

**Northern Illinois Soccer League expects all participants to treat each other with mutual respect and does not tolerate abusive, intimidating or disrespectful language or behavior at any of our matches or events.**

*These standards apply equally to players, coaches, referees, and spectators.*

#### Match Day Philosophy

- Climate at the field is determined by those present, our joint actions create a positive experience.
- Sportsmanship matters. Demonstrate positive support and fair play for all players, coaches, spectators and officials...criticism doesn't have a place on the sidelines of youth sports.
- The emotional and physical wellbeing of our athletes is critical, demonstrate compassion and restraint.
- Game officials are a vital part of the game and should be treated with respect.

#### Match Feedback Pathway

- Spectators -> Coach -> Club -> League
- At no point should spectators approach game officials with anything other than "welcome" or "thanks". This includes after the match with regards to decisions during the match. Any concerns should be brought to your team coach and/or club.
- Determinations of the game officials are final and are not subject to review. It is expected that any coach interactions with game officials will be positive in nature.

#### NISL Code of Conduct

- Interact in a positive and supportive manner with players, coaches, spectators and officials; intolerant, abusive or disrespectful language or behavior will not be tolerated. This includes social media.
- Leave coaching to the coaches, let the players focus on and communicate with their team.
- Respect the officials and their authority during games; concerns should be reported to the league through the appropriate channels, not at the field.
- Respect our venues and their posted rules; take care of our community.
- Abstain from the use of controlled substances, tobacco products and alcohol in the areas immediately surrounding the field of play.

Violations of this code of conduct will be discussed collaboratively with involved member clubs, and a larger review panel of neutral clubs if indicated, to determine disciplinary or restorative steps to be taken to address the issue. NISL reserves the right to apply the "Common Sense Rule" to any actions by players, coaches, parents & spectators and club administrators not specifically addressed here that violate the spirit of the stated Match Day Philosophy and Code of Conduct.

Upon review of reported incidents, Northern Illinois Soccer League can, and will if necessary, suspend individual privileges to attend or participate in NISL events, matches and leagues. Particularly serious or patterns of repeat behavior may involve consequences at the club level as well.