

FLORAL PARK SOCCER CLUB (FPSC)

CODE OF CONDUCT & ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Official Club, Coach, Player, and Spectator Agreement

The Floral Park Soccer Club (FPSC) is dedicated to providing a safe, healthy, positive, and supportive environment for youth athletes to learn, play, and love the game of soccer. This Code of Conduct and Agreement (Code) sets clear behavioral expectations for everyone involved in our soccer programs.

The FPSC Board of Directors and Disciplinary Committee will take decisive, immediate action against any coach, volunteer, player, parent, or spectator found to violate this Code, or whose conduct is considered detrimental to the safety and well-being of our youth participants. This Code is aligned with the frameworks provided by the United States Youth Soccer Organization (USYS) and applicable SafeSport standards.

1. THE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

FPSC enforces a strict Zero Tolerance Policy regarding any form of abuse, harassment, intimidation, or unsportsmanlike behavior. There is absolutely no excuse for misconduct. The following boundaries are strictly enforced:

- **No Referee Confrontation:** Under no circumstances shall any coach, player, parent, or spectator vocalize criticism, shout at, or confront a match official before, during, or after a match. Referees, many of whom are local youth, must be treated with total respect at all times. Obvious, structural, or aggressive dissent will result in immediate removal from the facility.
- **No Physical or Verbal Abuse:** Profanity, racial slurs, insulting comments regarding a child's or official's identity, derogatory remarks, or physical threats will result in an immediate and indefinite suspension pending a formal disciplinary hearing.
- **Sideline Boundaries:** Spectators must remain on the designated side of the field opposite the player benches and at least two yards behind the touchline. Entering the field of play without the referee's explicit permission is strictly prohibited and constitutes grounds for immediate match forfeiture.
- **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Prohibited Substances:** FPSC operates fields and facilities completely free of controlled substances. Coaches, volunteers, and spectators must not possess, distribute, or use alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, e-cigarettes/vaping products, or illegal substances at any club field, practice facility, match, or event. No volunteer may supervise or coach an activity if they are under the influence of any impairing substance.

2. COACH & VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches, assistant coaches, board members, and team volunteers are the primary ambassadors of FPSC. They set the emotional and structural tone for our teams. Every volunteer explicitly agrees to:

- **Prioritize Safety & Well-being:** Place the emotional well-being and physical safety of each player above all other considerations, including winning or club recognition.
- **Model Sportsmanship:** Act as a positive role model. Unsportsmanlike conduct—such as taunting, booing, or refusing to shake hands—is strictly prohibited. Teach players that giving maximum effort and improving skills are far more important than the final score.
- **Ensure Equitable Treatment:** Treat all children with fair, consistent, and equal consideration. All efforts must be made to eliminate favoritism or the appearance of favoritism.
- **Enforce Supervision Safety:** Never leave a child or children alone with a professional trainer or third-party contractor. A certified Club Coach or Assistant Coach must be present at all activities run by an outside trainer.
- **The Two-Adult Rule:** The club strongly recommends that all activities involving children have at least two background-checked adults present. One-on-one discussions with a minor player must always take place in an open, public space within plain sight of other adults.
- **Collaborate with Professionals:** Cooperate fully with medical specialists, doctors, and parents to protect the health and long-term recovery of injured players.

3. PARENT & SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents and spectators play a critical role in shaping a child's athletic experience. Every parent and guardian agrees to:

- **Offer Positive Encouragement:** Cheer positively from the sidelines. Avoid shouting instructions or "coaching" from the spectator side, as this confuses players and contradicts tactical instructions from the designated coaching staff.
- **Respect Coaching Decisions:** Respect the coach's choices regarding playing time, positioning, and strategy.
- **The 24-Hour Cooling Off Period:** Spectators and parents must never question, discuss, or confront coaches on active match or practice fields. Any soccer or playing-time disagreements must be handled privately, away from the athletes, and are subject to a mandatory 24-Hour Cooling Off Period before making contact via phone or email to schedule an appropriate meeting.
- **Fulfill Basic Team Responsibilities:** Ensure players arrive at training sessions and matches on time, properly equipped with matching uniforms, safety shin guards, soccer cleats, and adequate water.

4. PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

FPSC players represent their families, their team, and the entire Floral Park community. Every player agrees to:

- **Play Fair:** Play hard, play within the official Laws of the Game, and maintain total sportsmanship.
- **Show Absolute Respect:** Respect teammates, coaches, opponents, and match officials, accepting referee decisions gracefully without argument.
- **Protect Teammates:** Refrain from using foul language, taunting, or intentionally attempting to injure any player. Be a supportive teammate who lifts others up rather than criticizing mistakes.
- **Commit to the Team:** Attend all scheduled training sessions and matches reliably, and notify the coaching staff well in advance if an absence is completely unavoidable.

