

CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY, DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, AND DUE PROCESS FOR MIAMI VALLEY WEST AND ALL MVW DISTRICTS

COACHES, PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, AND REFEREES

This applies to all Districts in the Miami Valley West (MVW) SAY (Soccer Association for Youth) program that are authorized to play in the MVW SAY program during any season for all recreational events. The philosophy of SAY is for children to play and learn soccer in a safe and enjoyable environment. Therefore, the following Code of Conduct shall apply to all coaches, players, spectators, and referees participating in the MVW SAY program. MVW Districts include (Brookville, Camden (Preble Shawnee), Eaton, Greenville, Lewisburg, New Paris (National Trail), New Lebanon, and West Alexandria.

Violations of these codes may result in disciplinary action taken not only by the parent District, but also by MVW. Disciplinary actions and the procedures for due process are below.

MVW AND DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REPRIMAND COACHES, PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, AND REFEREES FOR INFRACTIONS THEY DEEM VIOLATING OUR CODE OF CONDUCT. THIS COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM MVW AND/OR THEIR DISTRICT, WITHOUT REFUND, AND CAN CAUSE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY TO FORFEIT CURRENT AND FUTURE REGISTRATION WITHIN MVW AND ITS DISTRICTS.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES:

The position of the 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, even a parent's. 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 their players. Read the rulebook and attend a clinic to enhance your knowledge of the game.
2. Abide by the Laws of the Game, District/MVW/SAY rules.
3. Treat referees with respect, no matter what the call.
4. Exhibit excellent conduct at both practices and games. The coach is responsible for the conduct of the players when they are together as a team, and the conduct of the spectators at practices and games.
5. Coach clean, skillful, and honest soccer by stressing playing hard over winning.
6. Emphasize good sporting conduct.
7. Help maintain a climate of safety and enjoyment by discouraging negative remarks and/or harassment of players, coaches, referees, and other spectators. Remember the coaches are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Keep all comments positive.
8. Work on team morale as hard as soccer skills and tactics. Be a "fun leader". Stress individual skill development more than tactics. Minimize lectures and maximize demonstrations. Stress having fun.
9. In dealing with team members, maximize praise and minimize criticism. Make corrections slowly and calmly in a manner tailored to the individual.
10. DO NOT use profanity or vulgar language. Remember coaches are helping to mold the character of their players.
11. Coach talented and non-talented players with equal vigor. Allow all players at least their minimum required playing time.
12. Minimize coaching from the sidelines during the game. Know where your position on the sidelines 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. Discourage Passers from being in an offside position during games even though offsides is not enforced at the Passers level.
16. Work with referees understanding that calls are based on the best judgement of the referees.

17. Refrain from using tobacco products on the sidelines before, during, and after practices and games.
18. Every coach is instructed to make all players, assistants, and spectators aware and knowledgeable of the Code of Conduct and their penalties.

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 and their teammates. Violation of the Laws of the Game and Code of Conduct will result in discipline and/or penalty.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FOR COACHES, PLAYERS, AND SPECTATORS

It is against the rules of SAY soccer for any coach, player, or spectator to threaten, harass, or intimidate in any way. This includes social media before/during/after any sanctioned MVW SAY events. Failure to comply with the SAY rules, Laws of the Game, as well as the Code of Conduct, will result in disciplinary action 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 is possible. Any physical contact with a coach, player, referee, or spectator could mean action by the District/Area/SAY, and/or the individual(s).

At the discretion of the referee or board member, coaches and players may be cautioned (yellow card (card not required)), and ejected (red card (card not required)) 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 to the referees, players, coaches, or other spectators.

INFRACTION PENALTY/DISCIPLINARY ACTION

MVW (DISTRICTS) SOCCER BOARD MEMBERS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REPRIMAND COACHES, PLAYERS, SPECTATORS, AND REFEREES FOR INFRACTIONS THEY DEEM VIOLATING OUR CODE OF CONDUCT. THIS COULD RESULT IN PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM MVW (DISTRICTS), WITHOUT REFUND, AND CAN CAUSE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY TO FORFEIT CURRENT AND FUTURE REGISTRATION WITHIN MVW (DISTRICTS) SOCCER.

