



1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

## Policy Title: Abusive Parent Behavior Management Policy

### Policy Statement:

At our soccer club, we are committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators. Any form of abusive behavior from parents towards referees, coaches, players, or other spectators will not be tolerated. In cases where a parent displays abusive behavior towards any party involved in the game, the referee or team manager has the authority to ask the individual to leave the pitch side and watch from the stands for the remainder of the game.

### Policy Details:

#### 1. Definition of Abusive Behavior:

Abusive behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal insults, threats, intimidation, harassment, or any other behavior that creates a hostile or unsafe environment for others. This includes behavior directed towards referees, opposing players, coaches, or spectators.

#### 2. Authority to Act:

The referee or team manager has the authority to address instances of abusive behavior from parents during games. They have the discretion to determine when a parent's behavior warrants intervention and may ask the parent to leave the pitch side and watch from the stands for the remainder of the game.

#### 3. Procedure:

When a referee or team manager observes or receives a report of abusive behavior from a parent, the following steps should be taken:

- a. The referee or team manager should approach the parent in a calm and respectful manner.
- b. The parent should be informed that their behavior is not acceptable and they are required to move to the stands for the remainder of the game.

c. If the parent refuses to comply or continues with abusive behavior, the referee or team manager may request assistance from event staff or other authorities if necessary.

d. The parent's behavior should be documented for future reference and potential disciplinary actions.

#### 4. Parental Responsibilities:

Parents are expected to abide by the club's code of conduct and set a positive example for their children and other spectators. They should support their child's team in a positive and respectful manner, refrain from engaging in confrontational or abusive behavior, and comply with directions given by referees or team officials.

#### 5. Consequences of Non-Compliance:

Parents who fail to comply with a request to move to the stands due to abusive behavior may face disciplinary actions, including but not limited to:

a. Suspension from attending future games.

b. Suspension of their child from participating in club activities.

c. Permanent ban from the club's events and facilities.

#### 6. Appeal Process:

If a parent believes they have been unfairly asked to leave the pitch side, they may submit a written appeal to the club's board of directors within a specified timeframe. The board will review the appeal and make a decision on whether the parent's behavior warranted the action taken.

#### 7. Reporting and Documentation:

All instances of abusive behavior and the actions taken by the referee or team manager should be documented and reported to the club's management for review. This documentation will be used to track patterns of behavior, implement corrective actions, and address any ongoing concerns.

#### 8. Communication and Awareness:

This policy should be communicated to all parents, players, coaches, referees, and spectators associated with the club. It should be prominently displayed on the club's website, shared in team communications, and discussed at parent meetings to ensure awareness and understanding of expectations regarding behavior at games.

#### 9. Review and Revision:

This policy will be periodically reviewed and revised as needed to ensure it remains effective and aligned with the club's values and goals. Feedback from stakeholders will be considered in the ongoing improvement of the policy.

Conclusion:

Abusive behavior from parents at soccer games not only undermines the spirit of sportsmanship but also creates a negative and unsafe environment for everyone involved. By enforcing this policy and empowering referees and team managers to address abusive behavior, we aim to uphold a culture of respect, fair play, and mutual support within our soccer club. Together, we can create a positive and welcoming environment where players can thrive and enjoy the game to its fullest.

