

## **Code of Conduct**

### Arkansas State Soccer Association

Any person (a player, parent, spectator, guardian, coach, referee, board member, volunteer, or patron, hereinafter referred to as an “associated individual”) representing or acting on behalf of the Arkansas State Soccer Association (ASSA), the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYS) and/or the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) is expected to conduct themselves appropriately and abide by all policies of those governing bodies as well as this Code of Conduct. Parents and spectators in attendance at any ASSA event or activity are considered associated individuals for the purposes of this policy. All associated individuals have the responsibility to act and speak appropriately when representing the ASSA. At all ASSA, USYS and/or USSF sponsored activities, in and out of the state of Arkansas, the following code of conduct is in effect. Associated individuals will:

1. Refrain from participating in or encouraging any of the following:
  - Assault (Verbal or Physical)
  - Harassment (Sexual, Racial or Religious)
  - Taunting
  - Use of inappropriate language
  - Providing false information
2. Be aware that all USSF policies regarding referee abuse apply and extend to all associated individuals, parents and spectators.
3. Abide by all Federal, State and Local laws.
4. Be an example of good sportsmanship to all players, coaches and parents, and address all players in a positive, encouraging manner.
5. Respect and support all coaches, players and game officials through words and actions.
6. View opponents as necessary to provide players the opportunity to participate.
7. Abide by all established policies and decisions of the ASSA board of directors.

#### Steps that will be taken if a violation of this Code of Conduct has occurred:

**First offense** – The member club will be notified of the offense and asked to address the issue with the associated individual about whom the complaint was made. A written response to the ASSA is required, and must include:

- How the issue was addressed with the associated individual.
- What was course of action was implemented to prevent a recurrence.
- What the club is doing institutionally to control associated individuals behavior.

Note: If an offense is severe in nature (extreme, violent and/or dangerous) the ASSA reserves the right to move directly to the consequences of the second offense and possibly notify the proper law enforcement agencies.

**Second offense** – the offending associated individual will be suspended from all ASSA events effective immediately. The ASSA Appeals & Discipline Committee will review the violation and determine punishment. Any reinstatement to ASSA involvement is not guaranteed. If a reinstatement is granted, it is on a probationary basis. Any incident during the probationary period will result in additional punishment, up to and including a permanent suspension of the offender.

Important Note: Any club showing a consistent lack of institutional control over the behavior of their associated individuals may be placed in bad standing with the ASSA, which may impact continued or future participation in leagues, tournaments or other ASSA events.