

BAFC Player, Coach, Parent, & Spectator Code of Conduct

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

- Play by the rules of the game.
- Show respect to all coaches, referees, spectators, players, and tournament officials.
- Do not question any referee's judgment or honesty.
- Adhere to our Zero Tolerance For Abuse Policy.
- Control your temper and, most of all, resist the temptation to physically and/or verbally retaliate when you feel you have been wronged by opponents or your own teammates.
- Concentrate on playing soccer and affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort. Work equally as hard for your team as for yourself.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated. Be a good sport by cheering on all good plays – on your team and your opponent's team.
- Do not use unsportsmanlike, negative, foul, explicit, derogatory, demeaning, degrading, threatening, harassing, and/or abusive language toward any coach, players, or parents on your/opposing team, referees, and tournament officials. These types of language may include but are not limited to comments regarding race, religion, class, gender, or sexual orientation and will not be tolerated.
- Adhere to the Social Media Policy and Guidelines and do not post unsportsmanlike, negative, foul, explicit, derogatory, demeaning, degrading, threatening, harassing, and/or abusive language, information, and/or music, including lyrics, on any form of digital media that involve BAFC. Examples of media are social media, apps, text threads, websites, forums, etc... These media forms will have the same consequences as if they happened in person at a BAFC activity.
- Adhere to all rules associated with chaperoned trips to all soccer events.
- Conduct yourself in a manner befitting someone representing themselves, their family, and the Club.
- Put in your best effort. Goofing off or slacking off during practices will not translate in more playing minutes come game day.
- Play soccer for the fun of it. Remember the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills, and feel good about your contribution to the team.

PARENT/SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember your children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours. Do not force an unwilling child to participate.

- Teach your player that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory.
- Help your player work towards skill improvement and having good sportsmanship – your child will be a winner even in defeat.
- Be a positive role model and set a good example – do not yell at, ridicule, or criticize your child or any other player. Instead, applaud good plays by your team and by those of the opposing team.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.
- Show respect to all coaches, referees, spectators, players, and tournament officials.
- Do not harass or question any referee's judgment or honesty. Leave conflict resolution to field marshals and/or tournament officials.
- Adhere to our Zero Tolerance For Abuse Policy.
- Do not enter the field of play for any reason and/or under any circumstance.
- Adhere to the Social Media Policy and Guidelines and do not post unsportsmanlike, negative, foul, explicit, derogatory, demeaning, degrading, threatening, harassing, and/or abusive language, information, and/or music, including lyrics, on any form of digital media that involve BAFC. Examples of media are social media, apps, text threads, websites, forums, etc... These media forms will have the same consequences as if they happened in person at a BAFC activity.
- Do not engage BAFC coaches in social activities outside the parameters set in the Coaches Code of Conduct: practices, games, team kickoff meetings, team dinners, and team end-of-year parties.

COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

- Be positive role models who project the spirit of the sport on and off the field. You are responsible for fairly applying the League's policies.
- Enlist the support of your team's parents in your efforts to instill the proper attitudes and values in the players and all participants.
- BAFC coaches are responsible for managing the conduct of both their technical area and their spectators.
- Do not use profanity or make derogatory remarks or gestures to a referee, parent official, player, parent, or spectator.
- Do not strike, shake, push, or otherwise physically assault a player.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the young player's time, energy, enthusiasm, and performance on the soccer field. Impress upon your players that they must abide by the rules of the game at all times.
- Ensure that your players' soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be ridiculed for any reason.
- Develop team respect for opponents' abilities and for the judgment of referees and opposing coaches.
- Show respect to all coaches, referees, spectators, players, and tournament officials.

- **Do not question any referee's judgment or honesty.**
- Adhere to the Zero Tolerance For Abuse Policy.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. As much as possible, praise publicly and criticize privately.
- Check the equipment that you use. It should meet safety standards and be appropriate for the age and ability of your players. Bring all safety issues concerning facilities to the attention of the Equipment Coordinator, the TD or the DOC.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured child is ready to play again.
- Abide by the rules of all leagues and tournaments.
- On the same day of any incident, contact (by email, for recording purposes) the appropriate Director. If you feel a situation is getting out of control, find a field marshal or other official to observe or assess the game/situation. Do not “take it into your own hands”. Defuse, rather than inflate problems.

