



## **Codes of Conduct for Players, Parents and Coaches**

### **Introduction**

Illistrin Football Club's mission is the:

1. General improvement of the school boys/girls through the medium of soccer.
2. Raising of the standard of soccer and the development of interest of it throughout the area.
3. Ensure the participation of all (as per Equality Legislation and other relevant legislation) in the Club.

An emphasis on fair play and respect for all participants is a primary element of our club's mission. To better achieve that mission, we provide the following Codes of Conduct for all players, parents, and coaches. These Codes of Conduct are a covenant between players, parents, and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game, as well as to maintain a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. These Codes express our core values and goals. It is essential they be honored and followed.

The Codes of Conduct can be summarized in the following three principles: (1) Demonstrating a positive attitude; (2) Setting a good example; and (3) Maintaining good relationships with all young soccer participants - including officials, opponents, and our own teams' players, parents, and coaches.

### **1. Demonstrating a positive attitude**

Players, parents, and coaches are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermine the purpose of sport and encourage behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and the mission of our Club.

### **2. Setting a good example**

Each person associated within the Club is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times on or off the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children learn by example - it is up to the adults to set good examples.

The Club will not tolerate conduct that is detrimental to the sport, the participants, or the community. Such conduct includes: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; verbal abuse, threats or physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match; and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents.

We require thorough self-restraint by all participants - both players and adults.

Teams must exercise appropriate control over those who fail to control themselves.



### **3. Maintaining good relationships**

**Officials** - The referee's job is a difficult one. All referees are human and they do make mistakes. Parents or players who believe their team has been treated unfairly or has been assigned an unqualified referee should speak to their coach after the game. Coaches should inform the appropriate club officials about blatant officiating problems. Managers should make reports through appropriate channels. In accordance with FIFA laws, verbal abuse toward a referee can result in a red card and ejection for the player, coach or parent. Referees have the authority to suspend play if a coach does not control his players and parents/supporters.

**Opponents** - Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and fans at all times. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without it, the positive competitive environment, which should be a perfect classroom for learning the values of soccer, is completely undermined. Occasionally we will encounter opponents who do not share our values and high standards. If we allow ourselves to be drawn down to their level, we will have lost regardless of the final score.

**Our Own Team** - In an environment where our children are competing not only against other teams but also frequently against each other, it can be difficult to control jealousies and rivalries. A successful team resembles a family in that members put their own needs second, behind the greater good of the team. Great care must be taken not to undermine the coaches' authority. As in most cases, parental example is all-important.



## **Parent's Code**

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game

### **1. Support your child**

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

### **2. Always be positive**

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child's performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

### **3. Don't be a sideline coach or ref**

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

### **4. Demonstrate a positive attitude toward your opponents and their families**

Opponents are not enemies. Take care to show good hospitality at home and to represent Illistrin Football Club in a positive way when visiting other clubs. Never allow yourself to be drawn into a verbal disagreement with opposing parents or coaches.



### **5. Remember that your child wants to have fun**

Your child is the one playing soccer, not you. Children must establish their own goals - to play the game for themselves. Take care not to impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

- I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his/her soccer development by adhering at all times to the following:
  - We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my manager and my club representative, not verbally.
  - We will give only positive feedback to players.
  - We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in “lopsided” game where cheering our own “winning” team might be misunderstood.
  - We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.
  - We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.
  - We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.
  - We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
  - We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee, or a club official so the coach does not receive a yellow card caution or a red card ejection due to the action of the parent spectator.
  - We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.
  - We understand that the leagues can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.
  - We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.



## Disciplinary Procedure

1. The Club will adopt the Disciplinary Code for football matches including the Standard Penalties for Misconduct by Player/Manager/Coach. See attached.
2. An offence should carry the same penalty whether the offence is targeted at another player or a coach (equality of respect)
3. Coaches should always try to diffuse a situation and stop a minor issue from escalating.
4. Coaches should be able to use discretion in applying sanctions in order to take into account mitigating circumstances. Also coaches should be mindful of the fact that very often; the most difficult children are those who for whom playing a team sport is most beneficial. Children like these may need more careful handling. A suspension may mean the end of involvement.
5. The following sanctions will be adopted at training:

Yellow Card	5 mins on the sideline
Red Card	Suspension from next training session or match

The following indicative examples are presented:

Example	Card
Intermittent swearing	None
Continuous Swearing	Yellow
Abusive language towards another player	Yellow
Abusive language towards coach	Yellow
Violent Play/Conduct	Red
Repeated criticism of other player	Yellow
Repeated criticism of coach	Yellow
Racial Abuse	Red
Refusing to take instruction from coach	Yellow

Cards are only shown after negotiation, coaxing and persuasion by the manager/coach and would not be the first port of call.

The first card would be yellow (red if it's a serious offence). The second card would be red and the player misses out on the next session (this will be either be training or a



match). On receiving a red card a text is sent to parents outlining the reason for the card and a report is written by the coach/manager on a club incident sheet. A first yellow card is erased if the players successfully get through the next 3 sessions without incident and s/he starts again with a clean sheet.

If a player has a complaint about the conduct of a coach/manager, s/he will be asked to fill in an incident report form and give it into the committee for consideration. If the complaint is of a serious nature the coach/manager is asked to sit out the next training session, but not the next match.

All of this is based on a players meeting and a written code and/contract signed by parents/guardians/carers and players. At the end of these documents could be written, "I have read, understood and agree to be bound by the conditions of this code/contract". It would then be signed by parents, players and coaches

6. The Executive will act as a Disciplinary Committee (until the next AGM) and deal with serious complaints. The decision of the Committee in these matters will be final
7. On trips breaches of the Code will be dealt with by the yellow or red card approach as above. The decision of the Executive in these matters will be final.
8. These procedures will be reviewed regularly and amended, where necessary.
9. All teams will be met to inform them of this code.