



# **Elk Grove Soccer Policies & Procedures**



**Elk Grove Soccer**  
**9880 Waterman Road, Suite 100, Elk Grove, CA**  
P.O. Box 63, Elk Grove, CA  
916-682-6500  
[www.elkgrovesoccer.com](http://www.elkgrovesoccer.com)

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## ***Authority***

Elk Grove Soccer is governed by its constitution and bylaws, and policy and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors, the constitution and bylaws, specific rules and procedures of California Youth Soccer Association Incorporates (CYSAs), Norcal, and the rules established by the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and (United States Soccer Federation (USSF)).

An amendment to these policies and procedures shall be deemed adopted by a simple majority vote of Elk Grove Soccer's Board of Directors.



## ***Administration Policy***

**Purpose** - Elk Grove Soccer believes in the importance of transparency in the governance of the organization. The leadership understands its duty to effectively communicate information to the members of the organization. In that regard, Elk Grove Soccer will strive to keep all records up to date and provide easy access to events and information on its website or other social media venues.

**1. Website** - Elk Grove Soccer shall maintain a website for the purpose of posting current organization information, contacts, activities, schedules, and calendars, and any other information beneficial for program administrators, players, parents, and the community.

**2. Information Technology** – Elk Grove Soccer shall continually explore and implement to the maximum extent possible use of the latest information technology tools, including electronic mail and elk grove soccer email addresses for leadership and coaches.

**3. Meeting Minutes** - The Elk Grove Secretary shall record all meeting minutes for all annual and regular meetings of the organization. The organization’s executive committee shall require no minutes. At no time shall minutes include what members, favorable or otherwise, specifically said. Only the recording of the report, vote, or decision is required. Elk Grove Soccer’s Board members may request that their individual vote be recorded on specific topics. Meeting minutes shall be available to members upon request.

**4. Board Member Listings** - A listing of Elk Grove Soccer board members including position, name, and contact information shall be collected and maintained by the Elk Grove Soccer Secretary and shared with the leadership. This information shall only be used for conducting business required of the board position.

**5. Bulk Rate Mailing** - Mail pieces to be processed through bulk rate must meet guidelines as specified by the United States Postal Service (USPS). Use of the bulk rate permit obtained by Elk Grove Soccer is limited to official use by Elk Grove Soccer. At no time shall it be used for personal or commercial purposes.



## ***Coaches' Code of Conduct***

**Purpose** - Coaches are role models. They play a leading role in helping our children learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. Elk Grove Soccer leaders and coaches must work together to ensure that every player has a positive experience when participating in Elk Grove Soccer. Coaches have a responsibility to inspire children through the fundamental principles of teamwork and fair play, while focusing on the fun of soccer. Coaches are, first and foremost, teachers who have a duty to assure that their actions and words promote important life skills and the development of good character in our children.

In line with this purpose statement, Elk Grove Soccer requires all coaches and assistant coaches to sign this Code of Conduct prior to their participation as coaches with the organization. The Coaches' Code of Conduct shall state the following:

### **1. I understand the importance of providing a positive experience and environment for the players**

As a coach, I understand that Elk Grove Soccer has given me the privilege and primary responsibility for developing players – not only with regard to their soccer skills but their life skills as well. I will always put their well-being first. I will strive to ensure that the players have a positive soccer experience. I will teach my players basic skills, techniques, and strategies, and I will give all my players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem at practice and in games. I will arrive on time to practices and games wearing proper soccer attire at all times.

I will never ridicule or shout at players when they make a mistake or when the team loses a game.

I have a responsibility and duty to let players “play the game” and for this, I set the tone. I will limit my coaching during games by refraining from continual commentary and instructions to my players. I understand that running “play-by-play” commentary during games drags the team down in the long run and suggests that I have not adequately prepared my team for the match.

