



# Friendly Fan Policy

“Organization” refers to: Edmonton Interdistrict Youth Soccer Association (EIYSA)

## Commitment to Positive Conduct

1. The Organization is dedicated to fostering positive behavior on and off the soccer field. Through the collective support of coaches, parents, players, volunteers, and officials, the Organization seeks to create a safe and enjoyable environment for all participants. Respect is a shared responsibility, and all participants must contribute to this goal.
2. As a strong advocate for the safety and well-being of youth in sports, the Organization has identified verbal abuse directed at referees, players, and team officials as a pressing concern. To address this, the Organization has implemented the Friendly Fan Policy to set clear expectations regarding behavior at games and events. This policy applies to non-registrants, including parents, legal guardians, and spectators (collectively referred to as "Spectators"), to ensure safety and enjoyment for everyone involved.

## Scope

3. This policy encompasses inappropriate behaviors such as:
  - a. Offensive, insulting, or abusive language or actions.
  - b. Sexist or racist remarks.
  - c. Acts of violence or vandalism.
4. For the purpose of this policy, a Spectator includes immediate family members or associates of game participants, such as, but not limited to, parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or siblings.

## Spectator Fair Play Code of Conduct

5. To uphold the highest standards of behavior in soccer, Spectators must adhere to the following principles, which significantly influence a child's attitude toward others and the game:
  - a. Encourage Participation: I will not force my child to participate in sports.
  - b. Prioritize Enjoyment: I will remember that my child plays for their enjoyment, not mine.
  - c. Promote Fair Play: I will encourage adherence to rules and resolving conflicts without hostility or violence.
  - d. Value Effort Over Winning: I will teach my child that doing their best is as important as winning.
  - e. Provide Positive Feedback: I will praise my child for fair competition and effort, regardless of the outcome.
  - f. Avoid Criticism: I will not ridicule or yell at my child for mistakes or losses.
  - g. Model Respectful Behavior: I will applaud good performances from all players, including opponents.
  - h. Stay in Designated Areas: I will remain outside the field of play and within designated spectator areas.
  - i. Respect Officials: I will respect match officials' decisions and refrain from publicly questioning their judgment.
  - j. Appreciate Volunteers: I will show gratitude for volunteer coaches who dedicate time to youth sports.
  - k. Avoid Interference: I will not interfere with the duties of coaches or managers, including coaching from the sidelines.
  - l. Comply with Policies: I will adhere to the team, club, and district rules applicable to me.
  - m. Support the Team and Club: I will act in a manner that supports, rather than undermines, the team and club.
  - n. Discourage Abuse: I will support efforts to eliminate verbal and physical abuse in youth sports.
  - o. Avoid Offensive Conduct: I will refrain from offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behavior toward anyone.



## Consequences for Policy Violations

6. If a Spectator fails to comply with the [Fair Play Code of Conduct](#), the Organization may take one or more of the following actions:
  - a. Issue a verbal warning.
  - b. Require the individual to leave the venue.
  - c. Mandate a meeting with the Organization's Discipline Committee.
  - d. Restrict attendance at future events.
  - e. Suspend or revoke membership with the Organization.

## Friendly Fan Policy: Disciplinary Procedures

7. **First Offense:** A written warning will be issued to Spectators found guilty of abusive conduct.
8. **Second Offense:** A hearing will be held with the Organization's Discipline Committee. Consequences may include suspension from future games and practices.
9. **Third Offense:** A third violation may result in de-registration of all playing members of the immediate family for a period determined by the Organization.
10. In extreme cases, immediate suspension or de-registration may occur, even after a first or second offense, at the Organization's discretion.

## Reporting Abusive Behavior

11. Game Officials
  - a. If abuse is directed at a game official:
    - i. The game may be temporarily suspended.
    - ii. Coaches will be informed, and the responsible Spectator may be warned or removed.
    - iii. If unresolved, the game may be abandoned.
    - iv. A Special Incident Report must be filed with the Organization.
12. Non-Game Situations
  - b. If abuse occurs outside of a game (e.g., during practice), the coach or team official must report the incident to the Organization's Discipline Committee, including relevant details such as the time, location, and description of the behavior.

## Filing Complaints

13. Spectators who witness or experience abusive behavior may submit a written complaint to the Organization's Discipline Committee via the Executive Director at [exdir@eiysa.com](mailto:exdir@eiysa.com). Reports must include details such as the time, location, parties involved, and description of the behavior.
14. This policy aims to protect all participants and promote a safe, respectful environment in youth soccer.

## References:

- EIYSA Code of Conduct and Ethics
- EIYSA Discipline and Complaints Policy
- EIYSA Event Discipline Policy

## Resources

- [Alberta Soccer – Resources for Parents](#)