

## **HODAG SOCCER CLUB'S CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS, COACHES, PARENTS AND SPECTATORS**



Hodag Soccer Club (HSC) Code of Conduct is intended to ensure HSC activities at home and away represent a high standard of sportsmanship and are in alignment with standards adopted by US Youth Soccer, Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) and Central Wisconsin Soccer Association (CWSL).

It is the responsibility of all HSC administrators, coaches, parents, players and spectators to abide by this Code of Conduct at all soccer events regardless of the actions or behavior of others. All members are expected to treat referees, coaches and the players, parents and spectators of opposing teams with the highest standard of respect. CWSL and WYSA have adopted a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding abuse toward referees and HSC will enforce that policy. Members may not agree with the decisions of referees, but they are expected to accept and abide by the referee's decisions.

### **Players and Teams**

All HSC players will:

- Be respectful to coaches, opponents, game officials and spectators before, during and after every training or match.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship at every opportunity and value the spirit of the game.
- Not use profane language, taunt opponents or attempt to injure an opponent.
- Demonstrate respect for opponents when participating in the post-game handshake.

### **Coaches**

All HSC coaches and assistant coaches:

- Must present a Coach Pass issued by WYSA to game official prior to the game.
- Must have a full understanding of the most recent FIFA Laws of the Game.
- Will emphasize the importance of respect, effort, competition and player development over winning and losing.
- Will treat the coaches, parents, players and spectators of opposing teams with the utmost respect.
- Be familiar with US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct Policy, WYSA Prohibited Conduct Policy, CWSL Rules and Regulations, Coach Misconduct Rules, CWSL Sportsmanship Statement.
- Will honor the WYSA Poaching Policy.
- Will honor the ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.
- Will review and abide by CWSL's Coach Misconduct Rules.
- Are responsible for the actions of their players and spectators before, during and after a match. Coaches are expected to consistently ensure a safe and supportive environment for players on both teams and referees.

## **Parents and Spectators**

All HSC parents, families and spectators:

- Should encourage sportsmanship and cheer for good plays, no matter who makes them.
- Will abstain from the use of tobacco products and alcohol in the areas immediately surrounding the field of play.
- Familiarize themselves with the basic rules of the game.
- Will refrain from coaching from the sideline.
- Will interact in a cooperative and positive manner with the parents and spectators from the opposing team.
- Will honor the ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY.
- Will refrain from speaking with coaches, immediately following a game, about concerns they may have. Parents must wait 24 hours before contacting the coach to address any concerns s/he may have.
- Will never approach the coach/assistant coach, nor speak to the coach/assistant coach, during the post-game player/coach “debrief” session. As noted above, any concerns a parent/guardian may have cannot be addressed until after a 24-hour “cool down” period.

## **Misconduct Toward Game Officials — Zero Tolerance Policy**

Misconduct toward game officials is prohibited per USSF Policy 531-9 C, WYSA’s Zero Tolerance Policy and CWSL’s Rules and Regulations. WYSA created the Zero Tolerance Policy in an effort to decrease the abuse of referees. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that verbal abuse or negative criticism of referees is as unacceptable as verbal abuse or negative criticism of players. This policy applies to all HSC coaches, parents, players and spectators.

If a coach, player or fan is harassing a referee, the referee has the right to take the following measures to cease harassment:

- Go to the offending team's coach and ask them to control themselves or their personnel.
- If the problem persists after the above measure is taken, the referee may go back to the coach and ask the offending party to remove themselves from the game.
- If the problem persists after the above measures are taken, the referee may stop the game and the offending team forfeits. The HSC Board of Directors may then further sanction the offending team.

Referees will note referee abuse on the Game Report Form and the information will immediately be forwarded to the WYSA State office for investigation and discipline decisions. Per CWSL Rules, any coach cited for a warning in an official game report or harassing a referee during the post-game “Verification Meeting” may be suspended at the discretion of the CWSL President. If a coach is ejected at any time during the game, that game may be declared a forfeit. If a coaching send-off report is received by the CWSL President, the President will investigate the incident and recommend an appropriate response in consultation with the HSC President. Repeat offenses will factor into the severity of the response. (See CWSL Rules and Regulations for a list of responses that may be enforced.)

If violations of HSC's Code of Conduct or WYSA's Zero Tolerance Policy are reported to the HSC President (see *Incidents of Misconduct*) the HSC Board will review the violations on a case-by-case basis and the offending party will be subject to any or all of the following by the HSC Board:

- A formal/written warning.
- Suspensions ranging from a single game to a lifetime ban.
- Other sanctions at the discretion of the HSC Board of Directors.

#### **Incidents of Misconduct**

All coaches, team staff, players, and spectators are expected to understand and observe the Code of Conduct and HSC's Zero Tolerance Policy. Violations of the Code of Conduct and the No Tolerance Policy should be reported to HSC's President via [email](#). All documented reports of Code of Conduct and Zero Tolerance Policy violations will be kept on permanent file by HSC. Any action to be taken against any party as a result of reports made to HSC will be at the discretion of the HSC Board of Directors.

Any coaches, players, parents or administrators who violate the HSC Code of Conduct or its intent may be subject to any or all of the following:

- A formal/written warning.
- Suspensions ranging from a single game to a lifetime ban. No registration or other fee refund will be made by the Club following a suspension.
- Other sanctions at the discretion of the HSC Board of Directors.

HSC reserves the right to apply the "Common Sense Rule" to any actions by players, coaches, parents, spectators and club administrators that may not be specifically addressed by the Code of Conduct.