In addition, I'm responsible for the conduct of my players and spectators on our side of the field, specifically as it relates to the referees, other coaches, and opposing players. I will monitor my sidelines to ensure there is no coaching by parents. “Go”, “Shoot”, “Send it” and other similar comments are interpreted as instructions and as such are not acceptable. No matter how good the intentions are, I will insist that parents not shout instructions to players. Also, I will demand spectators not yell or complain to referees or officials during or after games. I will continue to stress that spectators should offer unlimited vocal support and positive encouragement for all players after good plays.

I am committed to improving my knowledge of the game through coaching education and various training programs, and I will prepare for each game by creating a strategy suitable for the competition.

**2. I understand that soccer is more than the scoreboard**

I understand that the score of a game comes second to the safety and welfare of all my players. I agree to put winning in its proper perspective. I understand that the children I coach today will remember many of the things I do and say when they are adults. I will show unwavering respect for all players, parents, the officials, and the opponents.

**3. I understand my role as a coach when it comes to opposing teams**

I understand that I represent Elk Grove Soccer and the community at large. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times. I will not coach, nor allow my players to play, with intent to cause injury to opposing players. I will strive to ensure that neither I nor my players and spectators display hostile behavior towards opposing coaches, opposing players, and opposing parents or family members. I will actively discuss with my players the importance of character, ethics, and sportsmanship. I will never allow or participate in any type of boastful celebrations or other actions that demean individuals or the sport. I will be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. At the end of each game, my players and I will give our opponents a handshake, and I will instill respect in pre- and post-game rituals.

**4. I understand the importance of allowing referees to judge the game**

I will let referees judge the game. I will endeavor to instill in my players and my sideline spectators a respect for referees. I understand that my attitude can influence my players and spectators. I will display a controlled, restrained, and sportsmanlike attitude toward referees at all times.

**5. I will abide by the laws of the game**

I understand that I am responsible for understanding and competing within the letter and the spirit of the Laws of the Game. I will teach my players to understand and play within the letter and spirit of the Laws as well. I will never, knowingly or intentionally, violate any provision of the organization’s playing time guidelines or other rules and guidelines established by Elk Grove Soccer.

**6. I understand that I represent Elk Grove Soccer and the Elk Grove Community in general.**

I agree to conduct myself with dignity and to maintain the highest standards of conduct as a coach with Elk Grove Soccer. I will always display good sportsmanship and fair play, and I will encourage the same from my players, colleagues, parents, and spectators.

**7. Discipline**

If I fail to comply with this Elk Grove Soccer Coaches’ Code of Conduct Agreement or any other rules or regulations enacted by Elk Grove Soccer, I agree and understand that I am subject to disciplinary actions or sanctions, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from coaching in Elk Grove Soccer.

By signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read this Coaches’ Code of Conduct.

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Field Policy***

**Purpose** – Elk Grove Soccer is committed to provide quality soccer fields necessary for the organization to thrive. The quality and quantity of the fields continues to be the number one issue for Elk Grove Soccer. Effective short and long-range planning field development is crucial to the overall health of the organization. All organization members are the eyes and ears of this organization and are empowered to bring information about problem field conditions, potential practice sites, and information about future parks and schools that can provide additional fields.

**1. Assignment & Assessment of Fields** – The Elk Grove Soccer appointed Field Director or assigned staff shall maintain an open dialogue with coaches in order to assign fields, assess fields, and understand field maintenance needs.

**2. Field Provider Focal Points** - There are a number of current providers of fields utilized by Elk Grove Soccer, and assigned individuals who are responsible to work with the providers.

<b>Provider/Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Cosumnes Community Services District	Field Director or assigned Staff
Elk Grove Unified School District	Field Director or assigned staff
Southgate Recreation and Park District	Field Director or assigned staff
Rancho Murieta Association	Rancho Murieta Club Manager
Private Property	League Field Director or assigned Staff

**3. Field Standards** - The established standard field sizes for all age groups used for all short and long-range field development planning shall comply as close as possible with the standards established by US Soccer. They are as follows:

Current fields that do not meet the standard size for the planned age group shall be redesigned or retrofitted to meet the standards as soon as possible.

