

Purpose: The aim of this policy is to establish principles for players to ensure a safe and positive environment within Whitehorse United Football Club (WUFC) sanctioned programs, events, and activities.

Scope: Includes all parents, participants, players (registered or non-registered), coaches, referees and spectators that are participating in programming led by WUFC.

Policy: The WUFC expects all persons involved to be a positive representation of the Club at all times. As such, The WUFC has implemented the following Code of Conduct and requires that it be adhered to at all times. WUFC will ensure all parties are made aware of this Code and will make it available on the Club's website. If a person fails to comply with the standards set forth in this code, disciplinary measures may be taken by the Club. Compliance with this Code of Conduct is a condition to remain in good standing with the club. All participants involved with WUFC will conduct themselves in a manner that promotes the good will and positive spirit of athletics. Participants will conduct themselves with the highest standard of courtesy, integrity and good sportsmanship.

- 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, officials, volunteers, parents, and team officials will not be tolerated.
- All members, fans and participants of athletic events shall behave in a positive and supportive manner.
- Violation by any member, fan or participant of this document 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.
- Playing fair also has to do with making choices. As we interact with each other in sport, or as spectators in sport, we must regularly consider and define what we think is right and what is not. As our children interact with each other in sport, their ability to think and learn about fair play matures along with their ability to think and learn about what makes for a rewarding and fulfilling life in society.
- General - the Club complies with the Zero Tolerance Policy with regard to abuse (verbal or physical) of referees, team officials or players. Anyone guilty of abuse will be permanently expelled from the club and its facilities. Act at all times according to the "Fair Play Code" for players, coaches, referees and parents. Abusive behaviour and communication styles are not acceptable. Use of profanity is prohibited. Smoke, or the consumption of alcohol in the playing and spectator area is prohibited. Keeping playing arenas, fields and parks clean of garbage and respecting territorial by-laws is expected and encouraged.

Players: As a WUFC player I realize that participation on a team is a privilege and not a right, and because of this, I will adhere to the following code of conduct. As a player I will:

1. Perform to the best of my ability in every training session, game and competition and accept with pride the result my effort brings.
2. Be gracious in victory and defeat.
3. Respect and play by the rules of the game.
4. Not show disrespect to officials, including the use of foul language and obscene or offensive gestures.

5. Be prepared to the best of my ability for training and matches equally, arrive on time with all gear necessary.
6. Build my teammates up in a positive manner with encouragement and support.
7. Promise to be a team player and encourage my fellow teammates to do the same.
8. Wear the assigned club attire for all training and matches with pride.
9. Listen to and follow instructions and decisions of coaches and managers.
10. Always hold respect for opponents, coaches, referees and teammates.
11. Not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct or negative communication with players, coaching staff or families of any team.
12. Never use profanity, display temper tantrums, violent behaviour, or engage in harassment or bullying of any kind.
13. Not engage in negative comments towards players or teams through any social media platforms.
14. While traveling, abide by established quiet times and curfew; wear appropriate team pieces as determined by the coach/manager; travel as a group representing our club and Yukon soccer.
15. Treat everyone as equals, regardless of ability, gender, age, sex, race, class, religion, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
16. Immediately report any injury to coach and/or manager.
17. Additionally, all players will:
 - Demonstrate qualities of integrity, courtesy and good sportsmanship at all times:
 - Demonstrate a commitment to coaches and teammates.
 - I will attend and be on time for every practice and game and inform my coach any time I am unable to attend a practice or game.
 - I will be willing to give 100% effort 100% of the time.
 - I will strive to improve in all skills involved in my activity and reach for a higher level of mastery.
 - I will communicate to my coach and teammates any information which will affect my participation and commitment in team activities such as job commitments, family holidays, injuries, etc.
 - Coaches are volunteers and are committed to giving their best for each player and the team. I will do the same in return for my coaches and teammates
 - Wear shin guards for all games and practices – no exceptions.
 - Cannot wear metal cleats for recreational games.

Coaches: All coaches will embrace the philosophy that the game is a game of enjoyment. It is played not only in the pursuit of excellence but to promote a healthy lifestyle in the social, mental and physical development of the player. All coaches are to lead by example, and should therefore follow the same expectations of conduct as the player.

- All coaches will focus on maintaining a high level of integrity and good sportsmanship as leaders of their teams.
- I will respect all laws of the game. Will set an example of fair play, respect of others and good sportsmanship through example during the season.

- I will regard and treat all officials and opponents with respect and as being honest in intention.
- I agree that decisions of officials, no matter how unfair they may seem, are to be accepted without show of outward disgust.
- I agree that it is desirable to win. However, winning at any cost defeats the purpose of the game.
- I will treat all visiting teams as honoured guests.
- Will speak respectfully to players, officials and parents. I will treat all others as I, myself, would like to be treated.
- I will promote the mental, social, and physical development of values in the athletes under their care.
- I will be sensitive to the emotional needs of the athletes I coach. Will offer constructive feedback in an effort to improve the skills of their players.
- I will ensure that each player is on the field at least 50% of the time for recreational teams.
- I will deal with the concerns and complaints of players and parents in an open and honest fashion. In the event that I cannot resolve an issue I will direct the concern to WUFC Head Coach.
- I will clearly communicate my philosophies for playing time, player roles & expectations and team rules at the beginning and throughout the season.

Parents: I realize that my child's participation on a team is a privilege and not a right and because of this I will commit myself according to the following, I will:

- respect and show appreciation for the volunteers (Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers) who give their time to provide sporting activities for my child.
- handle disputes between myself and team officials with dignity and through proper team channels: Privately with the coach and at an appropriate time.
- handle disappointment regardless of what the issue is with dignity, maturity and common sense after all I am a role model for my child.
- remember that my child plays soccer for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
- encourage my child to play by the rules, and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or aggressive behaviour.
- encourage and support my child's decision to discuss their concerns with the coach independently.
- teach my child that "doing one's best" is as important as winning.
- be positive and supportive in my comments to my child during competition.
- be a fan not a fanatic.
- support all the guidelines contained in this handbook including the coaches' selection of the team and playing time.
- participate actively in encouraging the players and will not coach from the sidelines, and;
- let the Coaches do their job and will not interfere on the players' side of the field during the course of the game.

Spectators:

- Will treat players, referees, opponents and other spectators with respect.
- Must stand on the opposite side of the field from players and coaches.
- Will not step onto the field during the game.
- Will maintain a distance of not less than three meters from the field during the game.
- Must ensure young spectators in their care do not interrupt the game and remain well away from the field.
- Will not play with a ball any closer than five meters from the field.

- Pets are prohibited in areas of play.

Referees:

- Will officiate the game in a fair, non-partisan and unbiased manner.
- Will follow the rules set by their governing body.
- Be respectful when addressing players, coaches, spectators and parents.

Procedure:

1. At the beginning of each season each player will be required to sign a copy of the Code of Conduct signifying their agreement to abide by these guidelines.
2. If an issue arises during the season, the following steps will be followed to resolve such conflict:
 - a. Concerns are first to be brought forward to the team coach who will engage in open, respectful, and constructive dialogue with the affected parties.
 - b. If genuine attempts are unsuccessful, mediation will be sought by addressing the concern with the Head Coach.
 - c. If an equitable resolution is still not found, an appeal can be made to the WUFC Board of Directors.

Appendices:

A) NA

Signed:

Role:

Date:
