

# Florida Fire Juniors

## Code of Player Conduct

### FYSA Code of ethics

It is understood that all registered FFJ athletes are under the auspices of Florida Youth soccer association (FYSA). Accordingly they are bound by the FYSA code of ethics.

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at all times.
- I will remember that soccer is an opportunity to learn and have fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and expect everyone to refrain from their use at all soccer games.
- I will do the best I can each day, remembering that all players have talents and weaknesses the same as I do.
- I will treat my coaches, other players and coaches, game officials, other administrators, and fans with respect at all times; regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I will concentrate on playing soccer. Always giving my best effort.
- I will play by the rules at all times.
- I will at all times control my temper, resisting the temptation of retaliation.
- I will always exercise self-control.
- My conduct during competition towards play of the game and all officials shall be in accordance with appropriate behavior and in accordance with FIFA's "Laws of the Game," and in adherence to FYSA rules.
- While traveling, I shall conduct myself so as to bring credit to myself and my team.
- I shall not possess, consume or distribute before, during or after any game or at any other time at the field and/or game complex alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or unauthorized prescription drugs.
- I will never use abusive or insulting language. I will treat everyone with dignity.

In addition to the above FYSA Code of ethics The FFJ stipulates and defines further player responsibilities as relate to Bulling, social media and Sexual misconduct.

While participating in Florida Fire Juniors (FFJ) activities the rights and responsibilities of each individual are known and respected. Implicit in these rights is the responsibility of respecting the rights of others. FFJ activities cannot take place unless there is an atmosphere of respect, order and discipline with the most desirable or favorable conditions for the Athlete, the team, and/or the Club.

The Code is in force while the athlete is traveling to and from FFJ activities, including, but not necessarily limited to, club-sponsored events, out of state tournaments, athletic functions, and other activities where coaches, other club employees and parents have jurisdiction over the athletes. Additionally, the President and FFJ board of directors has the authority to take administrative action when an athlete's

misconduct away from FFJ activities is having, or could have, a detrimental effect on other athletes within FFJ programs.

The term “parents” includes legal guardians or other persons standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child).

### **ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following offenses, without limitation, are listed in the Code to ensure that athletes are aware of their responsibilities and possible sanctions should they be found in violation.

This is not an exclusive list.

Acts of violence, bullying, cyber, electronic, physical, verbal, written, or sexual harassment; defined as purposeful and persistent annoyance or disturbance of another athletes or FFJ employee.

Players are not allowed to communicate negatively about the FFJ or FFJ employees or the players in the program via Twitter, Facebook, Text, or through other social media.

### **ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS:**

- Athletes shall not bully. “Bullying” is defined as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more athletes or FFJ employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an athlete or adult, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s team or club performance or participation; and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, sexual/religious/racial harassment, public humiliation, or destruction of property.
- Any athlete who willfully sends any email, text message, instant message, phone message, or posts to any social networking website (e.g. Facebook, instagram, twitter) with the intent to threaten, intimidate, or to bully another athlete or FFJ employee.
- In addition Sexual misconduct consisting of sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or inappropriate oral, written, electronic, (texting or sending pictures), or physical contact or conduct of a sexual nature, which creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive or abusive environment, or physically threatens an individual, or behavior which interferes with the athletes right to participate in FFJ programs or activities.

Any athlete who engages in such the above misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion, in accordance with FFJ policy.

Authority:

The DOC will be responsible for issuance of warnings, suspensions, and expulsions. Depending on the severity of the offence the DOC may request an Email vote from the Board of Directors.

As athletes progress through FFJ teams and activities, it is reasonable to assume that an increase in age and maturity carries with it a greater responsibility for one's actions. Differences in age and maturity shall determine in part the type of disciplinary action to be taken in cases of player conduct. The procedures outlined in the FFJ Code of Player Conduct apply to all athletes within the FFJ and further reinforces the FYSA Code of ethics.

Good order and discipline are best thought of as being positive, not negative; and helping an athlete to adjust, rather than to punish; of turning unacceptable conduct into acceptable conduct. It is also the presence of a friendly yet businesslike atmosphere in which the athlete and FFJ employees work cooperatively toward mutually recognized and accepted goals.

**Consequences for serious offenses include one or more of the following disciplinary actions:**

First violation will be a warning and playing time sanction of one game suspension, 2nd violation depending on the severity 1 to 2 week team suspension from playing or practicing, 3rd violation 4 week suspension from playing or practicing, 4th violation: 1 year ban or expulsion from team play, no refunds for serious offenses.

In cases of offenses that may result in a warning, suspension, or expulsion, a brief and informal hearing will be held with the DOC and AODC responsible for the athlete's team. The athlete and parents or guardian will receive specific notice of the rule violation, the names of the witness (es), a brief summary of the facts supporting the charge(s), and the opportunity to refute the charges and tell the athlete's side of the story.

**FFJ WANTS TO INSURE THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF ALL PLAYERS.**

In rare instances disciplinary actions may be initiated by FFJ against any athlete found guilty of a felony or a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, the DOC shall have the authority to initiate informal hearing to determine if a recommendation for expulsion shall be made to the FFJ Board of directors.