Age Grp	Field Size (in feet)						Age Grp	Field Size (in feet)					
	Desired	Width		Length		Size		Desired	Width		Length		Size
	WxL	Min	Max	Min	Max	Goal		WxL	Min	Max	Min	Max	Goal
<b>Options</b>							<b>Options</b>						
U9/10	140x210	120	160	180	240	7x21	U6	75x150	60	90	120	170	6x18
U12	210x330	180	240	290	360	8x24	U7	90x165	70	110	140	180	7x21
U14/16/19	225x345	210	240	300	360	8x24	U8	125x180	100	150	150	195	7x21
<b>Seasonal</b>							U9/U10	140x210	120	160	180	240	7x21
U9/10	140x210	120	160	180	240	7x21	U12	210x330	180	240	290	360	8x24
U12	210x330	180	240	290	360	8x24	U14/16/19	225x345	210	240	300	360	8x24
U14/16/19	225x345	210	240	300	360	8x24							

**4. Field Inventory** – The Elk Grove Soccer staff shall maintain a complete inventory of all fields including location, field dimensions, goal type and dimensions, restroom and parking availability, as well as the provider.

**5. Team Practice Assignments** – Elk Grove Soccer’s intent is to provide each team access to two, three, or four practice sessions per week depending upon the needs of the team. Practices sites may be either an open area sufficient for practice or on a field with goals. Teams may be assigned to share fields. Any teams opting to practice at a coach’s or player’s home, must inform the Elk Grove staff and must complete and submit a Use Agreement.

**6. Lighted Practice Facilities** - There is currently an insufficient number of lighted fields within the Elk Grove Community. Elk Grove Soccer will continue to actively lobby for the development of additional lighted facilities. Elk Grove Soccer shall assign use of lighted facilities to teams as necessary. Teams that elect to play in District and other post fall league tournaments may be assigned lights where available.

**7. Field & Facility Use Permits** – Field use permits shall be prepared and submitted annually to appropriate agencies by Elk Grove Soccer’s Field Director or assigned staff.

**8. Liability Insurance** – For each field or group of fields utilized, Elk Grove Soccer staff shall annually provide a Certificate of Insurance in the name of the field provider, agency, and private field property owner.

**9. Private Property Owner Agreements** - Written agreements between Elk Grove Soccer and private property owners shall be coordinated and approved by the Elk Grove Chief Executive Officer. The agreements may be year-to-year or multi-year and must provide specifics about the field, the property owner responsibilities, team responsibilities, rules for use, and the amount of fee, if any, for use of the field.

**10. Field Equipment Inventory** - The Elk Grove Soccer staff shall maintain a complete inventory of all field equipment maintained by the organization. Field equipment is defined as goals, portable goals, if issued, nets (including bag and stakes), and corner flags.

**11. Marking Fields.** Elk Grove Soccer's Field Director, assigned staff, and assigned field volunteers shall work together to mark of all fields utilized by Elk Grove Soccer. No burning of fields or Round-Up, or other grass killing chemicals shall be used to mark fields. All fields shall be marked with field paint provided by Elk Grove Soccer.

**12. Monitoring Field Conditions.** Coaches and volunteers shall be responsible to report to Elk Grove Soccer staff any deteriorated and unsafe field conditions. Major problems preventing the use of the field shall be reported immediately to the Elk Grove Soccer staff.



## ***Financial Policy***

**Purpose** – Elk Grove Soccer understands its duty to the membership to establish sound financial policies and controls. The organization’s leadership will take all steps necessary to ensure that its income and expenditures are properly accounted for and protected. It is the purpose of these financial policies to provide consistent application of conduct and proper internal controls to safeguard the assets of the organization while performing the duties as described in the Bylaws and these Policies and Procedures. To this end, all funds raised and dispersed in the name of Elk Grove Soccer will be managed in such a way that the tax-exempt status of Elk Grove Soccer will not be endangered.

**1. Non-Profit Status** – Elk Grove Soccer also known as the Elk Grove Youth Soccer League, Inc., is a California State Corporation and a Federal 501(c.)3 designated non-profit organization.