CONDUCT TOWARDS REFEREES AND OTHER OFFICIALS

The BAFC Referee Organization represents many dedicated youth and adult referees who are on the field during games to provide safety and fairness for all of our teams. Referee coordinators work hard all season long to provide well-trained, certified referees, and parent volunteer referees for a large volume of games. Referees take on responsibility for officiating the game so you do not have to. Please remember to keep the following things in mind:

1. Coaches, parents, and players are entitled to a difference of opinion; but they are not permitted to display their dissent through word or action. Please ensure all parties are familiar with our Zero Tolerance For Abuse Policy.
2. This is youth soccer and the job of a referee, especially a youth or a volunteer parent official, is a difficult one. We continue to lose many referees every year because of the harassment, negative experiences, and pressure they receive from coaches and parents. Referees often avoid scheduling themselves for games where coaches and/or parents are harassing, negative, derogatory, and/or abusive toward referees.
3. The role of the referee must be recognized and respected by the coach, the team, and the parents. Youth referees must be given the same respect as adult referees.
4. New referees must learn positioning, signals, the timing of calls, the flow of the game, command of the sidelines, and administrative issues. With patience and positivity, that referee will become experienced and confident.
5. The referee in a soccer match has complete authority over players and coaches from the moment the referee enters the grounds to the time the referee leaves.
6. Referees are trained to make calls based on FIFA Instructions of the Application of the Laws of the Game. FIFA and CYSA specifically recognize the decisions of the Referee regarding facts connected with play are final.

7. Per our Zero Tolerance For Abuse Policy. if any ***unsporting, confrontational, provocative, inflammatory, offensive, insulting, and/or abusive language or actions** are used, the referee or parent official has been instructed to do any or all of the following:
 1. Warn the coach about their unacceptable behavior or that of their technical area or spectators
 2. Caution (yellow card) the coach for their unacceptable behavior or failure to correct the behavior of their spectators (a warning is not required)
 3. Send off (red card) the coach or other team official (a caution is not required)
 4. Stop the game
 - a. Approach the coach of the respective team to instruct the coach to tell their team that ALL their parents/spectators are required to leave the complex/park/field
 - b. Allow two minutes for the ejected parents/spectators to leave. If the crowd leaves the area in a respectful manner, the game will resume. If, while the crowd is leaving, more comments are directed toward the referee or opposing team/coach, then the referees will inform the coaches that they are abandoning the match
 5. Record incident/s on the game card
 6. Report the incident to the League for further action
 7. If the problem is larger than one or two people, especially if the problem involves both teams, then the referee is to terminate the match and leave.
 8. In addition to the action by the referee or parent official, the League may take further action including:
 1. Warning or probation
 2. Suspension from one or more games
 3. Suspension for one or more seasons
8. Additionally, coaches and parents are expected to be role models and teachers of proper behavior to all parties. Some positive behavior goals to model are:
 - a. Inspire a love for the game and the desire to compete fairly
 - b. Teach players skill, reason, fitness, and logic
 - c. Realize that you are a teacher (and role model) and that the soccer field is a classroom
 - d. Develop respect for the opponents, opposing coaches, and officials
 - e. Understand that they are the focal point for their team and their actions, positive and negative, greatly influence the enjoyment of the youth players and parents. Help your players stay in the game by setting the appropriate example.
9. Note, it is the coach's responsibility to contact the Director of Referees if they are of the opinion that a referee needs to improve on skills.

Discipline

Infractions to any of the areas of the code of conduct will lead to consequences. These will be determined by the disciplinary committee, which is headed by the Vice President. Once a penalty has been determined by the disciplinary committee, the person in violation has 48 hours to appeal the decision and request a hearing.

The penalty will be determined by the severity of the infraction, as well as whether this is a first, second or third offense. Penalties can range from a written admonition to 6 months-1 year suspension from games and practices. Extended suspensions will not warrant any refunds from parents who would decide to quit the club.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR ABUSE POLICY

If a parent/parents interfere/s with the game, with any action, but especially by doing any of the following:

1. Using any ***unsporting, confrontational, provocative, inflammatory, offensive, insulting, and/or abusive language or actions** towards the referee crew or the opposing team players and/or coach
2. Acts in a manner that makes the referees/players/coaches feel unsafe in the environment

The referees have been instructed to do any or all of the following:

1. Warn the coach about their unacceptable behavior or that of their technical area or spectators
2. Caution (yellow card) the coach for their unacceptable behavior or failure to correct the behavior of their spectators (a warning is not required)
3. Send off (red card) the coach or other team official (a caution is not required)
4. Stop the game
 - a. Approach the coach of the respective team to instruct the coach to tell their team that ALL their parents/spectators are required to leave the complex/park/field
 - b. Allow two minutes for the ejected parents/spectators to leave. If the crowd leaves the area in a respectful manner, the game will resume. If, while the crowd is leaving, more comments are directed toward the referee or opposing team/coach, then the referees will inform the coaches that they are abandoning the match
5. Record incident/s on the game card
6. Report the incident to the League for further action
7. If the problem is larger than one or two people, especially if the problem involves both teams, then the referee is to terminate the match and leave.
8. In addition to the action by the referee or parent official, the League may take further action including:
 1. Warning or probation
 2. Suspension from one or more games
 3. Suspension for one or more seasons

*Please note there is not a single definition of “**unsporting, confrontational, provocative, inflammatory, offensive, insulting, and/or abusive language or actions**” but it can include any of the following:

- Cursing, shouting, or demeaning comments aimed at the referee crew or opposing player, or coach;

- causing them to feel threatened, scared, unsafe, and/or importantly, unable to properly referee/play/coach the match.

