

FC Dulles Parent/Guardian/Spectator Code of Conduct

Soccer is a wonderful sport and a passionate game. We must always remember our attitude is contagious. The referees, the players, the coaches and the fans should come together to match wits and skills. The other team's players, coaches, parents, and spectators are our opponent, not our enemy and thus must be treated with respect at all times. Likewise, referees, club officials, our own team's players, coaches, parents, and spectators must be treated with respect at all times. While winning is important, upholding our club values of integrity, respect, and dedication is of utmost importance.

Parents/guardians/spectators who fail to adhere to the Parent's Code of Conduct will face disciplinary procedures outlined in the **Procedures for Parent/Guardian/Spectator Violations of the FC Dulles Code of Conduct.**

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in their soccer development by adhering at all times to the following:

- We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the match and training sessions. We understand that only the coach(es) shall instruct our child during match and training sessions.
- Respect the referee's decisions. Not criticize the referee openly, directly, or indirectly before, during or after games- We must understand that referees are human and mistakes happen. This is not the World Cup and referees are developing alongside players and coaches. FC DULLES HAS A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TOWARD REFEREE ABUSE, AND THAT ANY VERBAL ABUSE AND/OR PHYSICAL ASSAULT TO AN OFFICIAL WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PUNISHMENT
 - We do not accuse referees of bias, corruption, collusion, racism, or incompetence verbally during or immediately after the match. Those claims go in writing, not in shouting distance of minors.
 - We do not approach referees after the whistle. Any approach = automatic internal review and possible suspension from the next match as a spectator.
 - We do not enter the field unless there is an obvious medical emergency.
 - We allow coaches, not parents, to communicate with center referee regarding player safety during live play.
 - In front of players we model one message: "Control what you can control."
- We will only give positive feedback and encouragement 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" games 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 find the "little successes" that our children have during each match.
- We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each and every match 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 and properly equipped for every match and training session.
- We shall support the learning effort of the players, the coaches and the referees by demonstrating our patience.
- We understand that improper behavior at a match or training session may result in a parent being asked to leave the field by the referee, the coach, a club official, and for travel games, the TSL, so the coach does not receive a yellow card caution or even a red card ejection due to the actions of the parent spectator. Such behavior will warrant a hearing with the FC Dulles Board of Directors and possible suspension from FC Dulles.
- We will not engage the coach after a match or training session. Rather, if there are issues to be discussed we will set up a meeting or converse via email or phone after a cooling off period of 24 hours. We will follow the lines of the communication protocol located on the FC Dulles website if we have any issues or concerns.
- We will be cautious during the car ride home not to engage in criticism of our children, other players, coaches, or referees. We will listen and focus on positives.
- We understand that (upon review) the Leagues and FC Dulles can, and will- if necessary- suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play and our membership in FC Dulles may be suspended upon review by the Board of Directors 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 have playing the game.
- Commit to not recruit FC Dulles players to transfer to another soccer organization, team, or club.

- Accept any parent or player found recruiting FC Dulles players will be suspended for a minimum of one year and may be further disciplined by the FC Dulles Board of Directors. In instances where a parent is directly involved and has more than one player in the Club, the suspension may be extended to include all other family members