**2. Oversight** – Elk Grove Soccer’s Executive Committee shall be responsible for review and recommendations of policy and procedure updates to this Financial policy.

**3. Audit Subcommittee** – Elk Grove Soccer’s Executive Committee may convene an Audit Subcommittee or contract with an independent auditor to review all transactions and verify proper documentation. The programs shall be assessed for overall fiscal soundness to ensure monies are properly expended and that there is no evidence of mismanagement.

**4. Designated Account for Soccer Fields** – Elk Grove Soccer shall set aside \$5 per player annually for the development of fields for the organization. Funds may be used for the purchase, promotion, or repair of soccer fields.

**5. Budget** – Elk Grove Soccer shall establish an annual budget. The budget amounts shall be based on estimated expenses for the coming year and the previous year(s) historical financial data.

**6. Donations** - Any registered team or player that receives a donation equal to \$250 or more in dollars or services or materials from a company or individual shall submit those funds along with the name of the individual or company to the Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer. Elk Grove Soccer’s Treasurer shall deposit the funds and issue the proper tax letter to the donor for their records. The intended recipient shall provide to the Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer within 15 days a letter describing the designated purpose of the donation. Upon receipt, the Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer shall issue a check to the intended recipient in the amount donated.

**7. Complimentary Registration, Scholarship Program** - Elk Grove Soccer is committed to provide players access to soccer, free of financial hardship. A completed Registration Waiver Request and all applicable scholarship forms must be forwarded to the Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer in lieu of payment. Elk Grove Soccer shall maintain a Scholarship Committee that shall review all applications and approved waivers of fees.

**8. Coach and Referee Training** - Elk Grove Soccer shall cover expenses related to coach and referee training, including reimbursement of training sponsored by other organizations outside of Elk Grove. The training received must be reviewed by the Elk Grove Soccer Chief Executive Officer and deemed in the best interest of the program. The individual shall complete a Request for Reimbursement, attach a certificate of satisfactory completion from the program to the Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer.

**9. Annual Filings** – The Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer shall assemble the necessary information and shall prepare and submit to an accounting firm the annual state and federal tax filings.



## ***Fundraising Policy***

**Purpose** – Elk Grove Soccer desires to keep its registration fees affordable to families. As a result, it may be necessary and desirable from time to time for the organization to employ specific fundraising programs in order to accomplish stated goals and programs.

- 1. Positive Image** - Fundraising activities shall appropriately reflect a positive image for the organization.
- 2. Type of Fundraising** – Elk Grove Soccer may sponsor fundraising activities such as the selling of candy, entertainment books, and fireworks.
- 3. Other Fundraisers** –Teams may sponsor car washes, rummage sales, entertainment book sales, snack-bars, and other similar sponsorships. Proceeds shall remain with the team for the purpose of offsetting team expenses of equipment and tournament fees and player expenses of uniforms, warm-ups, and other team required items. No team shall fundraise through a team fireworks booth, bingo, or poker night, which requires the use of Elk Grove Soccer’s tax identification number.
- 4. Additional Fundraising - Written Request** - If the desired fundraising is listed above, then no further action is required. The Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer shall monitor the appropriateness for compliance with the non-profit status reporting.
- 5. Fundraising** - All profits generated through internal and external Elk Grove Soccer activities shall benefit Elk Grove Soccer. At no time shall any funds be disbursed to any individual or any company for anything other than programs that support Elk Grove Soccer
- 6. Elk Grove Soccer Fundraising Activities** - Internal Elk Grove Soccer fundraising projects are those projects that directly involve soccer such as tournaments, soccerfests, jamborees, club spirtwear, and products where the primary participants are within the soccer community. External Elk Grove Soccer fundraising projects include, but are not limited to, fireworks, entertainment book sales, car washes, yard sales, and candy sales in which the primary participants are the general public. All external fundraising activities shall be approved by the Elk Grove Soccer Board of Directors and reported to the Elk Grove Soccer Treasurer in order to ensure proper reporting of funds generated.



