



FRIENDLY FAN POLICY

Doc. No.	BCSA-POL-016
Rev.	0
Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
Status:	Published
Effective:	December 2023

Big Country Soccer Association is committed to promoting positive behavior on and off the soccer field through the support of coaches, parents, players, volunteers, and match officials.

Respect is the communal responsibility of each participant in soccer to create an environment that is both safe and enjoyable for all who take part.

Big Country Soccer Association and its members are strong supporters of making sport safe for our youth. Over the last couple of years, verbal abuse directed toward referees, players and team officials has been a particular problem. Accordingly, Big Country Soccer Association has established the Friendly Fan Policy for non-Big Country Soccer Association registrants – anyone not individually registered with the Association as either a Player, Team Official or Administrator (“Registrant”) – to enforce a set of expectations around inappropriate behavior for parents, legal guardians and spectators (collectively “Spectators”), including but not limited to offensive, insulting or abusive language or behavior, sexist or racist remarks, violence and vandalism, in order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all.

For the purposes of this policy, a spectator is defined as an immediate family member associated with a game participant, including aunts, uncles, grandparents, or children.

Spectator Fair Play Code of Conduct

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behavior in the game. Spectators’ expectations and attitudes have a significant bearing on a child’s attitude toward:

- Other players;
- Match Officials;
- Team officials; and
- Spectators

Big Country Soccer Association wants to ensure soccer can be enjoyed in a safe, positive environment. Remember the game of soccer provides children the opportunity to develop their technical, physical, tactical, and social skills.

Winning isn’t everything.

Spectators are asked to play their part by observing this Fair Play Code of Conduct at all times:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that my child plays sport for his or her enjoyment, not for mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.



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4. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/ event.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/ by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will remain outside the field of play and within the designated spectators' area (where provided).
9. I will respect the match officials' decisions and never publicly question the officials' judgment or honesty.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.
11. I will not interfere at any time with the duties and responsibilities of the coach or manager, including coaching from the sidelines during games or practices.
12. I will comply with the rules, policies and procedures of Big Country Soccer Association and its members as they apply to me.
13. I will not act in any manner that is detrimental to the team or Big Country Soccer Association and its members.
14. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities.
15. I will never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behavior toward any official, coach, player, or Spectator.

The goal of the Fair Play Code of Conduct operating procedure is to promote a positive, safe, and supportive environment for all participants at Big Country Soccer Association and its members' soccer activities. If a Spectator chooses not to follow the Fair Play Code of Conduct, any, or all, of the following actions may be taken by Big Country Soccer Association, its members, and the Spectator may be:

- Issued with a verbal warning from Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its associated member.
- Obligated to leave the match venue by Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its associated member or game official.
- Required to meet with the Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its associated member discipline committee.



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- Requested by Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its associated member not to attend future games or practices; and
- Suspended or have Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its associated member Spectator's fee and participation revoked.

Disciplinary Guidelines

1st OFFENCE (Written warning):

Any Spectator judged by Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee to be guilty of abusive conduct towards anyone in attendance at a soccer event will be reprimanded in writing.

2nd OFFENCE (Discipline by hearing):

Any Spectator judged by Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee to be guilty of a second conviction of abusive conduct towards anyone in attendance at a soccer event will be required to attend a hearing with Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee to address their behavior. A second offence may result in a Spectator being suspended from attending future games and practices for a specified period of time as determined by the Discipline Committee

3rd OFFENCE (Discipline by hearing):

Any Spectator, judged by Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee to be guilty of a third conviction of abusive conduct towards anyone in attendance at a soccer event will be required to attend a hearing with Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee to address their behavior.

In the unfortunate circumstance and as a last resort, for the protection of all participants associated with Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' soccer activities, a third conviction may result in all playing members of the immediate family in question being de-registered from Big Country Soccer Association for a period of time of Big Country Soccer Association's choosing that may be, at Big Country Soccer Association's discretion, unlimited.

In extreme cases and/ or depending on the nature of the behavior, as determined by Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee, a suspension from attending future games or practices and/ or the deregistration process may be invoked after a first or second offence.

This policy only covers non-playing Spectators which are associated with a game participant. For incidents not related to the event or involving non-associated Spectators Big Country Soccer Association and its members cannot enforce the Friendly Fan Policy and/ or Discipline Policies, however civil action may be sought by the parties involved.



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Reporting Abusive Behavior

Match Officials

When a person(s) in attendance, including but not limited to the Match Official, feels they are being abused, as per the scope of this policy, by a Spectator, the Match Official will be allowed to suspend the game. In all cases, the Match Official must inform the coaches from both teams that the game has been suspended and file an incident report with Big Country Soccer Association who will process this document in accordance with the rules defined by Big Country Soccer Association.

If a Spectator's behavior results in the Match Official suspending play, the appropriate coach will provide the game official with the name of the individual(s) that is identified by the game official and the coach must advise the individual(s) that the next occurrence of a similar nature will result in an abandonment of the game. If the individual(s) is not associated with either team, the individual(s) may be warned that local authorities may be called to deal with the incident.

Where the situation cannot be rectified the game will be abandoned. However, where the incident has been resolved and the game continues without any further incident, the Match Official will inform Big Country Soccer Association and its member where the game was being played that the game was temporarily suspended, including providing a detailed explanation of the reason for the suspension of play and toward whom the abuse was directed.

