

GAME CODE OF CONDUCT

The conduct of Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) coaches on the playing field and surrounding areas establishes how SYA is perceived by players, parents, and the public.

Parents who entrust their children to SYA should feel confident that SYA is promoting the highest standard of sportsmanship. SYA reserves the right to approve all coaching appointments.

It is vital that coaches maintain and teach the highest standards of sportsmanship. Every SYA coach is expected to read and follow these guidelines.

1. Players will be instructed to play according to the Laws of the Game and will be encouraged to play without taking unfair advantage of an opponent.

2. Coaches will not dispute the ruling of a referee or assistant referee while the game is in progress and will instruct their team and spectators to refrain from doing so. In all cases, they will follow the directions of the referee.

Clarification of a ruling may take place only with the referee's approval during an official break or when the referee indicates it is appropriate.

3. Coaching from the sidelines is permitted provided:

- the tone of voice is informative and is not disrespectful and is of a tactical nature
- it is done at least one yard behind the touch line and between the penalty area lines
- it is done from your team's sidelines

4. **Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, and spectators.** If a spectator's conduct warrants the issuance of a yellow or red card, it can be issued directly to the coach.

5. Coaches are required to keep their spectators between the penalty area lines and at least one yard from the touch line.

Physical violence, foul or abusive language, or harassment of players or referees **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED** and could result in permanent suspension. Such conduct will be reported and acted on even in situations where cards were not issued.

Any incident, which results in a player or coach being issued a red card for physical violence or assault directed against a referee or assistant referee, will result in permanent suspension from SYA. In addition, the incident is automatically reviewed by the Executive Board of the Virginia Youth Soccer Association and can result in a fine.

BOTH coaches must report all red cards to their Age Group Coordinator within 24 hours of the game.

6. The use of noise making, or amplifying devices is prohibited.

7. When a team walks off a field in protest, they forfeit the game, and the coach will be called before the R & D committee for unsportsmanlike conduct.

SANCTIONS

A coach who receives a red card during a game must leave the game site and its vicinity at once, and may not return to the field that day. He or she may coach another team that day.

If the coach is required to leave and there is no other responsible adult able to supervise the team, the game will be declared a forfeit in favor of the other team and entered in the standings as a 3-0 victory. A player receiving a red card will remain on the sideline under the supervision of his or her coach. **Red cards cannot be appealed.**

1. Point counts. Point values are assigned to cautions and ejections as follows:

a. Players. A player who receives one yellow card in a game is assessed 5

points. A player who receives two yellow cards in one game is assessed

10 points, 5 for each yellow even though he is shown a red card after receiving the second yellow. A player who receives a red card for a foul punishable by ejection (violent conduct, foul or abusive language, etc.) is

assessed 10 points. If a player who has a yellow card is later ejected for a

foul punishable by ejection, he is assessed 15 points, 5 for the yellow and

10 for the ejection.

b. Coaches and other team officials. To emphasize the importance of the

coach and other team officials leading by example, coaches and other team officials are assessed a coaches' penalty. The point system applied

to players above applies to coaches except that coaches are assessed an

additional 5-point penalty for the first card they receive in each game. Thus, one caution totals 10 points, 5 for the caution and 5 for the penalty.

A caution followed by an ejection (not a second yellow) totals 20 points.

Note: Many referees do not show cards when cautioning and ejecting coaches and other team officials. Nevertheless, cautions and ejections must be counted as described above whether cards are shown or not. (Often a coach can know he has been "carded" when he sees the referee writing in his "book;" hence the term "booking.")

c. Points assessed to coaches or trainers who are officials of more than one

team apply only to the team against which the points were assessed.

Similarly sit-out requirements apply to the team against which the points were earned.

3. A player, coach or other team official who receives cautions and/or ejections totaling 20 points a season (Fall or Spring), must serve a one-game disciplinary suspension at the team's next SYA game. A one

game disciplinary suspension must also be served for every 10 points received thereafter. Rules for serving suspensions due to ejections also apply to disciplinary suspensions due to accumulated points.

4. Points do carry over from one season to the next season for any player(s) and team official(s) who have not completed their game sit-outs or suspensions from the previous soccer season.

The R&D Committee will maintain records of player and team official point counts from prior seasons and will take this into account during its deliberations.

5. It is the team's responsibility to track its own point totals. The R&D Committee will not notify teams that an individual owes a disciplinary suspension for their cumulative points, **but** it will impose penalties if the sit-outs are not served in accordance with SYA rules and procedures.

CARRYING OUT SUSPENSIONS

1. General requirements:

a. The penalty for ejection from an SYA game is an automatic one-game suspension, i.e., a sit-out. A player, coach, or other team official may be ejected before, during, or after a game; an ejection after a game carries the same sanction as an ejection during a game.

The R & D Committee also has the authority to impose suspensions; these sit-out procedures apply to R & D imposed sit-outs.

b. Multi-game suspensions must be served consecutively.

c. Cautions and ejections assessed in terminated games (for bad weather or for other reasons) count as if the game had been completed.