## Inclement Weather Policy

**Purpose** - The health and safety of soccer players and the condition of soccer fields is a top priority for Elk Grove Soccer. Poor weather conditions not only contribute to the damage of soccer fields, but, more importantly, inclement weather conditions can present a hazard to players and spectators. Coaches, referees, tournament and club officials have the overall responsibility for the safety of players during practices and games. Elk Grove Soccer adopts the following policy regarding inclement weather conditions:

**1. Lightning** - Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles from the area where it is raining or even where it is not raining. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Elk Grove Soccer will follow the recommendation of the National Severe Storms Laboratory, which provides that athletic participation will cease when lightning is detected within 6 miles. For purposes of this policy, a 30 second flash-to-bang count will be utilized (see calculations below).

A. Practice and games will be delayed by a minimum of 30 minutes if the flash of lightning and its thunderclap occur within 30 seconds *or less* of one another. Practice and games shall not resume until 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder is heard or lightning is seen.

B. Referees and coaches shall direct players and spectators to leave the field for safe shelter, which includes their hard-top vehicles with the windows closed or some other sturdy enclosed substantial structure. (Dugouts and picnic shelters are not suitable safe structures during a lightning storm.) While there is not a place absolutely safe from the lightning threat, some places are safer than others. The best option is a large building with electric and telephone wiring and plumbing to provide a safe pathway for the current to the ground.

C. All individuals and teams have the right to leave a site or activity, without fear of repercussion or penalty, in order to seek a safe structure or location if they feel that they are in danger from impending lightning activity.

D. In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions that make it impossible to continue play within a reasonable time on the same day, Elk Grove Soccer shall determine the outcome of the game or if there will be a reschedule.

E. Once the game has begun, the referee may suspend the game without the concurrence of both coaches, but Elk Grove Soccer strongly encourages a conference between the head referee and the coaches before a decision is reached. Referees shall wait in a safe location close to the site and be prepared to continue the game unless the head referee declares the game officially concluded. The determination of the outcome of any shortened game or any replay will be made by Elk Grove Soccer.

F. Prior to continuation of the game, the teams shall be afforded sufficient time to warm up as determined by the coaches. A maximum time of 10 minutes is considered sufficient.

G. If a suspension is temporarily warranted by lightning, the remainder of the game may be shortened by agreement of the coaches or ordered by the head referee.

H. If the game is suspended to another date, the referees are entitled to the full game fee. If the game is resumed on another date, the referees are entitled to a full game fee.

### **Facts about Lightning – Calculating Flash-to Bang**

It takes the sound of the bang of a thunderclap five seconds to travel one mile, lightning flash is seen instantaneously. Therefore, for every five seconds between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder, lightning is one mile away.

- A thirty second Flash-to-Bang count means lightning is 6 miles away.
- The average length of a lightning bolt is 3-6 miles long.
- The average speed of a thunderstorm is 25 MPH.
- Lightning can strike from a clear blue sky.

### **Lightning Don'ts**

- Avoid isolated trees or other tall objects, bodies of water, sheds, fences, convertibles, tractors, bikes and motorcycles. Avoid leaning against vehicles.
- Avoid using shower facilities within a safe structure and do not use showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.
- Trees are not good options for shelter during a thunderstorm, especially lone or single trees.
- Do not lie flat on the ground. If caught outdoors with no shelter stay away from the tallest objects, crouch down with only the balls of your feet touching the ground. Try to minimize your body's surface area and minimize contact with the ground.
- Avoid using land line telephones except in emergency.
- Once inside a building, stay away from corded telephones, electrical appliances, lighting fixtures, radios or microphones and electric sockets and plumbing. Do not watch lightning from open windows or doorways. Inner rooms are preferable.
- Avoid large groups. Stay several yards away from other people. Don't share a bleacher bench or huddle with other players.

### **First Aid for Lightning Strikes**

- Call 911. Get medical attention as quickly as possible.
- If the victim has stopped breathing, begin rescue breathing. If the heart has stopped beating, a trained person should give CPR. If the person has a pulse and is breathing, address any other injuries.

- Check for burns in two places. The injured person has received an electric shock and may be burned, both where struck and where the electricity left their body. Being struck by lightning can also cause nervous system damage, broken bones, and loss of hearing or eyesight. People struck by lightning carry no electrical charge and cannot shock other people.

**2. Ozone and PM 2.5 – Spare the Air Advisories** - Air pollution is a health risk to everyone in the Sacramento region. Elk Grove Soccer games and practices shall be cancelled when the Air Quality Index (AQI) for ground-level ozone/PM 2.5 pollution, where practice is being held, is 150-Unhealthy or above. Current conditions can be found at this website: <http://www.sparetheair.com/aqirealtime.cfm>

While practices and games must be cancelled if the local AQI is above 150, coaches should avoid strenuous practices and take frequent water breaks during periods of air quality that may be unhealthy for sensitive groups (levels of 101-150). Elk Grove Soccer reserves the right to cancel all or some practices when temperatures exceed 100 degrees. Coaches shall issue no penalty for children and families if they elect to stay home from practice or games due to health reasons.

**3. Inclement Weather – Park Closures** – Elk Grove Soccer will follow the procedures established by the Cosumnes Service District (CSD) when it comes to park closures and game cancellations. The CSD policy is as follows:

The Cosumnes Community Services District reserves the right to cancel or suspend field use permits for games, practices and other permitted uses when field conditions may result in damage to the fields or injury to players.

Permits may also be cancelled when the health and safety of participants are threatened due to unsafe conditions brought on by, but not limited to, lighting, excessive levels of smog, or pesticide applications.

During inclement weather, Cosumnes Community Services District representatives will assess the playability of selected athletic fields to determine if use will occur. Maintenance staff will check one (1) athletic field in each area of the District:

- Area 1 - Rau Park
- Area 2 - Laguna Community Park
- Area 3 - Johnson Park

Assessments will be made no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m., Saturday and Sunday. One reassessment of the fields will occur no later than 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m., Saturday and Sunday.

When two of the three fields assessed are deemed unplayable, a District wide closure will be put into effect.

Field use status will be posted on the District's Field Status Hotline (916-405-5682) no later than 12:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday and no later than 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Reassessment information will be posted to the Field Status Hotline no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday thru Friday and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. If field assessments determine that a field closure is in effect, the reason for such closures shall be stated on the Field Status Hotline.

It will be each permitted user's responsibility to check field availability through the Field Status Hotline.

Field assessments will be performed when weather conditions, past or present, have saturated fields insomuch that use of fields may cause long-term damage to fields. Staff shall walk the fields looking for saturated areas or areas of pooling water. Staff shall assess the fields in predetermined locations:

*Soccer* – Assessments will be taken at five different locations: one reading in front of each goal, one reading along each sideline, and one reading along the centerline of the field. If in any of these areas there is substantial standing or pooling water, enough to cause significant damage to the field if played upon, the field is deemed unplayable.

It is the intention of the District to make every effort to leave the sports fields open for use. Ultimately it will be the responsibility of the individual sports team coaches and/or game officials to suspend play on a field when one the following conditions exist:

- Turf is being dislodged when running.
- Heavy rains make the field muddy.
- Moisture from foot traffic starts to 'pump' mud up from under the turf.

For consistency purposes, if the CSD closes its parks, EGYSL may consider all other parks and fields within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to school fields, also closed for play.

For fields in Rancho Murieta, the decision to cancel or postpone games due to inclement weather will be made by the Rancho Murieta Soccer leadership and posted on the club website, [www.rmsoccer.com](http://www.rmsoccer.com). The Ranch Murieta leadership shall also notify Elk Grove Soccer of any closure. Rancho Murieta coaches scheduled for games on that day shall make efforts to call and notify visiting coaches of field conditions and game status.



