



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

2026 CLUB EDITION

SUPPORT THE PLAYER. RESPECT THE PROCESS. LET COACHES COACH.

Athletic United SC expects every parent and guardian to help create a positive, safe and competitive environment for every player, coach, referee and family.

PURPOSE

This Parent Code of Conduct establishes the behavior and communication standards expected from all parents and guardians associated with Athletic United SC. It is designed to protect the player experience, support coaches, promote sportsmanship and maintain a club culture built on development, discipline, competition, character and community.

THE FAMILY STANDARD

- Encourage effort, learning and resilience rather than focusing only on results.
- Respect coaches, teammates, opponents, referees, staff and other families.
- Allow players to solve problems, receive coaching and grow through the game.
- Represent Athletic United SC positively at training, matches, tournaments and online.

ONE BADGE. ONE FAMILY. ONE GOAL.

1. SIDELINE & MATCH-DAY CONDUCT

- Cheer positively for Athletic United players without directing instructions from the sideline.
- Do not coach over, contradict or compete with the direction of the coaching staff.
- Do not criticize, threaten, insult or confront referees, opposing players, coaches or families.
- Remain in designated spectator areas and comply with facility, league and tournament rules.
- Avoid comments about another child's ability, playing time, position, mistakes or family circumstances.
- Win or lose, model composure. Players should see adults handle competition with respect.

2. COMMUNICATION WITH COACHES & STAFF

Parents are encouraged to communicate when the topic concerns their own child's development, behavior, role expectations, attendance, health or improvement plan.

- Use the designated team communication method for routine matters.
- Whenever age-appropriate, encourage the player to speak with the coach first.
- For non-safety concerns involving playing time, position, tactics, selection or match decisions, follow the club's 24-hour rule before requesting a formal discussion.
- Do not confront a coach immediately before, during or after a match about competitive decisions.
- If a concern remains unresolved, use the club communication chain rather than group chats or public posts.

THE 24-HOUR RULE

Wait at least 24 hours after a match before initiating a formal discussion about playing time, positions, tactics, selections or other competitive decisions. Immediate safety, safeguarding, discrimination or serious misconduct concerns should be reported without delay.

3. SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Prioritize attendance, punctuality, proper equipment, hydration and readiness.
- Support the coach's development plan even when a player is challenged, moved positions or asked to earn a larger role.
- Do not compare your child's progress to another player's development path.
- Understand that club fees provide access to the program, coaching, training and team environment; they do not guarantee a starting position, position assignment or exact percentage of match minutes.
- Reinforce accountability at home when a player receives an age-appropriate consequence for attendance, behavior or effort.

4. RESPECT, SAFETY & CLUB REPRESENTATION

- Harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct, threats, fighting or intimidation are not acceptable.
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons or other prohibited items are not permitted where prohibited by club, facility or event rules.
- Do not enter team benches, technical areas, locker rooms or player-only spaces unless specifically authorized.
- Protect player privacy. Do not publicly share sensitive information about minors, injuries, discipline or family matters.
- Use social media responsibly. Public attacks on players, coaches, referees, families, opponents or the club may result in club action.
- Report serious safety, safeguarding or misconduct concerns promptly through the appropriate club channel.

5. CONCERNS, ESCALATION & CONSEQUENCES

Athletic United SC will address parent conduct in a manner proportionate to the behavior, its frequency and its impact on players, staff, officials and the club environment.

- A first concern may be handled through a verbal reminder or private conversation.
- Repeated or significant violations may result in a written warning, meeting with club leadership, temporary sideline restrictions or removal from an event.
- Serious misconduct may result in suspension from club activities or other action deemed necessary to protect the team and club environment.
- Club leadership may act immediately when conduct involves safety, threats, discrimination, harassment, abuse or significant disruption.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By registering a player with Athletic United SC, parents and guardians acknowledge that they have been provided access to the Athletic United SC Parent Code of Conduct and agree to follow the standards, expectations and policies outlined within it.

This acknowledgment may be incorporated into the club's registration process electronically. A separate signature page is not required unless Athletic United SC elects to use one for a specific program or circumstance.

THE ATHLETIC UNITED FAMILY STANDARD

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