

Guidance document  
Harvard Soccer Club  
Fall 2013  
8 Dec 2013

The Purpose and Principles of the Harvard Soccer Club can be found in our Policies and Procedures section of the Club website:

<http://www.leagueathletics.com/Page.asp?n=1041&org=harvardsoccer.org>

In particular disciplinary actions are outlined in Chapter 6 page 18 of the HSC\_Handbook:

## **6. Disciplinary Action**

Players, coaches, club officials will abide by all written disciplinary actions taken by the NVYSL or any other soccer governing body having jurisdiction over teams that represent the Club. They will also abide by the on-the-field rulings (red and yellow cards) made by referees, fully meeting all of the rules of the league or tournament in which their teams are playing.

The Club President must convene a Board Meeting to respond to any written disciplinary action or report of misconduct taken against a club member by a soccer governing body. The Club President may convene a Board Meeting to act upon a written and signed complaint about a club member, and invite any persons as he/she sees fit. The Club President **must** invite the member about whom the complaint was made. The Board may decide to impose further sanctions on that person. If the Club Board decides to take a disciplinary action against a person, the Club President will notify said person in writing as to the action and the reason for the action.

All disciplinary actions except on-the-field rulings may be appealed in writing by the person against whom the action is taken.

It is everyone's responsibility to secure a safe and positive environment for all members. Coaches are encouraged to instill proper order and structure so as to maintain an environment of learning. Behavior that is disruptive to a safe and effective learning environment will not be tolerated, and it's the RESPONSIBILITY of the coaching staff to take action if players are not behaving in accordance to this

Disciplinary actions can result from a single isolated incident, such as unsafe behavior, or from a repeated pattern of disruptive behavior. Behavior with the potential to result in physical harm to others is to be addressed immediately, and in writing. This may result in immediate suspension from play and/or expulsion from the Club.

### **Definitions**

**Unsafe behavior:** Any behavior that threatens the safety of coaches, players, or others on the field. This includes but is not limited to any of the following: hitting, kicking, tripping, stepping on

feet, spitting at another individual, throwing of projectiles such as rocks, equipment, etc. Although some of this behavior is less obvious to identify during games, coaches should use their discretion and err on the side of safety.

**Disruptive behavior:** At the discretion of the coach, any behavior that disrupts the agenda of the coach (whether during a game or practice) or limits the ability of any club member to enjoy the club game and practices activities.

For the benefit of the players, parents, and coaches, the club requires the following escalation path for disruptive behavior that is unsafe.

1. First offense:
  - a. Player will be removed from practice or gameplay for the remainder of the session.
  - b. Parents will be notified.
2. Second offense:
  - a. Coaches to advise club age group coordinator.
  - b. Coordinator to notify the HSC Board.
  - c. Parents will be notified in writing.
  - d. PRIOR TO THE OFFENDING PLAYER REJOINING PLAY, specific actions should be outlined to ensure that future behavior will be consistent with Club policies.
  - e. This may include the request that at least one parent be present at all practices and games to provide oversight of their child.
3. Third offense:
  - a. If disruption continues, the player will again be suspended from play.
  - b. Reinstatement will be allowed only through official appeal with the Board.

Recommended best practice:

- It is recommended that both coaches consult on any disciplinary escalations.
- Coaches consult on behavior and the degree to which it is deemed 'disruptive', verses being handled via regular coaching practice.
- If deemed unsafe or disruptive, the coaches will document the noted offense(s). The age group coordinator will be notified along with the Board.
- Before a player can rejoin regular play, ALL parties involved must approve the resulting course of action. This may involve a parent being present for all play to provide oversight for their child.

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