**Watertown Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) Code of Conduct**

The code of conduct applies to all persons involved in soccer such as a player, parent, coach, referee, or administrator associated with the Watertown Youth Soccer Association (WYSA).

The intent of this code is to protect the welfare of the youth in our program. The people described above are role models and are expected to demonstrate year-round behavior that reflects positively on themselves, WYSA, and the Watertown community.

**The persons mentioned above shall**

* Display good sportsmanship at all times.
* Represent themselves, their family, and their team with honor and dignity.
* Not argue, harass, use profanity, or degrading language toward any another person.
* Refrain from abusive verbal or physical gestures to evoke confrontation.
* Utilize a 24-hour waiting (cooling off) period before confronting any official, coach, or administrator.

**Anti-Bullying**

* Bullying, harassment, or any form of discrimination is strictly prohibited.
* Treat all team members, coaches, referees, and spectators with kindness and inclusivity.
* Report any instances of bullying or harassment to a coach or responsible adult immediately.

**Social Media Usage**

* Use social media responsibly and respectfully.
* Do not post negative, offensive, or inappropriate content about teammates, coaches, opponents, or the sport.
* Protect your own privacy and the privacy of others by not sharing personal information without consent.
* Remember that your online behavior reflects on you and your team.

**Actions Detrimental to the Club**

* Any actions that bring disrepute to the WYSA, including but not limited to, dishonest behavior, cheating, or misconduct.
* Any actions that undermine the authority of coaches, officials, or the WYSA Board of Directors.
* Any behavior that creates a hostile environment or disrupts the harmony and unity of the club.
* Any deliberate actions that sabotage or harm the facilities, equipment, or property of the WYSA or its affiliates.

**Prohibited Substances**

* The use of alcohol, illegal drugs or narcotics, and tobacco or nicotine products is strictly prohibited at any WYSA event or activity.
* Any person found using or under the influence of these substances will be subject to disciplinary action.
* At any time, year-round, WYSA players are prohibited from the following:
	+ Drinking or the possession of alcoholic beverages.
	+ Use of or possession of tobacco and/or nicotine products, including e-cigarettes or vaping devices.
	+ Use or possession of illegal drugs or narcotics.
* Promote a healthy and safe environment by abstaining from these substances, especially around youth participants.
* Should a WYSA player participate in any of the above-listed activities, they will be in violation of the policy.
* WYSA players who use prescription drugs as authorized by a licensed medical provider in the prescribed dosage do not violate this policy.
* This policy is in effect on or off WYSA training grounds, facilities, and events.
	+ WYSA training grounds include Anza Soccer Complex, Watertown Field House, and any location where indoor/outdoor training sessions are being held, in or out of Watertown, SD.
	+ Events include any public representation, recruiting event, tournament, friendly, scrimmage, training event, camp, clinic, or team event.

*\* For any violations regarding prohibited substance disciplinary actions are based solely off the table below. \**

**Disciplinary Actions**

All persons shall obey the code of conduct while being associated with, traveling to, or participating in the WYSA program or any WYSA endorsed activity with its affiliates. The WYSA Board of Directors will decide necessary actions depending upon the severity of the instance or issue. Any violation may cause the person to be ineligible to play, coach, referee, or perform any function associated with the event.

Any of the following disciplinary actions may result during or after the occurrence as ruled by the WYSA Board of Directors:

* Asked to apologize publicly.
* Asked to provide a written apology.
* Asked to leave the event.
* Asked to leave the property for an indefinite amount of time.
* Any affiliation with WYSA may be terminated.

