

REFEREE ABUSE CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect for Referees:

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to clearly outline the expectations for players and parents/guardians regarding their behavior toward referees. This document reflects our collective commitment – across all MSYSA-affiliated clubs and teams – to foster an environment rooted in respect, safety, and sportsmanship within youth soccer.

This Code of Conduct applies to all players and their parents or guardians who are part of (Club Name), and it extends to all MSYSA-sanctioned games, tournaments, and related events. We expect all participants to maintain a high standard of behavior that positively represents themselves, their team, and the greater youth soccer community.

As a proud member of the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) and US Youth Soccer (USYS), (Club Name) supports the safety and well-being of all match officials. Referees are an essential part of the game, and they must be treated with respect, regardless of age, experience level, or performance. Clubs are encouraged to promote a culture of support and understanding for referees at all levels of play.

Unacceptable behavior toward referees includes, but is not limited to: yelling or arguing with referees, questioning calls in a confrontational manner, using insulting or offensive language, approaching referees during or after a match in a hostile way, and any form of physical or verbal intimidation. These actions will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Violations of this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to verbal or written warnings, suspensions, or removal from the program. MSYSA follows the USYS Policy on Referee Abuse and Assault, and all violations will be reported to and reviewed by MSYSA staff. In more serious cases, incidents may be escalated to the U.S. Soccer Federation and subject to further investigation and sanctions.

Clubs are encouraged to educate their families about the importance of the referee's role and the consequences of misconduct. Players and parents/guardians are also encouraged to report referee abuse or assault by visiting the MSYSA reporting portal at:

<https://www.michiganyouthsoccer.org/report-referee-assault-abuse/>

By participating in MSYSA programs through (Club Name), all players and their parents/guardians agree to uphold this Code of Conduct. Together, we can help ensure a positive, respectful experience for referees, players, coaches, and spectators alike.

I, the undersigned, have read and understand the (Club Name) Code of Conduct regarding referee abuse. I acknowledge the importance of creating a respectful environment for all match officials and agree to follow the expectations outlined above. I understand that failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.

Player Name: _____

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____