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“Development – Commitment – Achievement”

SCFC Code of Conduct for Coaches, Players, Referees and Spectators

Sunningdale Football Club (Hereinafter referred to as “SCFC”) 2025

The following Code of Conduct (hereinafter referred to as the “Codes”), forms the basis of the policies for the SCFC.

These Codes for violation, apply to all regular season games, Area Tournament games and to any practices or other activities conducted or sanctioned by SCFC or which occur on premises owned by, rented to, occupied by, or used by SCFC.

The Codes shall apply to all coaches, spectators, players, and referees participating in the SCFC programs. Violations of these codes may result in disciplinary actions.

The Codes shall be posted on the SCFC web site and shall be provided upon request to any representative of any other person, team, or organization. These Codes shall be binding upon any person, team, or organization.

The Codes of Conduct shall be enforced by the members of the SCFC Board.

Any person found to be in violation of these Codes by the judgment of the SCFC Board could face disciplinary action, not limited to expulsion from the SCFC program.

The purpose of the Codes is to ensure the enjoyment of the children and families that participate in the SCFC by providing a safe environment that promotes fair play and sportsmanship.

Board Members must be ethical leaders and uphold the Guidelines of SAFA, SCFC and general tenets of good sportsmanship. Failure to do so can lead to expulsion.

NOTE: SCFC Teams which interplay with teams from other Areas may also be subject their Codes and Conduct

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES

The position of coach or leader of any youth group is an important and serious responsibility. All the children look up to the coach and respect their position.

The behavior of the coach is constantly under observation by them and they will strive to imitate the coach's actions. Remember always that you are helping mould the character of your players.

The coach's voiced opinions and behavior during the game will carry more weight than anyone else's, even that of a parent. A responsible coach will conduct himself or herself using the following guidelines.

SCFC coaches:

1. Encourage players to have fun at all times.
2. Focus on praise and encouragement rather than on criticism and negative yelling.
3. Place the emotional and physical well-being of players ahead of a personal desire to win.
4. Provide a safe playing environment for all players.
5. Encourage fair play and good sportsmanship, leading by example.
6. Organize practices that are fun and challenging to players.
7. Enhance understanding of the game by taking advantage of coaching clinics and licensing programs offered by the Club.
8. Every player on the team is a contributing player and should be given an equal amount of playing time except in instances where roster size does not make it possible or if a player shows up late/leaves early.
9. Soccer is a team sport and without each player, there is no team.
10. Find ways to limit the number of goals scored in "runaway" games. This should include encouraging players to pass a certain number of times before shooting and other "games" to keep the players engaged.
11. Work to understand the rules of the game and pass this information on to the players.
12. Maintain control of emotions and avoid actions, language and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile or humiliating towards our players, opposing players/coaches/parents or referees.
13. Treat parents, players, fans, other coaches, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, religion, or ability and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
14. Ensure that the fans of my team exhibit sportsmanship and maturity at all times and assist league and game officials in maintaining control of the spectator side lines.
15. Do not publicly question the referee's judgment, and never his or her honesty. The referee is a symbol of fair play, integrity, and sportsmanship. Please remember, many of these referees are young adults learning how to referee the game, so please treat them with respect. They are there to do an honest job which few others are willing to undertake.
16. Will have read the SCFC Referee Engagement Policy and agree to adhere by it.

Coaches and/or bench personnel may NOT address any member of the referee crew during play except for:

- Responding to a referee-initiated communication.
- Making a request for substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues, such as an injured player on the field.
- To request clarification of any call provided the request is courteous and non-argumentative.

Drinking, smoking, foul language, and firearms are not allowed around the fields during games or practices. If you need to smoke, please find an area a significant distance away from all other parents, players, and coaches.

Responsibilities of Coaches:

Coaches are required to notify the division head whenever a card is issued to a player or themselves as well as any other incidents which may compromise the integrity of the Team or Club. This must be done within 24 hours of the occurrence.

The Division head will convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee to consider any additional sanctions. This shall take place within one week. All such decisions by the Committee are final. Cleaning up the field or bench area (both home and away) after practices or games, and for returning all equipment to its proper place.

All coaches are asked to help in monitoring the activities that take place at the practice fields, and to assist in keeping fields clean, safe and secure.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPECTATORS AND PARENTS

- 1.) Will treat referees with respect, regardless of their age and decisions.
- 2.) Will NOT make negative remarks about nor harass players, referees, coaches or other spectators.
- 3.) Will stay safe distance away from the touchline on their side of the field.
- 4.) Will NOT enter the field of play without the permission of the referee – even for an injury.
- 5.) Will encourage good sporting conduct.
- 6.) Will NOT coach or instruct players from the side line.
- 7.) Will NOT use nor be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at practices or games.
- 8.) Will NOT threaten, harass or intimidate soccer officials in any way before, during and after any games.
- 9.) Will NOT use offensive, profane, vulgar language at practices or games.
- 10.) Will have read the SCFC Referee Engagement Policy and agree to adhere by it.
- 11.) Games may be suspended due to poor spectator behaviour until the spectator leaves the area.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

1. I will play soccer because I want to, not because others want me to.
2. I will play by the rules of soccer, and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will show respect at all times for all coaches, all referees, all players, all spectators, and all club officials.
4. I will control my temper. I will not fight or use foul or abusive language or inappropriate gestures.
5. I will be a team player.
6. I know that winning isn't everything - having fun, playing fair, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are all important.
7. I will acknowledge all good play - that of my team-mates and of my opponents.
8. I understand that Coaches are there to coach and not to improve my behaviour. If I am found to be behaving badly, my coach is permitted to remove me from the event. Furthermore, the responsibility of my behaviour outside of team-sanctioned events is not that of team staff but is the responsibility myself, and of my family or guardian.

9. I will never take part in a practice, game or team event while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
10. I will not take part in any form of bullying, either to an opposing player or to a player on my team. Bullying in any form, whether in person, electronically (any form of social media) will not be tolerated.

GAMES AND PRACTICES

1. I recognize that practices are more important than games and games are equally important.
2. I will arrive at the field before practices and games according to the standards set by my team Coach.
3. If I cannot make a game or practice, I will notify the team Coach at least 48 hours in advance so that arrangements for substitutes can be made.
4. I realize that players who attend practices may get priority in the game starting line-up. Starting line-ups are based on several factors including attendance at practices, player's position, effort, attitude, etc.
5. I will turn off all electronic devices (cell phones, video games, etc.) before arrival at my practice, game or team event and leave them off until I am finished.
6. I realize that playing time is not always going to be equal despite my coaches attempt to equalize. In fact some teams (higher level Competitive teams) are permitted to use an "earned playing time" system. At the development and recreation levels, playing time shall be equitable.
7. I realize playing time is not always going to be equal. Higher level Competitive teams will use an "earned playing time" system. House League and Development ages will be closer to equal but not exactly equal.
8. I will leave all venues as neat and tidy as I found them and will remove all refuse from my area.

MY UNIFORM

1. I will take good care of my uniform and wear it only on game days.
2. I will ensure my jersey is tucked in at all times as required by the laws of the game.
3. I will wear shin guards, socks, appropriate footwear, and bring my own water bottle to all games and practices.
4. At practices I will wear approved attire, such as athletic shirt and shorts as determined by my coach and club.
5. I understand that; rolling up my shorts to reduce their size, wearing short tops to expose my midriff, or exposing my bare shoulders is inappropriate soccer attire.
6. I will abide by the SAFA rules and remove all jewellery for practices and games (except for medically approved bracelets and eye wear).

DISCIPLINE

1. I recognize that the team coach will handle infractions that occur at times other than during a game.
2. I recognize that infractions that occur during the game are governed by the Laws of the Game and will be decided by the Referee. The result may be a Caution (yellow card) or Dismissal (red card), in which case there may also be further action, including suspensions or fines, by the league discipline committee or club discipline committee.

3. I recognize that certain serious infractions will result in a discipline hearing convened by the CTTFA or their delegate, and could lead to suspension from soccer, and a fine being levied by the CTTFA. Payment of the fine is my responsibility.
4. I am responsible for reimbursing the Club for any and all fines payable by the Club due to my actions or inactions.
5. Failure to pay any fines will result in my suspension from the Club for an indefinite period of time.

CONSEQUENCES

If for any reason the Code of Conduct is not followed by the player, any [one or more] of the following steps may be taken by the coach or the Club:

- Reduce the playing time of the player; and/or
- Suspend the player for sanctioned period of time.
- Remove the child from the team.

Players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the spirit of SCFC soccer regardless of the actions of the coach.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR REFEREES

SCFC referees will ensure fairness, safety, fun, and maintain control of the game by enforcing the SAFA Laws of the Game. It is a privilege to be a SCFC Referee and referees should always maintain a professional and respectful manner.

SCFC referees:

1. Will always maintain the utmost respect for the game of soccer.
2. Will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times and maintain the dignity of their position and trust on the field.
3. Will honour their assigned game obligations.
4. Will be on time for the game to allow enough time to perform all pre-game duties properly.
5. Will be equipped appropriately with a whistle, watch, red and yellow cards, coin, rule book and writing utensil.
6. Will LOOK and ACT like a referee, wearing the appropriate uniform prescribed by SCFC.
7. Will have a good understanding of the laws of the game.
8. Will always strive to achieve maximum teamwork with all fellow referees.
9. Will behave professionally to all fellow referees, and never intentionally criticize or promote criticism of them with coaches or others.
10. Will direct constructive criticism of all fellow referees in private.
11. Will be prepared to be physically in the game and mentally alert.
12. Will stay on top of the play, but out of the way.
13. Will respect the coaches and players and inform them you expect the same in return.
14. Will always be courteous and considerate but will not sacrifice firmness.
15. Will not hesitate to explain rules and calls, but only at appropriate times.
16. Will NOT use nor be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at games.
17. Will NOT use profane or vulgar language at games.
18. Will always deal firmly with actions that could result in injury to a player.

19. Will maintain their composure when dealing with an irate coach or player.

NOTE: Failure to do any of the above may result in disciplinary action.

SCFC REFEREE ENGAGEMENT POLICY

SCFC has adopted and modified the following Referee Engagement Policy:

1. No coach or spectator is to speak to the referees during or after the game regarding any disagreement about a call or no call decision made by any referee.
Exceptions: Coaches may ask questions before the game, call for substitutions and point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the referees if addressed.
2. Coaches and spectators need to allow the referees to officiate games free of harassment.
3. Violators may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action by SCFC.
4. If coaches, players or spectator have questions regarding particular calls, rules, or a referee, or wish to give feedback regarding a referee, please contact the SCFC referee coordinator.

Yours in Football
SCFC Exco