

# GRAND VALLEY SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## *Respect – A Game We All Must Play*



## **CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT AT ALL GVSA and MSYSA SANCTIONED SOCCER GAMES.**

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While GVSA will deal with reported misconduct, clubs also have a role to play in educating its membership as to what is – and what isn't – acceptable behavior and take action when this code is broken.

We suggest that each club appoint a compliance officer, which could be a current board member that will oversee the "Respect Code of Conducts" (RCOC) of the club and their implementation consistent with the new Respect Campaign from GVSA.

Each RCOC explains what action can and will be taken if the Code of Conduct is broken.

Each GVSA club has three main responsibilities relating to the GVSA Respect Campaign:

1. To ensure everyone within the club (club members), whatever their role, has read, agreed and signed up to their relevant Code – and understands the actions which could be taken if Codes are broken. The inclusion of Codes into the registration process of club members ensures that all playing members can be made aware of their responsibilities at the point of joining the club.
2. To collect and retain the Codes so that they can be referred back to, if an individual's behavior becomes unacceptable.
3. To deal fairly and consistently with anyone who breaks this RCOC agreement.

If your club hasn't used Codes of Conduct before – or has Codes without consequences – this needs discussion, so your members understand how the RCOC work and what their responsibilities are.

### **Clubs which already have Codes of Conduct:**

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If you already have your own club Codes of Conduct, it is advised that you adopt the new Respect Codes of Conduct (RCOC) or revise your existing codes to include any elements you may have missed.

### **Potential measures that a club can take against its members include but not limited to;**

- Apologize to teammates, the other team, referee, team manager or coach.
- Receive a warning from the coach.
- Receive a verbal/written warning from the club board.

- Be required to attend a GVSA education course.
- Be dropped or substituted.
- Be suspended from practice.
- Be required to serve a suspension.
- Be required to leave the club.
- Be progressively more serious for repeat offenders

It's important that Clubs are clear about what it expects from its members and to educate people when guidance is required. Should this guidance be disregarded then the management of a Club has the right to implement sanctions against offenders. This action must be fair and consistent – treating people in the same way regardless of their position in the club. It must follow a process which allows people to know when they have broken a Code of Conduct and provides them with the opportunity to amend their behavior and conduct. The discipline must be proportionate to the offense.

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(Name Club Compliance Officer)

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(Club)

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(Signature)

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(Date)