- **Abusive language to an official, player, coach, or spectator:**
 - First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.
 - Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Foul/threatening language or actions to an official, player, coach, or spectator:**
 - Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Aggressive physical contact with an official, player, coach, or spectator, i.e. grabbing the arm, turning the individual around, poking, bumping, etc.:**
 - Red Card – Ejection from the game. Four game suspension.
- **Striking or kicking an official, player, coach, or spectator:**
 - Red Card – Ejection from the game and expulsion from District and MVW for the season.
 - Review by the board of directors of District and MVW for denial of future enrollment of said family.
- **Refusal to leave the playing field after an ejection:**
 - Two game suspension.
- **Any player, coach, or spectator observed using or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol before or during a game:**

- Red Card – Ejection from the game and one game suspension. Subject to expulsion from the District by MVW Board Review.
- **Entering the field of play without the permission of the officials:**
 - First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.
 - Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Constant and excessive verbal harassment of an official, player, coach, or spectator:**
 - Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Instructing players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner:**
 - First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.
 - Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game. Two game suspension, possible Expulsion Review.

- **Instructing players to play in dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner with deliberate intent to harm:**
 - Red Card – Ejection from the game and two game suspension. Expulsion Review for the District by MVW Board Review for denial of future enrollment of said family.
- **Coaches do not remain between penalty box and mid-field. Spectators on wrong side of field or behind goal:**
 - First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.
 - Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Playing an illegal player:**
 - Game forfeiture and season suspension.
- **Instructs players to delay the re-start of the game:**
 - First Offense: Yellow Card – Caution.
 - Second Offense: Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Two Cautions (yellow cards) in a single game for the same or different offenses:**
 - Red Card – Ejection from the game. One game suspension (next game).
- **Three yellow cards within 4 games – regular season or three yellow cards within Area Tournament:**
 - One game suspension (next game).
- **Red card issued after the game – two game suspension.**
 - If harassment of referee or coach continues after leaving the playing field it will result in Review by the District Board or MVW Area Board for denial of future enrollment of said family.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR COACHES AND PLAYERS:

1. The MVW (Districts) Board Member Review and/or District Representative may levy penalties greater than those above if, in their opinion, circumstances indicate a greater penalty is appropriate.
2. Red Cards that are issued after the game is completed will carry over to the other games. This includes any coach or player that coaches, assistants, 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 that the person participates.
4. A coach under suspension may not attend or participate in any way as either a coach, assistance coach, or spectator in any game his or her team plays during his/her suspension. This includes any other teams of other age groups within SAY.
5. A coach under expulsion is out of the DISTRICTS/MVW SAY program indefinitely. The MVW Area Board may reinstate a coach only after a favorable review. An expelled coach may not act in any coaching, managerial, or administrative capacity in the MVW or Districts.
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 card or ejections will be noted by the referee and reported to the District Referee Coordinator which will turn over the MVW SAY Area Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of the offense.
8. MVW/Districts reserves the right to send or not send teams to SAY State Tournament.
9. Reframe from using tobacco products on the sidelines before, during, and after practices and games.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR REFEREES:

1. Referees shall always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. Referees will conduct themselves honorably at all times and maintain the dignity of their position and trust.
3. Referees shall honor their assigned game/match obligation.
4. Referees will endeavor to attend local meetings and referee clinics in order to better know the Laws of the Game and their proper interpretation.
5. Referees will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with all fellow referees and/or linesmen.
6. Referees shall be loyal to all fellow referees and linesmen, and never knowingly criticize or promote criticism of them.
7. Referees shall strive to be in their best physical condition so as to be in position to make the correct calls (supporting the endeavor to be in the right place at the right time).
8. Referees will endeavor to control the players effectively by being courteous and considerate without sacrificing firmness.
9. Referees shall not make statements about any game except to clarify an interpretation of the Laws of the Game.
10. Referees shall do their utmost to assist their fellow officials to better themselves and their work mentoring younger more inexperienced referees when needed.
11. Referees should consider that it is a privilege to be part of the Soccer Association for Youth and should strive to make their actions reflect credit upon that.
12. Reframe from using tobacco products on the sidelines before, during, and after practices and games.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFEREES:

