



# SAY East Code of Conduct



# Code of Conduct

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The philosophy of SAY is for children to play and learn soccer in a safe and enjoyable environment. Therefore, the following Code of Conduct, Disciplinary Actions and Due Processes shall apply to all Spectators, Coaches, Players and Referees participating in the SAY East programs. This includes all Districts, Organizations and/or Clubs in SAY East and any District, Organization and/or Club that is authorized to play in SAY East during any season. Violations of these codes may result in disciplinary actions taken by the District, Organization and/or Club as well as SAY East.

**This document is not meant to be wholly inclusive. SAY East Cincinnati retains the authority to take appropriate discretionary action when necessary to maintain the safety and integrity of the game and league.**

## Code of Conduct for Spectators

Spectators are encouraged to provide positive encouragement to all players on the field. Spectators are not allowed to verbally shout at or criticize players or referees at any time before, during and after the game. Coaching is limited to coaches only. Shouting out tactical instructions is not permitted. Game decisions by referees may not be questioned and public criticism of officials is not permitted.

## Code of Conduct for Coaches

The position of coach or leader of any youth group is an important and serious responsibility. The children look up to the coach and respect his/her position. The behavior of the coach is constantly under observation by them and they will strive to imitate the coach's actions. The coach's opinion and behavior during the game will carry more weight than anyone else's, including the parents. A responsible coach will conduct himself/herself using the following guidelines. A good youth soccer coach will:

1. Know the laws of the game and teach them to your players. Read the rulebook and attend a clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.
2. Abide by the Laws of the Game and the Soccer Association for Youth Rules.
3. Treat referees with respect, no matter what the call.
4. Exhibit excellent conduct at both practices and games. Team discipline reflects the coach's attitude.
5. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the players when they are together as a team and the conduct of the spectators at practice and games.
6. Coach clean, skillful and honest soccer by stressing playing hard over winning. Stress good sporting conduct.
7. Help maintain a climate of safety and enjoyment among spectators by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, referees, other coaches and other spectators. Remember that coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.



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8. Keep all comments positive. Work at team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics. Be a "fun leader".
9. Stress individual skill development more than tactics. Minimize lectures, maximize demonstrations, stress having fun. In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticism. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.
10. No use of profanities or vulgar language. Remember you are helping to mold the character of your players.
11. Coach talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. Allow all players more than their required playing time.
12. Minimize coaching from the sideline during the game. Know where your position on the sideline is during a game. Screaming during the game accomplishes nothing.
13. Pre-plan practice sessions in detail to be interesting, fast paced and involve all team members as much as possible (minimize standing around).
14. Welcome feedback from players and parents alike concerning potential problems and ways to improve.
15. Promote fair play at all levels. For example, discourage Passers from being in an offside position during games even though offsides is not enforced at the Passers level.

## Code of Conduct for Players

All registered soccer players in the SAY program are required to learn the Laws and Rules of SAY Soccer, play fair and assure the safety of themselves, teammates and opponents. Violation of the Rules of Soccer will result in a penalty in accordance with the Rules of Soccer as determined by the soccer official during the game.

## Code of Conduct for Referees

A good youth soccer referee will:

1. Always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. Always conduct themselves honorably and maintain the dignity of their position and trust.
3. Always honor their assigned game/match obligation.
4. Strive to attend local meetings and referee clinics in order to better their knowledge of the Laws of the Game and their proper interpretation.
5. Will endeavor to control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing firmness.
6. Shall do their utmost to assist their fellow officials to better themselves and their work mentoring younger more inexperienced referees when needed.
7. Shall not make statements about any game except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.



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8. Consider it a privilege to be part of SAY East and strive to make their actions reflect credit upon the organization and its Districts.
9. Shall report all Red Cards to the SAY East Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the issuance. This will ensure proper action has been taken to notify the next opposing team and ensure sanctions/penalties are successfully carried out.
10. Will not use or be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol before or during a game.
  - a. First offense: Six-month suspension from working games in SAY East area.
  - b. Second offense: Lifetime suspension from working games in SAY East area.

## Disciplinary Actions for Spectators, Coaches and Players

It is against the Rules of SAY Soccer for any coach, spectator or player to threaten, harass or intimidate soccer officials in any way. This includes before, during and after any game sanctioned by SAY East and/or SAY Soccer. Failure to comply with the SAY Laws and Rules of the game as well as this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary actions listed below.

Additionally, immediate expulsion from the game and field area (i.e. out of sight or earshot of the official) and/or loss of the game by judgment of the District representative or organization officials. Any physical contact with a soccer official could mean legal action by the SAY soccer association and/or the individual official(s).

At the direction of the Referee coaches and/or players may be cautioned (yellow card) and ejected (red card) before, during or after a sanctioned game. Spectators may be ejected (no cards) from the field or area for any of the following offenses: entering the field without permission from the referee (including during an injury), showing dissent by words or actions with any decision of the referee, foul or abusive language or unacceptable conduct towards the referees, players, coaches or other spectators.