Non-Game Officials

In the event that an incident of abuse is not recognized by a Match Official, or occurs in a non-game situation, for example during a practice session, it is the obligation and duty of the coach and/ or other team officials to report such incident to Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' Discipline Committee using the B.A.H.D Behavior Incident Report (*Ref. BCSA-FORM-006*). Details such as the day, time, and location that the incident occurred, the parties involved, description of the abusive behavior and to whom the behavior was directed must be provided in the report.

A Spectator who feels that they have been the subject of, or witness to, abusive behavior, including but not limited to a team official such as a coach, may submit a written complaint to Big Country Soccer Association and/ or its members' President/ Vice-President who can be reached through the contact listing on the associated website. Details such as the day, time, and location that the incident occurred, the parties involved, description of the abusive behavior and to whom the behavior was directed must be provided in the report.

Reference

Big Country Soccer Association Policy (*Ref. BCSA-POL-001*)

Big Country Soccer Association Zero Tolerance Policy (*Ref: BCSA-POL-002*)

Big Country Soccer Association Harassment Policy (*Ref: BCSA-POL-004*)

Big Country Soccer Association Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy (*Ref: BCSA-POL-010*)

Big Country Soccer Association B.H.A.D (Bullying, Harassment, Abusive, Discrimination) Behavior Incident Report (*Ref: BCSA-FORM-006*)

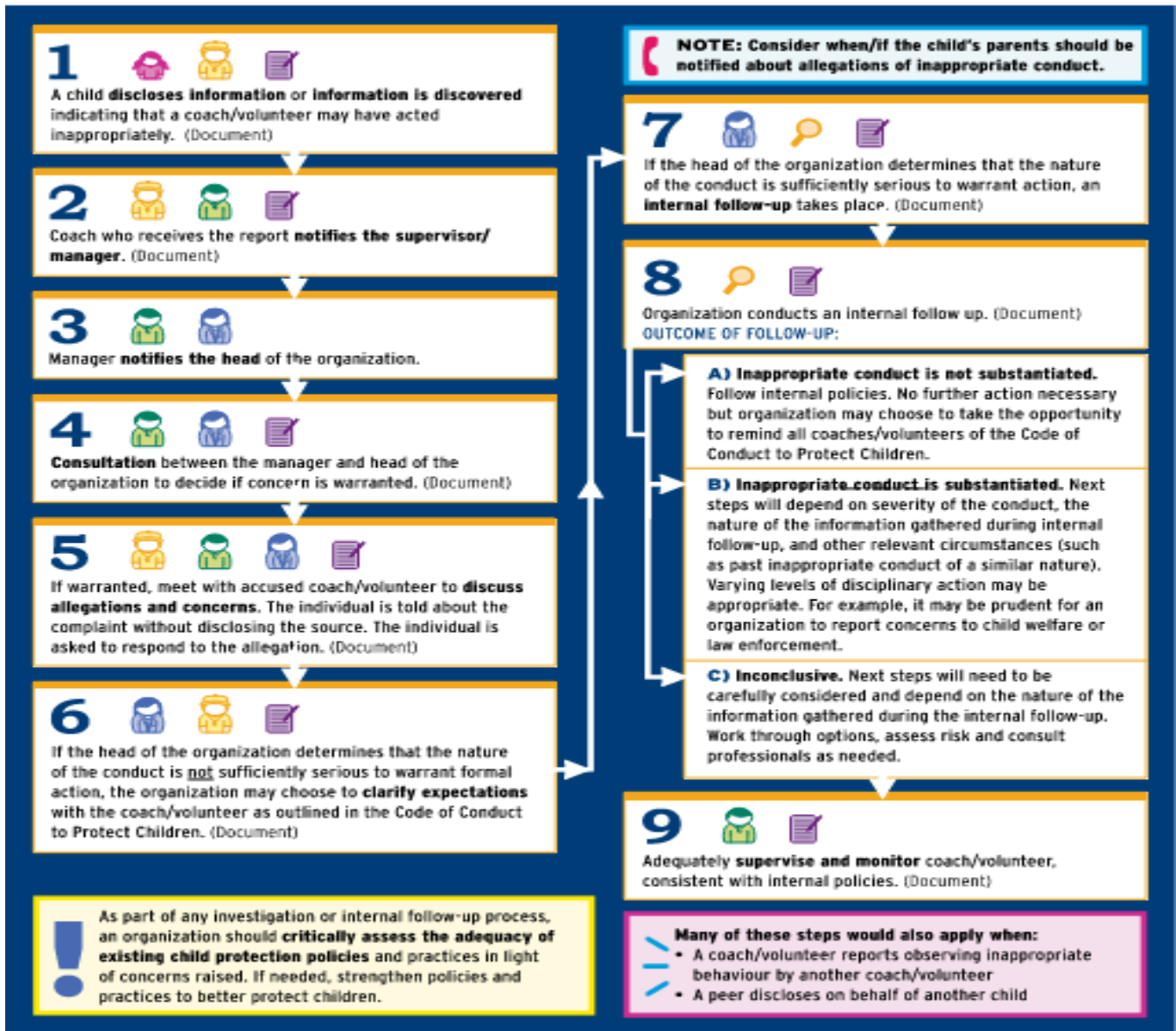


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INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT STEPS FOR REPORTING:

This card is a component of the Commit to Kids® program. It is intended as a quick reference for use in a sporting environment and is not meant to be exhaustive or to replace legal advice. Users are strongly encouraged to consult with any or all of child welfare, law enforcement and legal counsel as appropriate to a given situation.



The safety of the child and other children in the organization must be ensured at all times in the process.



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