



**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
**SOCCER CLUB**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT**

# **NORTHUMBERLAND SOCCER CLUB**

## **GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

All participants involved in the Northumberland Soccer Club will conduct themselves in a manner that promotes the good will and positive spirit of athletes. Participants will conduct themselves with the highest standard of courtesy, integrity and good sportsmanship.

1. All members and participants shall respect other coaches, players, members, fans, spectators, and officials. Any inappropriate conduct, threats, harassment, or abuse (verbal or physical) directed towards coaches, players, members, fans, spectators, and officials will not be tolerated.
  
2. All members' fans and participants of athletic events shall behave in a positive and supportive manner.
  
3. Violation by any member, fan or participant of this documentation and the codes of conduct contained within may result in an immediate and indefinite suspension from games, practices, tournaments, and special events for the family (including the player) or family member involved.

### **Code of Conduct: Players**

I realize that participating on a team is a privilege and not a right, and because of this I will adhere to the following code of conduct: All players will:

1. Demonstrate qualities of integrity, courtesy and good sportsmanship at all times.
  - a. I will play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
  - b. I will control my temper.
  - c. I will respect my opponents, coaches, officials, fans, etc.
  - d. I will always strive to give my best on and off the field of play.
  - e. I will have a positive outlook regardless of the circumstances.
  - f. I will be a team player who supports the actions, decisions, and the outcomes of my coaches and my teammates.
  
2. Demonstrate a commitment to coaches and teammates by:
  - a. I will strive to attend and be on time for every practice and game. I will be willing to give 100% effort 100% of the time.

- b. I will strive to improve in all skills involved in my activity and reach for a higher level of mastery.
  - c. I will communicate to my coach and teammates any information which will affect my participation and commitment in team activities.
3. Coaches are volunteers and are committed to giving their best for each player and the team.
- a. I will do the same in return for my coaches and teammates.

### **Code of Conduct: Parents**

I realize that participation on a team is a privilege and not a right, and because of this, I will conduct myself according to the following Code of Conduct:

1. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to provide sporting activities for my child.
2. I will handle disputes between myself and the team officials with dignity and through proper channels: privately with the coach and at an appropriate time. In the rare event that a solution cannot be realized in communication with the coaches I will seek the assistance of the Northumberland Soccer Club Executive Committee.
3. I will handle disappointment, whether it occurs through disputes, my child's skill, the officials and their decisions, placement on a team, etc. with dignity, maturity, and common sense.
4. I will remember that my child plays sports for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
5. I will encourage my child to play by the rules, and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or aggressive behaviour.
6. I will teach my child that "doing one's best" is more important than winning.
7. I will be positive and supportive in my comments to my child during games.
8. I will be a fan not a fanatic.

9. I will support all the guidelines contained in this handbook, including the coach's selection of the team and playing time (competitive teams only).

### **Code of Conduct: Coaches**

All coaches will embrace the philosophy that the game is a game of enjoyment. It is played to promote a healthy lifestyle and the social, mental and physical development of the players. All coaches are to lead by example, and should therefore follow the same expectations of conduct as the player.

1. All coaches will focus on maintaining a high level of integrity and good sportsmanship as leaders of their teams.
  - a. I will follow the rules of the game which are to be regarded as mutual agreements, the spirit of letter of which no one should try to evade or break
  - b. I will regard and treat all officials and opponents as being honest in intention.
  - c. I agree that decisions of officials, no matter how unfair they seem, are to be accepted without show of outward disgust.
  - d. I agree that "it is desirable to win at all costs" defeats the purpose of the game. Losing can be a triumph when the best has been given.
  - e. I will strive to give all players a reasonable if not equal playing time.
  - f. I will treat all visiting teams as honoured guests
  - g. I will treat all others as I, myself, would like to be treated.
  
2. The coach will promote the mental, social, and physical development of values in the athletes under their care.
  - a. I will be sensitive to the emotional needs of the athletes I coach.

### **Breaches of Code of Conduct**

#### **Breaches by Players**

Individual breaches will be dealt with by the coach. Serious breaches may be referred to the Northumberland Soccer Club Executive Committee if deemed appropriate by the coach.

When there is breach involving participants from two teams, Administration from both Soccer Clubs involved should consult with each other to ensure there is a fair and consistent discipline in dealing with these incidents.

Possible consequences of breaches of conduct may include but are not limited to: limit of playing time, and suspension from the team.

### **Breaches by Parents**

Breaches of conduct during soccer practices and/or games shall be handled by the coach.

- A. The offending parent(s) will be requested to stop the inappropriate actions immediately.
- B. If the actions do not cease, the parent(s) will be asked to leave the site.
- C. If the individual continues the police will be called to remove the parent from the area.
- D. An individual, who has breached the Code of Conduct, may be suspended from attending future activities.

### **Breaches by Coaches**

**All breaches of the Code of Conduct will be dealt with by the Northumberland Soccer Club Executive Committee.** A review hearing may be called and all involved parties will have an opportunity to be present. Upon completion of the hearing a decision shall be made as to the future of the coach with the team. Possible consequences warranted may include but are not limited to: a reprimand, a suspension of coach from the team for a period of time or the banishment of the coach from the team.