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Penalty and Disciplinary Actions for Spectators and Coaches	
Infraction	Penalty/Disciplinary Action
Abusive language to an official, player, coach or spectator.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Foul language to an official, player, coach or spectator.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Threatening actions or words towards an official, player, coach or spectator.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Aggressive physical contact with the referee, player or coach, i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, etc..	Red Card – Ejection from game and four game suspension.
Striking or kicking an official or a player.	Red Card – Ejection from game and expulsion for the season.
Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection.	Two game suspension.
Use or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol before or during a game.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension. Subject to expulsion from the league.
Entering the field of play without the permission of the referees.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Excessive or constant verbal harassment of the referee or players.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner.	First Offense: Caution – Yellow Card Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and two game suspension (next game). Expulsion Review.
Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner with deliberate intent to harm.	Red Card – Ejection from game and two game suspension (next game). Expulsion Review.
Coaches do not remain between penalty box and mid-field.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Instructs players to delay the restart of the game.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Playing an illegal player.	Game(s) forfeiture and expulsion for the season.
Fail to follow the Blowout Policy.	First Offense: Warning or one game suspension depending upon severity of violation. Second Offense: Two game suspension.



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Penalty and Disciplinary Actions for Players	
Infraction	Penalty/Disciplinary Action
The use of offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Denies goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Threatening actions or words towards a referee, player, or spectator.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Aggressive physical contact with the referee i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, etc.	Red Card – Ejection from game and four game suspension.
Spits at an opponent or any other person.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Striking a referee.	Red Card – Ejection from game and Expulsion for the season.
Striking (closed fist) or kicking a player.	Red Card – Ejection from game and two game suspension. Second offense for same reason is Expulsion for the season.
Denies an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Any player observed using or under the influence of drugs / alcohol and or tobacco products before or during a game.	Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game). Subject to expulsion from the league.
Other violent conduct or serious foul play.	Red Card – Ejection from the game and two game suspension. Subject to expulsion from the league.
Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Dissent by word or action	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the permission of the referees.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Fails to respect the required distance from a corner kick or free kick.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Engages in unsporting behavior. i.e. inappropriate language or gestures, preventing the taking of a throw-in, reckless play, etc.	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Persistent violation of the Laws of the Game	First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution. Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from game and one game suspension (next game).
Receives a second caution in same match	Red card - ejection from game. Probation (starts next game with a yellow card).
Failure to leave field after ejection	Additional one game suspension.



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## Additional information for Spectators, Coaches and Players

1. SAY East and/or District Representatives may levy penalties greater than those above if, in their opinion, it is appropriate.
2. Red Cards that are assessed after a game is completed will carry into other games. This includes any coach or player that coaches, assists or participates in another SAY team/game.
3. Penalties that are assessed which are longer than the remaining season shall be carried over to the next season.
4. A coach under suspension may not participate or attend, including as a spectator, any SAY East sanctioned event.
5. A coach under expulsion is out of the SAY East program indefinitely. SAY East may reinstate a coach only after a favorable review. An expelled coach may not act in any coaching, managerial or administrative capacity in the SAY East Area.
6. The violation of any suspension or expulsion will result in the forfeiture of any game participated in and/or the elimination of the team from league play for the remainder of the season.
7. All Red Cards or ejections will be noted by the referee and reported to the SAY East Area Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the offense.

## Due Process Procedures

1. The Due Process Procedures provide a defined method for individuals who feel they have a grievance against SAY East's actions. The procedures do not affect the existing protest procedures involving game incidents as described in the SAY Rulebook SAY Organizational Rule #9, nor are they intended to be a vehicle for changing or overturning any game situations.
2. A complaint or appeal must be filed, in writing within seven (7) days of the incident complained of or decision being appealed. The filing will be with the District Representative or other persons assigned by the District to receive these filings.
3. A hearing must be held within five (5) days of the receipt of the filing by SAY East. A hearing board comprised of three (3) persons may be specified by SAY East. However, provision must be made that only disinterested non-bias parties may serve on the board at any level. The complainant and other parties of the complainant's choice will be allowed to be present and present evidence or argument.
4. The person whose decisions or actions are being complained of or appealed will also be heard. The hearing board will render a decision within three (3) working days and notify the parties concerned, in writing.
5. If the complaining party is dissatisfied with the decision, it may be appealed to SAY National for SAY East matters.
6. In addition, situations which SAY East does not wish to decide, or situations involving more than one District may also be submitted to SAY National.



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7. In all cases, appeals must be submitted, heard and replies to must be made in the time frames indicated above and in writing.
8. Cases not covered by the published SAY East Code of Conduct with specified penalties may be appealed to the National Review Board based on the procedures established by SAY. A fee of \$50.00 is required for any such appeal, to be refunded if the appeal is upheld.