

Code of Conduct of the Broome County Soccer Association

The Broome County Soccer Association Spring League is based on the objective of providing the youth of the Southern Tier of New York with the opportunity to acquire and develop skills through a higher level of competition. These skills, as well as the individual growth of players, must be nurtured in an environment which is free of confrontation, poor sportsmanship, and verbal and physical abuse among spectators, game participants and game officials.

Not only is this type of behavior contrary to the spirit of the game and examples we are trying to set for the participating youth, it also creates situations which could place BCSA in bad standing with New York State West thereby threatening the continuation of high level competition in the Southern Tier of New York.

While BCSA does not dictate the internal administrative rules and regulations of member clubs, it must provide the framework for governing undesirable behavior within which member clubs must administer their teams.

Players are expected to perform in a manner consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. Coaches and spectators should act in a manner which reinforces this concept. While aggressive play should not be discouraged, physical and/or verbal abuse of opponents will not be allowed. Verbal or gesticulatory dissent with referee's decisions will not be tolerated.

If carded, a player is expected to observe the presentation of the card without comment, and the player should be determined not to repeat the behavior which elicited the card. Coaches, parents and spectators must also show respect in disagreeing with referees' decisions. While one cannot expect all referee calls to be accepted without reservation, loud or abusive dissent is unwarranted and reprehensible.

Under no circumstances should a player, parent or spectator come onto the field unless invited by the referee. The same level of constraint should be observed after the game is over. Parents and spectators should be made aware that the coach is responsible for their actions on the sideline, and he can be cautioned, sent off the field, or suspended from future games for their misbehavior.

Member clubs will ensure that the approach to playing the game, which is discussed above, is fully disseminated and understood throughout their club. Member clubs will also establish internal procedures, consistent with each clubs' regulatory process, which provide for suitable controls and punishment for proscribed behavior.

Each club must also ensure that, as warranted by specific events, swift and appropriate action is taken to ensure that members of its club do not repeat their mistakes. Repetition of occurrences of misconduct which shows a disregard for these guidelines could lead to long term penalties.

BCSA Board of Directors