2. Sit-outs must be served in the next SYA game the team plays. Games cancelled by rain or won or lost by forfeit do not count as the "next SYA game the team plays."

Sit-outs being served in a game terminated by weather will not count and sit outs being served in a game terminated by actions on the field that are not weather related will be reviewed by the R & D Committee to determine whether or not the sit-out will count.

3. A player, coach or team official ejected in the last game of the season or owing a cumulative -point sit-out as a result of the last game must serve the sit-out in the next game in which the individual is eligible to play.

4. A player sitting out a game may attend the game but must not be in uniform and must not be on the sideline with the team during the game.

5. An official of the team with a player or coach serving a sit-out must notify the referee of the name of the individual sitting out and request the referee record the sit-out on the game report.

6. **A suspended coach may not appear at the game site** or its vicinity before, during, or after a game for which the coach has been suspended. If a coach appears at the game site during a suspension, his or her team shall forfeit the game in question by a 3-0 score.

A suspended player may attend the game as a spectator provided:

- ☐ the player is not in uniform
- ☐ the player does not play

7. If a suspended player or coach participates in the game (s) for which they were suspended, their team shall forfeit the game (s) by a 3-0 score.

A suspension shall apply to the next SYA league game in which the team plays.

In instances where there are forfeitures or postponed games, the suspension will still be served at the next game played. All suspension actions carry forward until the entire suspension is served, irrespective of season.

R & D COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Referee Assignor will review all game cards and will report all red cards to the Referee Commissioner and the R&D Committee and SYA Commissioner and Vice-Commissioner.

It is the team's responsibility to track its own point totals. R & D Committee will not notify teams that an individual owes a disciplinary suspension for cumulative points, but R&D Committee will impose penalties if the sit-outs are not served in accordance with the SYA rules and procedures.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Actions which may be taken against an individual player, or team official, or club include:

1. **Verbal warnings and a written record.** Verbal warnings and reprimands may be made by R & D Committee. A written record must be kept and may be referenced in any future actions against that party.
2. **Written censure.** A written censure may be sent to the offending party by the R & D Committee. This may be referenced in any future actions against the party. A copy of the censure will be sent to the player's coach and/or division coordinator, as appropriate.
3. **Probation and suspension.** A player, team official, and all other individuals may be placed on probation and in more serious cases, may be suspended for a number of games specifically identified to that party. A suspended player may not participate in any game for which they are suspended. Also, any suspended individual may not appear at the game site or the vicinity of a game for which they are suspended or the team will forfeit the game with a score of 0 to 3 to the other team.
4. **Ban from participation.** In extreme cases, upon decision of the R&D Committee, a player, team official, or other individual may be banned from SYA participation or sponsorship for greater than one season. This decision requires approval of SYA's Board of Directors.

Those individual(s) being banned may not participate in any games or practice with any team during the period of suspension.

5. Special Note: The SYA Rules and Disciplinary's Sanctions will range from one game, multiple games, a single season, multiple seasons, or permanent ban from SYA Soccer.

REFEREES

The referees are in complete charge of the field and adjacent areas from the time they arrive at the game site until they depart the field. The referee is empowered to:

1. Rule on what equipment or accessories are considered dangerous.
2. Issue Yellow or Red cards during that entire period.
3. Terminate a game for coach, player, or spectator misconduct.
4. Refuse to allow the game to be played if, in the referee's judgment, the field is unplayable due to length of grass, inadequate lines, or other impediments.

R & D COMMITTEE

The Rules and Discipline (R & D) Committee shall consist of the R & D Director who will form a committee of five members. A minimum of three members must act on any one case. The R & D Director shall vote only in a case of a tie. A member of the committee cannot be from the same team as the individuals to which the hearing pertains.

Specific age group coordinators and commissioners may be asked to participate in the R & D Committee decisions that pertain to their age group.

Disciplinary action may be taken by the R & D Committee against any player, team official, or team, which fails to abide by the Laws of the Game, or the SYA Soccer Rules. **The SYA Rules and Disciplinary's Sanctions will range from one game, multiple games, a single season, multiple seasons, or permanent ban from SYA Soccer.**

The R & D Director shall keep appropriate records of all such actions and those records, along with the Laws and Rules of SYA Soccer, may be the basis for future disciplinary action.

Appeals from Decisions of the R & D Committee

A decision rendered by the committee may be further appealed to the SYA Soccer Board. Such appeals must be postmarked or delivered personally into the hands of the SYA Soccer Commissioner within 48 hours of the receipt of the findings of the Committee.

The SYA Soccer Commissioner shall call a meeting of the board and at the meeting the Committee shall present their findings. Board members present shall vote on the validity of the protest; a majority vote supporting the protest shall overturn the Committee's decision. There will be a \$50.00 fee for any appeal, refundable if appeal is upheld.