 If multiple violations have occurred, then there will be escalated repercussions based on the table below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1ST VIOLATION** | **2ND VIOLATION** | **3RD & SUBSEQUENT VIOLATION** |
| **Violations Occurring on or off WYSA grounds, events, activities.** | Suspension from any WYSA activity or events for 14 consecutive calendar days or (1) event whichever is greater, not to exceed 25% of the scheduled events during the season. If violation is related to alcohol/drugs, the player must participate in a conference with the players coach, WYSA president, and competitive chair, and players’ parent. This conference may require more than one meeting and/or assignments to be completed. The individual would continue to practice during the suspension if not removed from school, player must attend school to be eligible for training, tournaments, friendlies, or scrimmage.  | Suspension from any WYSA activity or events for 28 consecutive calendar days, or (2) events whichever is greater, not to exceed 50% of scheduled events during the season. If 2nd violation is for alcohol/drugs, the player will be required to attend an education program recommended by WYSA, at the expense of the player. The individual would continue to train during the suspension if not removed from school, player must attend school to be eligible for training, tournaments, friendlies, or scrimmage. | Suspension from any WYSA activity or events for 48 consecutive calendar days, or (3) events whichever is greater. Not to exceed 75% of scheduled events during the season. Seasons with only (3) events, it will be addressed on a case-by-case basis for which the individual is ineligible to participate. If the 3rd violation is for alcohol/drugs, the individual shall lose eligibility for one year from date of the violation. For the individual to return to WYSA the following year, the individual shall participate in an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor and/or complete an accredited intensive prevention program at the expense of the player. |

Reporting of violations – The above rules apply if the report is made and substantiated by legal authorities, players coach, WYSA board player, the parent or guardian of the individual or the individual’s voluntary admission. The suspension period begins on the day following notification to WYSA.

APPEAL – If it is believed that the individuals’ rights have been violated, the suspension may be appealed by filing a written request for appeal to WYSA within (5) days of report made to WYSA, WYSA will then have (5) days to review, and a decision will be made. Individuals will remain suspended during the appeal process.

PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING – Individuals are ineligible for any event(s) during suspension periods but are allowed to participate in practice if they are not suspended from school.

RECORD OF VIOLATION – Violations accumulate through U9-U12 years, and violation accumulate through U13- U19 years.

**Attendance Policy**

Watertown Youth Soccer Association - WYSA believes that consistent participation in practices and games is integral to the development of our youth players, positive team experience, and the overall success of our soccer program.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth Watertown Youth Soccer Association statement of policy and procedures for handling player absences. Soccer is a team sport that requires every player to know their responsibilities and perform as part of a team. If one player is not able to practice and perform, it affects the entire team. On-time attendance at all practices and games is critical so each player develops and has the opportunity to learn and have tactical growth in skills. WYSA encourages participation in extra-curricular activities including other sports– we also encourage the importance of teamwork, team building and the importance of practice for safety and player development. Please understand that by joining our program, you have made a commitment. To help your player develop as part of the team, the commitment to our program and to the team is a crucial part of their development.

WYSA does understand that 100% attendance at all events may not be possible over the course of the season, however the expectation is that players will make every effort to honor their commitment to their team. Missed practices and games may result in a loss of playing time. (Legitimate absences include illness, injury, and participation in mandatory school and religious activities.) Players with any ongoing commitments outside of soccer, that may affect their attendance, should be in full communication with their Head Coach.

**Coaches will follow the below guidelines:**

THREE – FOUR unexcused missed practices: Coach will talk with the player and reinforce the importance of being present for practice.

FIVE – SIX unexcused missed practices: Coach will have a conversation with parents on missed practices and the importance of practice. There will be a reduction in playing time at the next tournament.

SEVEN – EIGHT unexcused missed practices: Coach will ask that the parents have a meeting with them and the Competitive Chair to come up with a plan.

EIGHT or MORE unexcused missed practices: The players’ absence will be brought to the WYSA board for a discussion on how to proceed.

\*\*As stated above, WYSA understands there will be times when players need to miss practice. We ask that there be full communication with the Head Coach in these situations. Our coaches rely on availability being listed in TeamSnap in order to plan productive practices. Please utilize TeamSnap to mark availability and communicate with your players coach on any changes.

By signing below, you agree to these terms and consequences that may result.

Player Name: Age Division:

Parent/Guardian Signature: Date: