

Bellport Soccer Club – Red Card & Sideline Conduct Policy (Draft)

Purpose

Bellport Soccer Club is committed to maintaining the highest standards of sportsmanship and respect on and off the field. Red cards, ejections, and poor sideline behavior affect the integrity of the game, the safety of players, and the reputation of our club. This policy ensures that all incidents are handled fairly, consistently, and in alignment with league rules.

Sportsmanship Statement

We recognize that referees may make mistakes and that soccer can sometimes feel rough, fast-paced, or unfair. These moments are part of the game. However, players, coaches, and parents are expected to conduct themselves with respect at all times. Negative reactions — including abusive language, threats, or confrontational behavior — will not be tolerated and may result in red cards, suspensions, fines, or removal from the club.

1. League Compliance

Bellport Soccer Club follows the official red card guidelines and disciplinary procedures set by:

[EDP Soccer League Rules & Policies](#)

[LIJSL Rulebook](#)

Suspensions, fines, and ejections are enforced as required by the governing league.

1A. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all **players, coaches, parents, and guests** not only during the match itself but also **before and after the game, including in warm-ups, on the sidelines, and in the parking lot.**

- Misconduct that occurs while arriving at the field, during the game, or while leaving the facility is subject to the same disciplinary action as behavior that takes place during the match.
- Referees and league officials have the authority to report misconduct at any point during the event.

2. Automatic Consequences

Players & Coaches: Any red card or ejection results in at least a one-game suspension (minimum per league rules). Suspensions are served at

the next scheduled match and may carry over into tournaments.

Parents & Spectators: Any parent, guardian, or **guest/family member of a player** who is removed from a match for misconduct (e.g., abusive language, harassment of referees, threatening behavior) is subject to club disciplinary action. This may include removal from future games, suspensions applied to the player, or removal from the club.

3. Financial Responsibility & Club Consequences

- If a **coach receives a red card due to parent/guest behavior**, the **player's family connected to the incident** will be responsible for all fines, penalties, and any related consequences — not the coach personally.
- All **league-imposed fines** are the responsibility of the player's family (for player/parent/guest incidents) or the coach (for coach conduct).
- **Examples of league fines (subject to change per EDP/LIJSL rules):**
 - LIJSL: A coach red card typically carries a **minimum \$50 fine** (see [LIJSL Rulebook](#)).
 - EDP: Certain send-off offenses can result in **\$100+ fines** or multi-game suspensions (see [EDP League Rules](#)).
- Fines for misconduct can range from **tens to hundreds of dollars per incident**, and repeated or severe cases may incur **significant penalties**.
- In addition to fines, the club may enforce **game suspensions or permanent removal from Bellport Soccer Club**.
- **No refunds** will be issued if a player, family, or coach is suspended or removed due to misconduct.

4. Club Enforcement

- The club may impose **additional sanctions** for severe or repeat offenses, including extended suspensions or removal from team activities.
- A written record will be kept of all red cards and incidents for tracking purposes.

5. Reporting

- The head coach or team manager must notify the Travel Director of any red card, ejection, or sideline incident within 24 hours.
- The Travel Director will confirm the suspension with league reports and communicate with the team and family.

6. Disputes & Appeals

- Families or coaches may submit a written appeal to the **Club Executive Board** within 48 hours of notification.
- The club will review the facts of the incident and provide guidance, but **final disciplinary rulings, suspensions, and fines are determined by league leadership (EDP or LIJSL Arbitration/Disciplinary Committees).**
- Appeals beyond the club level must follow the formal procedures set by the league, and the club will assist in forwarding documentation if requested.

Important Note

Bellport Soccer Club's Red Card & Conduct Policy is designed to work **in conjunction with EDP and LIJSL rules**, not in place of them. Families and coaches are encouraged to review the official policies:

- [EDP Red Card & Discipline Policies](#)
- [LIJSL Zero Tolerance Policy](#)