1. All districts will purchase their referee supplies from a soccer supplier.
 - a. Current SAY Rulebook.
 - b. Red and yellow cards.
 - c. Score cards.
2. All referees who referee MVW SAY Districts shall be 1 league removed.
3. Passing grades on the SAY Referee test is as follows:
 - a. Probationary Referee (must referee with a qualified adult referee) 70-79.
 - b. Qualified Referee 80-89.
 - c. Certified Referee – 90-100 – Be certified once score is reached and referee minimum of 10 games and District Referee signs off on you being certified.
 - d. Training – 60-69 – only used by districts for in-house games and may require training upgrade period.
4. All Referees who referee the MVW tournament shall have at least (2) years experience, and one adult on games.
5. Referee uniforms are a District responsibility to coordinate.
6. Prior to start of the any season, all referee coordinators shall forward a complete list of all their referees who meet the qualification in number 3 above with their names, addresses, phone numbers, and ages to the Area Referee Coordinators (this ensures their eligibility for SAY Soccer Insurance).
7. Referees shall report all red and yellow cards to their District Referee Coordinator within 24 hours of issuances.
8. This will ensure proper action has been taking to notify the next opposing team and ensure sanctions/penalties are successfully carried out.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Parents and/or players that are caught posting negative or insulting comments and/or posts related to MVW (DISTRICTS) on any social media outlet will be suspended for 2 games, no questions asked. This includes comments about MVW (DISTRICTS), MVW (DISTRICTS) board members, MVW (DISTRICTS) coaches, MVW (DISTRICTS) players, etc. Any complaints should be brought to a board member and will be addressed with the board.

Definition of Red Card Punishment

1. Red card infraction level: follows year; (Spring to Fall) or (Fall to Spring)
 - Levels:
 1. 2 game suspension or warning (depending on infraction) (After final whistle 2 games minimum)
 2. 4 game suspension (or 2 game suspension if 1st was issued a warning). If end of season remaining games follow till end of next consecutive season within one calendar year.
 3. Immediately expelled from MVW (Districts) and any affiliates. Or if 1 red card issued as warning, utilize 4 games Suspension.
 4. If warning had been utilized immediately expelled.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES

1. The Due Process Procedure provides a defined method for which individuals who feel they have a grievance against either MVW or the District decisions or actions. The procedure does 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, with 48 hours of the incident complained of or decision being appealed. For a MVW matter, the filing will be with the District Representative or other persons assigned by the District to receive these. For District matters the filing will be made with the District President.
3. A hearing must be held within (5) days of the receipt of the filing by MVW or in the case of a District matter, the District President. A hearing board comprised of minimum three (3) – maximum seven (7) persons may be specified by MVW or by the District. However, provision must be made that only disinterested non-bias parties may serve on the boards at any level. The complainant and other parties of the complainant's choice will be allowed to be present and present evidence or agreement.
4. The person whose decision or actions are being complained of or appealed will also be heard. The hearing board will render a decision within three (3) – five (5) business days and notify the parties concerned in writing.
5. If the complaining party is dissatisfied with the decision, it may be appealed to the next level, i.e. to MVW for District matters, to SAY National for MVW SAY matters. In addition, situations in which MVW does not wish to decide, or situations involving more than one District, may also be submit to the next level.
6. In the instance of decisions at the District level, a second District hearing board of disinterested non-bias persons not hearing the first appeal shall be appointed to hear the second appeal.
7. In all cases, appeals must be submitted, heard, and replies must be made in the time frames indicated above and in writing.
8. Cases not covered by the published MVW Code of Conduct and behavior with specified penalties may be appealed to the National Review Board based on procedures established by SAY. A fee of \$50.00 is required for any such appeal, to be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

I, the undersigned, agree to follow the Code of Conduct and comply with all rules, policies, and procedures. I understand that violation of the Code will not be tolerated and that violations will subject me to disciplinary action in accordance to the MVW (Districts) Code of Conduct Policy, and could include a warning, game(s) suspension, or season suspension, as well as impact my opportunity to manage, coach, or play in future seasons. I further acknowledge the authority of the Executive Board of Directors of Miami Valley West, or Districts and understand that if permitted to manage or coach I serve solely at the pleasure of the board, which permission

may be revoked at any time. My failure to honor the authority of the board and its members or to show them proper respect will be deemed a violation of this Code of Conduct. Accordingly, I understand that I may be called to speak to some or all of the board at any time and that if called, my failure to attend, could result in an immediate suspension.

_____ Signature

_____ Name (printed)

_____ Date

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