the Game used by FIFA**, including authorized youth modifications. I will also follow applicable **South Carolina Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA)** rules, my league's rules of competition, tournament regulations, and FC Charleston team policies.

I will follow referee instructions, substitution procedures, equipment requirements, and age-group safety rules. I will participate only when properly authorized and eligible, and honor all applicable suspensions. If I am unsure of a rule, I will ask my coach.

I will not retaliate after a foul or disagreement. If I receive a card or am sent off, I will comply calmly, follow the official's and coach's directions, and remain appropriately supervised. My coach will help confirm any required suspension before I return to competition.



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SAFETY, COMMUNICATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Take responsibility. Support your team.

Respect referees and control emotions

I will accept match decisions and continue playing without arguing, surrounding officials, or using disrespectful words or gestures. This respect extends to young and inexperienced referees. I may seek clarification respectfully when appropriate, following the referee's instructions and any competition communication rules.

Keep myself and others safe

- Report injuries, illness, possible concussion symptoms, or unsafe conditions to my coach or a trusted adult immediately. Do not hide symptoms or pressure others to play hurt.
- Follow medical restrictions, return-to-play requirements, weather instructions, and age-appropriate heading rules. Never use equipment or play in a way that puts others at risk.
- Follow team check-in and pickup arrangements. Tell a coach before leaving a session or team area; seek immediate safety and help if threatened.
- Balance soccer with school, rest, and healthy habits. Speak up if I feel overwhelmed or am no longer enjoying my experience.

Conduct that is not acceptable

Fighting, deliberate attempts to injure, threats, spitting at others, abusive or profane language, discriminatory remarks, bullying, harassment, hazing, and unwanted sexual behavior are prohibited. This includes harmful conduct in chats, messages, and social media. Theft, deliberate damage, and possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal drugs are also prohibited.

Ask for help and raise concerns respectfully

Talk with your coach about your development when you are ready; a parent or guardian may help. If the concern involves the coach, or remains unresolved, contact the Age Group Director or Director of Coaching. Tell a trusted adult promptly about bullying, abuse, or safety concerns. Reporting a concern must never lead to retaliation.

Accountability and disciplinary action

Coaches and club leadership will consider the player's age, severity of the incident, and prior conduct. Players and parents or guardians may share their account. Responses may include guidance, a warning, a parent meeting, an appropriate apology or restorative action, restricted participation, suspension, or removal from the club.

Serious misconduct may require immediate removal from activity while reviewed. Club action does not replace referee decisions or required SCYSA, league, tournament, or governing-body sanctions. Players must complete applicable suspension and reinstatement requirements before returning.

Rules resources: IFAB Laws of the Game | SC Youth Soccer

Ask your coach for the current rules and disciplinary requirements for your competition.