



Code of Conduct For Players

As a player, you represent the Birmingham United Soccer Association when you play. The actions of one player can affect the image of all of us. This Code of Conduct encourages you to play with good sportsmanship and to treat players, coaches, referees and parents with respect. It also identifies the possible consequences you will encounter when you can't behave in an appropriate manner.

Treat Referees with Respect

- Never, ever, touch a referee except to shake hands.
- Always address referees as "sir" or "ma'am" when speaking to them, no matter how old they are.
- Do not talk back to referees. If a referee speaks to you, your response should be respectful and to the point.
- Do not question calls that referees make during play. If you do not understand a call, wait until a stoppage and respectfully ask the referee to explain what happened. Most referees will be glad to explain what they saw and how they applied the Laws of the Game.
- It is possible that the referee made a mistake. Remember that the next time you make a mistake during play. Making mistakes is a part of life.

Treat Your Team with Respect

- Listen to your coach. Do what the coach asks of you without complaining.
- Be at practice and at games on time.
- Be responsible for your own equipment. Don't expect someone else to keep track of your stuff.

Treat Your Teammates and Opponents with Respect

- Whether you win or lose, do so with class. Shake hands after games.
- Never yell at or criticize a member of the opposing team. Think how mad you become when someone from the opposing team yells at you.
- Never criticize your own teammates. Think about how you feel when other players criticize you. If you think you can help a teammate by suggesting they do something differently, do it later, privately.
- No alcohol, drugs, profanity or fighting are ever permitted at soccer games or practice.

Treat Fields with Respect

- Fields cost a lot of money to build and maintain. Whenever you do something that damages the field, someone has to pay to fix it. That someone is your family – almost half of the money you pay to play soccer goes into field maintenance.
- Goals, nets, benches, fences, and corner flags are expensive. Don't abuse them. Don't climb on the goals or nets. Don't move the corner flags. Don't climb the fence – use the gate.

Grievances and Consequences

- If you can't play by the rules in this Code of Conduct, there will be consequences. They are managed by the Birmingham United Soccer Association's Fair Play Committee.
- The Fair Play Committee may impose penalties including reprimands, suspension of playing privileges, and expulsion from a team or the club.
- The Alabama Soccer Association and/or the Central Alabama Soccer League may respond to certain actions that take place during events they sanction (league matches, tournaments, etc.), such as the following:
- Confrontations with or touching a referee during or after a game.
- Confrontations, shoving matches, or fighting between players of opposing teams. These governing bodies have the authority to impose fines and suspensions above and beyond those imposed by the Birmingham United Soccer Association. If you are red-carded from a game, you will be suspended for at least one game, and possibly for as much as five years if what you did was very violent or involved touching a referee.
- In addition to the above consequences, note that Section 13A-11-144, Code of Alabama 1975 establishes up to Class A felony status for the offenses of harassment of, menacing of, or assault on a sports official performing his or her official duties. In other words, you can go to jail for touching a referee.

SIGNATURE: As a player in the Birmingham United Soccer Association, I acknowledge...

- That I have read, understand and will follow the rules in this Code of Conduct;
- That my continued participation on my team depends upon following the rules;
- That I will help my fellow players follow the Code of Conduct.

Team: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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