

Valley United Soccer Club

Discipline Policy

Valley United's Discipline Policy outlines actions the club will take in disciplinary situations. Depending on the nature of the situation, responsibility for carrying out discipline procedures are with the Discipline Panel or the Technical Director. The Discipline Panel consist of a Chair and two non-board members appointed by the Valley United Board.

Spectators

The sidelines of every soccer game are lined with parents and spectators wanting their team to succeed. Fans communicate in many ways, from chanting and cheering to clapping. Too often this enthusiasm can come with shouting instructions and trying to coach from the sideline. As a Club, we are committed to a positive player experience of learning and individual growth of our team members.

We DO want parents and other spectators to encourage and support players and exhibit good sportsmanship.

We do NOT want parents and other spectators to:

- Coach from the sidelines
- Engage in negative comments with or directed at any players, parents, or game officials
- Disparage or undermine the coach or teammates

Suspension & Expulsions

Applies to parents and spectators whose deliberate conduct is out of line with fair play, Club policy, and basic standards of civil decency. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Physical altercations
- Verbal altercations
- Violent conduct
- Substance abuse
- Audibly derogatory comments directed at any player, coach, or referee
- Overtly negative or unsportsmanlike body language or posturing
- Coaching/delivering instructions to players from the sidelines
- Persistent infringement of issues in Mandatory Education section after interventions.

Possible Interventions

- Removal from club
- Legal action
- Seasonal spectator ban
- Individualized behaviour agreements

Responsibility

Discipline Panel

Mandatory Education

Applies to parents and spectators whose conduct and demeanour, despite positive intentions, prove to be persistently disruptive for coaches and players. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Coaching/delivering instruction to players from the sidelines.
- Calling decisions for referees
- Neglect of informal warnings (email, in-person discussion)

Possible Intervention

Completion of Respect In Sport For Parents course

Responsibility

Technical Director

Coaches

Suspension and Expulsions

Applies to coaches whose conduct willfully and egregiously stands in contrast to fair play, Club policy, and basic standards of civil decency. Behaviours falling into this category are extremely serious. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Physical altercations
- Verbal altercations
- Violent conduct
- Substance abuse
- Audibly derogatory comments directed at any player, coach, or referee
- Overtly negative or unsportsmanlike body language or posturing

- Persistent infringement of issues in Mandatory Education section after interventions.

Possible Interventions

- Removal from coaching position
- Removal from club
- Legal action
- Seasonal bans
- Prescribed restorative actions (for example: written apologies, conciliatory in-person meeting)
- Probationary period

Responsibility

Technical Director in consultation with Discipline Panel

Mandatory Education

Applies to coaches whose conduct and demeanour, despite positive intentions, prove to be persistently disruptive. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Delivering instruction to players from the sideline in a way that escalates negative intensity.
- Continually making calls for or calling for different decisions from officials
- Neglect of informal warnings (email, in-person discussion)

Possible Interventions

- Completion of educational module with course certificate

Responsibility

Technical Director

Players

Applies to players whose conduct stands in contrast to the Club's Player Code of Conduct and basic standards of civil decency. Behaviours falling into this category are extremely serious. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Grave social media misuse
- Harassment
- Hazing activities

- Severe bullying
- Physical altercations/violent conduct
- Escalated or prolonged verbal altercations
- Intentional damage of property or equipment
- Substance abuse
- Persistent infringement of issues in Mandatory Education section after interventions.

Possible Interventions

- Removal from team
- Removal from club
- Legal action
- Seasonal bans
- Prescribed restorative actions (written apologies, conciliatory in-person meeting, etc...)
- Probationary period

Responsibility

Discipline Panel in consultation with the Technical Director

Mandatory Education

Applies to players whose conduct and demeanour is often at odds with the Club's Player Code of Conduct. Behaviours falling into this category may be minor but prove to be persistently disruptive. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Constant disruption of the learning environment (low-level picking on, unwanted teasing, bothering, or distracting other players/coaches/referees)
- Persistent dissent or disrespect for the Laws of The Game
- Careless treatment of equipment or personal belongings
- Casual disregard for practical, personal safety matters

Possible Interventions

- Completion of educational module with course certificate
- Written reflection
- Meeting with Technical Director and Coach and Player/Parents

Responsibility

Technical Director in consultation with the Coach