



Anti-Bullying & Conduct Policy

Purpose

Taos Youth Soccer League is committed to providing a positive, respectful, safe and inclusive environment for players, coaches, families, volunteers and spectators.

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, retaliation, discriminatory conduct and other degrading treatment have no place in our league.

These expectations apply during practices, games, team activities and league events, as well as electronic communications and other interactions involving league participants.

What We Mean by Bullying and Misconduct

Not every disagreement between children is bullying. Conflict, frustration, accidental contact and disagreements occur in sports and can provide opportunities to learn communication, empathy and sportsmanship.

Bullying or misconduct may include:

- Teasing, mocking or name-calling.
- Verbal abuse, insults or threats.
- Racist, sexist, discriminatory or degrading comments or language.
- Sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual comments or conduct.
- Deliberately excluding, embarrassing or humiliating another player.
- Physical intimidation, aggression or fighting.
- Cyberbullying or inappropriate electronic communication.
- Encouraging others to bully, harass, intimidate or exclude someone.
- Retaliating against someone for reporting inappropriate behavior.

Repeated behavior is particularly concerning, but a single serious incident may also require immediate intervention.

Reporting a Concern



Players should tell a coach, parent, guardian or another trusted adult if they experience or witness bullying, harassment or other inappropriate conduct.

Parents, guardians, coaches, volunteers and other league participants may report concerns to a coach or TYSL representative.

Reports will be handled as privately, respectfully and promptly as reasonably possible.

Retaliation against someone for making a good-faith report or participating in the response to one will not be tolerated.

How TYSL Responds

Our first responsibility is the safety and well-being of the children involved.

When a concern is reported, appropriate coaches or league representatives will make reasonable efforts to:

- Listen to the people involved before reaching conclusions.
- Protect the privacy and dignity of the children involved.
- Communicate with parents or guardians as appropriate.
- Consider the players' ages, the seriousness of the conduct, whether it was repeated, the circumstances surrounding it and its effect on others.
- Establish clear expectations for future behavior.
- Refer serious or repeated concerns to league leadership.

The child who reports or experiences harmful conduct will not be responsible for educating the other player, accepting an apology or participating in a restorative conversation.

Accountability, Learning and Repair

Young people are still learning how their words and actions affect other people.

Whenever appropriate, TYSL will use misconduct as an opportunity for accountability and growth. A player may be asked to:

- Explain what happened.
- Listen to and understand how their actions affected someone else.
- Accept responsibility for their choices.
- Apologize or take another appropriate step to repair harm.



- Agree to clear expectations for future behavior.
- Demonstrate through future conduct that they have learned from the experience.

Restorative practices do not replace consequences when consequences are necessary.

Accountability does not mean defining a child by a mistake. It means taking the behavior seriously, protecting the people affected by it and giving the child an opportunity to make a better choice next time.

Possible Consequences

Responses should be age-appropriate, proportionate and consistent with the circumstances.

Depending on the seriousness or frequency of the conduct, TYSL may use:

For a first or minor incident:

A verbal reminder or warning, conversation with the player, parent notification when appropriate, and/or a restorative discussion.

For repeated conduct:

A parent or guardian meeting, clear behavioral expectations or agreement, restorative intervention, and/or temporary removal from an activity.

For continued or serious misconduct:

Referral to TYSL leadership and possible suspension from practices, games or other league activities.

For severe conduct or an immediate safety concern:

Immediate removal from the activity when necessary to protect participants, followed by review by TYSL leadership and further action as appropriate.

Adult misconduct may likewise result in warnings, meetings, removal from an activity or restrictions on attendance at future league activities.

Whenever reasonably possible, consequences for an adult's behavior will be directed toward the responsible adult rather than unnecessarily penalizing the child.

Our Goal

The purpose of intervention is not simply punishment.



It is to protect children, establish accountability, repair harm when possible, teach appropriate behavior and restore a positive environment in which every child can participate.

Good sportsmanship is not passive. We expect players to treat others with dignity, refuse to participate when someone is being targeted, stand with their teammates and ask an adult for help when they need it.

Every player plays. Every player learns. Every player belongs.