



## **Behavior Guidelines**

Administrators, Coaches, Parents, Spectators and Players

S.A.Y. (Soccer Association for Youth) offers a sports program, which emphasizes teaching the game of soccer, enjoying participation in a team sport, and practicing good sportsmanship. Winning is an important element of any sport but is secondary to these goals. S.A.Y. rules follow this philosophy.

Cincinnati East SAY takes great pride in our reputation for fair play, sportsmanship and the positive atmosphere created by coaches, parents and players at practices and games. We have high expectations and enforce behavioral guidelines and rules. Derogatory comments and foul play are just not tolerated –ever!

The SAY Rulebook provides the referees with the tools to keep the game safe, fair and enjoyable. As a guideline for player, coach or spectator behavior, the following are examples of unsportsmanlike behavior, which will result in specific penalties issued by the Cincinnati East Ethics Committee if necessary:

- 1) Entering the field of play without referee permission (Up to one year probation).
- 2) A coach or assistant coach instructing the players of his or her team not to play when a referee instructs the team to do so (Up to one year probation).
- 3) Constant and/or excessive heckling and/or harassment of the referee, players or opposing coaches (One game suspension and/or up to one year probation).
- 4) Foul and/or abusive language to a referee (Two game suspension and/or up to one year probation).
- 5) Threatening actions or words to a referee, player or fan (Two game suspension and/or up to one year probation).
- 6) Refusal to leave the field of play after an ejection or request by the referee that the offending party vacate the area (Two game suspension and/or up to two year probation).
- 7) Aggressive physical contact with the referee or a player, i.e., grabbing the arm, turning the person around, poking, bumping, pushing, etc. (Five game suspension and one year probation).
- 8) Instructing the players to play in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner (Five game suspension and one year probation).
- 9) Striking a referee (Permanent expulsion).
- 10) Any player, coach or spectator observed using or under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol before or during a game will not be permitted to play or watch that game (Five game suspension).

11) Playing an illegal player (Game forfeiture). If it can be proved that the coach deliberately used an illegal player (Up to ten game or season suspension).

Cincinnati East SAY

Behavior Guidelines (continued)

These sanctions may be imposed on a player, coach or spectator even though a CAUTION (yellow card) or EJECTION (red card) penalty is not given by a referee. An EJECTION (red card) given to a player, coach or spectator after a game is over will result in a minimum penalty of suspension for the next game.

Any referee who violates any of these behavior guidelines will be subject to the rules, procedures and penalties outlined above.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: In addition to the sanctions mentioned above, the Ethics Committee may order the offender to complete educational courses including but not limited to Level 1 and/or Level 2 coaching certificates, referee training, and ACEP training.

DEFINITIONS: A player, coach or spectator on probation will be subject automatically to twice the above penalties. Additionally, a player, coach or spectator, on probation, who commits a second violation, may be subject to up to a 10 game suspension.

A player, coach or spectator under suspension may not attend or be in the vicinity of his/her teams or child's game for the stipulated number of games. A violation of suspension results in expulsion for the remainder of the S.A.Y. season, all post season tournaments and probation for the next season.

A player, coach or spectator under expulsion is banned from all presence at all future Cincinnati East games and may never participate in the Cincinnati East program. A violation of this expulsion will result in possible game forfeiture and/or elimination of the team on which his/her child plays from league play and/or appropriate legal action against the violator.

It will be assumed that all the participants (players, coaches or spectators) have been made aware of all the above.

Remember S.A.Y. soccer is a program for the kids!