## Media Guidelines for Elk Grove Soccer

**Purpose** - Elk Grove Soccer understands that working in conjunction with the media through traditional means as well as social media is vital to the development and the image of the Elk Grove Soccer organization. Elk Grove Soccer implements the following guidelines for players, parents, coaches, and leadership:

### Social Media Guidelines

Participating in social media networks such as blogs, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter can be a positive way for players, parents, and coaches to interact with teammates, other parents, fans and/or media. Engaging in social media is just like being interviewed – you are personally responsible for the content you publish on social media. While social media is extremely valuable in today’s society, it can destroy a friendship, family relationships, and even a soccer team in a matter of minutes. Treat these words for what they are: permanent records that can never be erased. College coaches and even employers today check social media sites to see if the players they identified on the field also demonstrate character and smart choices off the field.

Elk Grove Soccer provides these social media guidelines that players, parents, coaches, and leadership are expected to follow:

- Do not discuss confidential team information through social media content.
- Do not negatively discuss other players and coaches on your team or other teams through social media content.
- Do not post pictures on social media sites that could put you, coaches, parents, teammates, or staff in poor light.
- Just because you can respond immediately, doesn’t mean you should. Before writing something and having it go out to the world for all to see, take some time to think about the possible repercussions of your words.
- Do not engage in negative dialogue about the organization, performances, or respond negatively to criticism.
- Along with being cognizant of the photos you post, make sure the situations in which you are photographed do not put you in an unflattering or compromising positions. Photos can be easily shared on the internet.
- While it’s acceptable to discuss general topics about training, team events etc., do not provide information about other people without their knowledge or approval.
- Do not post foul language, personal insults, and racial slurs.

- Any player, parents, or member of Elk Grove Soccer who violates these guidelines may be dismissed from the Elk Grove Soccer program.

### **Media Guidelines**

Media coverage for our sport is growing rapidly. How you conduct yourself in the media greatly impacts the image of the Elk Grove Soccer and yourself. When working with any form of media, you are not just speaking to a reporter, you are speaking directly to fans, parents, players, and other teams as well as your team and league officials. Players, parents, and coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and understand what is considered acceptable when engaging directly with the media.

Elk Grove Soccer provides the following guidelines for leadership, players, parents, and coaches.

- Coaches, players, parents, and leadership must never individually contact members of the media or initiate media interviews on behalf of the Elk Grove Soccer without first coordinating with the organization's Chief Executive Officer.
- Do not make any statement in public, including any contribution to television, radio, web or print media that:
  - Is disparaging of a match official, league executives, or representatives, the opposing team, your own team or any Elk Grove Soccer player or team official.
  - Is disparaging or critical of Elk Grove Soccer policy decisions.
- If time permits prior to answering any questions posed to you by media representatives, contact the Elk Grove Soccer's Chief Executive Officer to get any information on the topic you are asked to speak about.

Any questions as to what you can/cannot share and when that information is allowed to be shared should be directed to Elk Grove Soccer's Chief Executive Officer. Ignorance of what is unacceptable will not be a defense to violation of this policy.



## ***Parent Sideline Ethics Agreement Policy***

**Purpose** - Parents play an important role in helping their own children and other players learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They must set an example when it comes to demonstrating the importance of working together, to sacrifice for the good of the team, to enjoy winning, and to deal appropriately with defeat. Elk Grove Soccer encourages parents to enjoy youth soccer for what it is—children having fun. Coaches, parents, and spectators should be role models of good behavior on the sidelines.

In line with this purpose statement, Elk Grove Soccer will require that parents sign a “Parent Sideline Ethics Agreement” prior to their child participating with any Elk Grove Soccer team. That agreement shall state the following:

### **1. I understand the fun of soccer is playing not winning**

Parents should always encourage children in skill development and 100 percent performance. Winning is not their motivation. They want to have fun. So lighten up, decrease the competitive pressures, and encourage skills, teamwork, self-esteem, and good sportsmanship. Enjoy this opportunity to be with your child.

### **2. I will strive to understand the game and the laws of the game**

Soccer looks simple but it is complex to play, coach, and officiate. You’ll enjoy the game more by understanding soccer skills and tactics, the flow of play, and how the game is played. Soccer is free-flowing with ever-changing situations and constant problem solving by the players. Soccer is physical and demanding. With few timeouts, it is fun to watch. Understand the basic laws and increase your enjoyment of the game.