We know that comments could be interpreted differently depending on the referee crew, but the judgment to eject the parent/spectators/players/coaches, and/or end the game is at the sole discretion of the referee crew.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES

Being a member of BAFC is a great privilege. Athletes playing and competing for BAFC are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. All members have the responsibility to portray your team, your club, and yourselves in a positive and respectable manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you but benefit the whole team and/or club.

Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally and are used by the majority of the population. Many club members use at least one form or more.

Members should be aware that media, faculty, staff, future/current employers, NCAA officials, collegiate coaches, and third parties can easily access digital media profiles and view all personal information and postings. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate material may affect the perception of the member, their team, and BAFC. This can also be detrimental to an athlete's future self and their employment options, whether in professional sports or in other industries.

Any posts related to BAFC teams must be submitted to the DOC or a member of the board to be posted on the BAFC social media platforms. Teams are encouraged to not run individual media platforms.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors in digital media communities, forums, and platforms may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Photos, videos, comments, songs, or posts showing the personal use or promotion of alcohol, drugs, and/or vaping/tobacco or that condone, promote, or mention any alcohol/drug-related activity. For example, holding cups, cans, shot glasses, or use of marijuana and/or drug paraphernalia.
2. Photos, videos, songs, lyrics, or comments of a sexual, graphic, explicit, and/or pornographic nature.
3. Content online that is unsportsmanlike, negative, foul, explicit, derogatory, demeaning, degrading, threatening, harassing, and/or abusive toward any other individual, race, religion, or entity. For example, any derogatory comments regarding another institution, taunting aimed at another student-athlete, coach, or team, or derogatory comments against race and/or gender.
4. Content that depicts or encourages violent or illegal activities. For example, hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, or academic dishonesty.
5. Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to BAFC, is not public information. For example, tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries, eligibility status, or travel plans/ itineraries.

If a member's profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors, he/she will be subject to the following penalties:

1. Written warning
2. A meeting with the Director of Coaching and Head Coach
3. Penalties as determined by BAFC including but not limited to possible suspension or expulsion from their athletic team

Please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in digital media:

1. Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
2. Do not post your email, home address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
3. Be aware of who you add as a "friend" to your platforms as some are looking to take advantage of or seek connection with athletes.
4. Consider how the above-listed behaviors can be reflected in all digital media platforms.

If ever in doubt of the appropriateness of the contents of your digital media communities, forums, and platforms, it is most likely not appropriate. Please always attempt to positively represent yourself, your team, and BAFC.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY

All requests for refunds, cancellations, and/or relief from fees after registering and committing to play on Arsenal FC may be eligible for a partial refund. Refunds are not given for time while training with the team, transferring to another club, or no longer wishing to play with Arsenal FC.

Refunds are only available for season ending injuries or if a player moves out of the club area. Requests for refund or relief from fees must be accompanied by a doctor's note or relocation verification. Refund amounts are based on a sliding scale determined by the date of injury and/or date all required written documentation and verification are submitted by the parent(s). All Club and Registration Fees are due in full if a player leaves for any other reason.

A \$100 processing charge will be deducted from all refunds. \$200 Club Fees are not eligible for a refund. **REFUND/CANCELLATION REQUEST PROCEDURE**

For Competitive players, all requests for refunds, cancellations, and/or relief from fees must be submitted in writing to the Select Division Coordinator (select@beniciasoccer.org). The following information must be provided:

- Child's name
- Age group
- Coach's name
- Reason for cancellation, refund, or leaving the club

- Date of injury or relocation

Upon confirmation of receiving the request by the Select Division Coordinator, parents will have fifteen (15) calendar days to submit all verification documents requested (doctor's note, school or work relocation verification).

Relief from payments will take effect the subsequent month the request is approved. Refund amounts will be determined based on date of injury and/or the timely submission of required documentation. Failure to submit required documents within the specified time-frame may affect any refund amount owed. Refund requests may take up to thirty (30) days to process.

IMPORTANT: Informing a team manager, coach or board member is not an acceptable substitute for submitting a written refund or cancellation request. However, you should notify your child's head coach IN ADDITION to following the procedures listed above

By signing this document, you acknowledge and agree to the BAFC Player, Parent, & Spectator Code of Conduct

By signing this document, you acknowledge and agree to the policies, procedures, and information provided herein.