5. ABUSE PREVENTION & ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES

Core Abuse Definitions

Abuse directed toward players, referees, or volunteers is strictly prohibited and categorized into the following subtypes:

- **Physical Abuse:** The execution of physical punishment, intentional striking, or any action resulting in physical injury.
- **Verbal Abuse:** The utilization of harsh, degrading, demeaning, or public shaming language. This includes public mocking or minimizing a child's distress by claiming they are "too sensitive."
- **Sexual Abuse:** Any contact, communication, or activity of a sexual nature between an adult and a minor, or between minor athletes where a power imbalance exists.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Actions or consistent patterns of behavior by an adult that inflict mental or emotional injury, distress, or psychological trauma upon a child.
- **Neglect:** Chronically failing to provide adequate supervision, protective safety measures, or immediate basic care for a child during an activity.

Peer-to-Peer Interventions

Adult volunteers and coaches must not tolerate misconduct between minor participants. It is a violation of this Code to witness peer-to-peer misconduct and fail to intervene immediately.

- **Bullying & Harassment:** Unwanted, aggressive, or repeated behavioral patterns involving a real or perceived power imbalance, physical intimidation, social exclusion, or

discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, identity, religion, or mental/physical disabilities will be met with immediate administrative discipline.

- **Hazing:** Coercing, forcing, requiring, or willfully tolerating any dangerous, humiliating, or unwelcome task as a condition of joining or remaining on a team is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether the minor athlete consents.

6. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

All digital communication between adult volunteers and minor athletes must be strictly professional, transparent, and dedicated exclusively to team logistics.

- **Social Media Platforms:** Coaches and volunteers may utilize official team accounts or public pages to share schedules, but are strictly prohibited from connecting with or messaging minor athletes via personal, private social media profiles.
- **Direct & Private Messaging:** Direct Messaging (DMs) through social apps or tools featuring disappearing or untrackable messages (such as Snapchat) between an adult volunteer and an individual minor athlete is completely forbidden.
- **Text Messaging & Group Chats:** Text communication with minor athletes is restricted to players who are at least 14 years of age, provided that the communication is formatted as a group message that explicitly includes a parent/guardian, another assistant coach, or a club official.
- **Time Restrictions:** Routine electronic communications must be restricted to daytime and evening hours between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM, unless active travel changes or match emergencies require immediate notice.
- **Electronic Imagery:** Photos and videos captured in public view during matches may be used for instruction or promotional web-posting. Any written request from a parent or legal guardian to opt out of individual photography must be strictly honored.

7. VIOLATION AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANICS

Disciplinary Action Framework

Violations of this Code of Conduct will be handled decisively by the FPSC Board of Directors and its Disciplinary Committee. Depending on the severity and frequency of the violation, the Club reserves the right to issue the following sanctions:

1. **Written Warning:** Explicit written notice detailing the infraction and clarifying that subsequent violations will result in progressive penalties.
2. **Probation:** A defined probationary timeframe accompanied by clear performance terms determined directly by the Board.
3. **Suspension:** Temporary removal from participating in or attending any club matches, practices, training sessions, or events for a designated duration.

- **Coaching Card Offset Rule:** If a parent or spectator's egregious sideline behavior causes a coach to receive an official red card or match ejection from a referee, that individual spectator will automatically face a mandatory suspension mirroring or exceeding the coach's league-mandated suspension.
- 4. **Permanent Bar:** Complete, permanent expulsion and banishment from all current and future club-sponsored activities, matches, and events.
- 5. **Forfeiture of Fees:** No individual subject to disciplinary suspension, exclusion, or membership termination will be entitled to a refund of registration fees, club dues, or seasonal uniforms.

Legal Protocol for Mandatory Reporting

The FPSC organization does not investigate suspicions or allegations of physical or sexual abuse internally, nor does it evaluate the credibility of allegations as a condition of reporting. All reports or suspicions of child abuse will be immediately turned over to local law enforcement, Child Protective Services (CPS), or other appropriate state agencies in full compliance with state and federal laws.

Due Process and Appeals

Any individual facing formal disciplinary action will be notified in writing by the Board of Directors. The accused party has the right to a review of the circumstances and may request to appear before the Board of Directors to explain their conduct prior to the final execution of long-term penalties. The Board's final decision will be formally communicated within seven (7) days following the conclusion of the review meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & AGREEMENT

By checking the online registration agreement box or signing below, we acknowledge that we have read, thoroughly understand, and agree to completely abide by the updated Floral Park Soccer Club Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy. We acknowledge that maintaining the safety, sportsmanship, and well-being of the youth athletes is our shared responsibility.