



Code of Conduct

Soccer Cape Breton is committed to providing a positive, safe, and respectful environment for all participants. The Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behavior expected from players, coaches, parents, and referees involved in our programs. These guidelines are intended to promote sportsmanship, respect, teamwork, and fair play both on and off the field.

All members of the Soccer Cape Breton community share a responsibility to contribute to an environment where participants feel supported, valued, and able to enjoy the game. By participating in Soccer Cape Breton activities, individuals agree to follow the principles outlined in this Code of Conduct and to help uphold the integrity and spirit of the game.

Player Code of Conduct

All players participating in Soccer Cape Breton programs are expected to:

- Play by the rules of the game at all times.
- Respect referees and accept their decisions without criticism or dissent.
- Treat opponents with fairness and respect, recognizing that without opponents there is no game.
- Encourage and support teammates, helping both individuals and the team succeed.
- Treat coaches with respect and work with them for the betterment of the team.
- Accept coaching decisions as part of the game. If a disagreement arises, communicate respectfully, openly, and honestly with the coach in private.
- Refrain from profanity, violent behavior, bullying, or abuse of any kind.
- Be gracious in both victory and defeat.
- Demonstrate commitment to the team by attending practices and games whenever possible, and by working hard and cooperating during all team activities.

Team Official (Coach) Code of Conduct

All coaches and team officials are expected to:

- Follow the principles of fair play and promote equal participation based on commitment while respecting both the rules and the spirit of the game.
- Show respect for opposing players and coaches, and encourage their players to do the same.
- Serve as positive role models by leading through example and providing feedback in a constructive and supportive manner.
- Respect referees and refrain from criticizing their decisions or performance.
- Treat all players with respect and dignity, recognizing that every player is unique.
- Be fair in allocating playing time and strive to ensure each player participates in at least 40% of each game where possible.

- Emphasize effort, participation, and personal development over winning or losing.
- Promote positive interaction among teammates and address negative behaviors promptly.
- Maintain zero tolerance for profanity, violent behavior, bullying, or abuse of any kind.
- Communicate openly and clearly with players and parents to ensure expectations and feedback are understood.
- Be receptive to ideas and suggestions from players and parents when developing team goals and programs.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Model good sportsmanship in all interactions with players, coaches, opponents, and referees.
- Refrain from criticizing referees, recognizing that they are also learning and developing within the game.
- Provide positive encouragement to players from both teams.
- Avoid conflicts with parents from either team.
- Allow coaches to coach by avoiding instructions shouted from the sidelines, which can create confusion for players.
- Communicate respectfully with the coach if concerns or suggestions arise, choosing an appropriate time away from game situations.
- Support the coach and team in working toward a positive team environment.
- Ensure their child follows the Player Code of Conduct and any applicable team commitments.

Referee Code of Conduct

Referees officiating Soccer Cape Breton matches are expected to:

- Conduct themselves with dignity on and off the field and promote the principles of sportsmanship.
- Avoid actions that could involve the association in controversial matters and comply with the rules and regulations of the governing jurisdiction.
- Adhere to all provincial standards and directives.
- Follow guidelines established by Soccer Nova Scotia (SNS) and the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) regarding referee uniforms and maintain appropriate physical and mental fitness.
- Study and enforce the current Laws of the Game and any event-specific rules or regulations.
- Perform all assigned responsibilities, including attending clinics, meetings, and training sessions, and assist colleagues in improving officiating standards.
- Honor accepted referee appointments unless unable to do so due to illness or personal emergency.
- Refrain from publicly criticizing other referees or soccer associations.

- Avoid making public statements to the media or on social platforms regarding matches they have officiated or the performance of players or other officials.
- Follow proper communication channels by directing questions or concerns to Soccer Nova Scotia through the appropriate referee leadership structure.
- Submit accurate and factual reports when required, without attempting to justify decisions.
- Report any attempt to influence or fix the result of a match.