### **3. I will support the team, not just my own child**

Give encouragement to the entire team. Don’t ever give your child instructions. Soccer is above all a player-dominated game, and they have to make the decisions on the field. Always be positive, win or lose. Don’t get over involved. Applaud good play by either team.

### **4. I will demonstrate good sportsmanship**

Always show your sportsmanship and enthusiasm. Young people learn by example. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Cheer good play by both teams. Ask your child: “Did you have fun and try your best?” rather than “Why didn’t you win?” Win gracefully, not boastfully. Lose without being negative. Make sure the end-of-the-game rituals (like the handshakes) reflect good sportsmanship.

### **5. I will let the players play**

Soccer is a players’ game. Children participate for their enjoyment, not yours. Remember this is their experience. Playing is more important than winning to children, while winning is more important to parents and coaches. Emphasize player development and having fun over winning.

### **6. I will let the coaches coach**

Elk Grove Soccer 9800 Waterman Road, Suit 100, Elk Grove, CA  
[www.elkgrovesoccer.com](http://www.elkgrovesoccer.com) - Revised January 2017

Your coach provides guidance, skill instruction, and supervised fun for your children in soccer. Respect the coaches and their decisions. Their concern is the whole team, not just your player. They need your support. Don't undermine, second-guess, or criticize a coach in public. Most coaches will listen to parents in private.

**7. I will let the referees judge the game**

Soccer referees control the game the moment they enter the grounds. They respect fair play, sportsmanship, skill, and the spirit of the game. The referees always believe they made the proper call, that's why they made it. Trying to show superficial support because the call went 'your' way is inappropriate. Yelling out "good call ref" or "thanks for the call" is simply annoying to the officials and to anyone within earshot. Support the referees.

**8. I will come to the games in the spirit of fun**

Meet other parents and coaches. Make sure your children come on time ready to play – with the proper equipment and attitude. Help them develop the skills and tactics for the game. Go to a pro or college game, or watch a game on TV. Kick the ball around with them. Soccer isn't easy to play, so don't criticize your player for losing or making mistakes—applaud good effort.

**9. I will be a supportive soccer parent**

Volunteer to help. Soccer teaches discipline and responsibility, so be on time. If you can't be on time, then be early. Support the coach in any way possible. Be more concerned with your player's long-term development of skills and tactics than with short-term winning and losing. Focus on skill accomplishments and effort.

**10. I understand that they are only kids and this is only a game**

Allow your child to be a child. Kids see soccer as fun, learning new skills, emulating heroes, being on a team, gaining success by touching the ball, and just being involved. Soccer can teach skills for life, it builds character, self-esteem, and awareness of others. If players do their best, there's no such thing as a loss. You'll see great progress if fun and skill development are your priorities.

**11. After the game, I will reinforce the positive aspects of soccer**

The ride home is sometimes as important as the game itself. Make that time a good memory for your son or daughter by discussing as many positives as you can about him/her, the coach, and the teammates.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name



## ***Player Agreement and Code of Conduct***

**Purpose:** Elk Grove Soccer is committed to providing a cooperative environment between all teams and players. This policy is provided to create consistency in expectations when it comes to team ethics and protocols. All Elk Grove coaches are asked to review this code with their players and have them sign it. Use of this document is suggested for ages 12 and over.

### **Players:**

By signing this agreement, each player acknowledges his/her responsibility to participation in games, practices, and other team events. All players must understand their duty to support the team as a whole through their conduct and good sportsmanlike behavior. Therefore, each player agrees as follows:

- I will treat my coaches, my teammates, other players, referees, and spectators with respect at all times.
- I will be a positive role model and encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, and parents at all times.
- I will remember that all players have talents and weaknesses, the same as I do. I will never ridicule or yell at any player for making a mistake during a soccer game or during practice.
- I will listen to my coaches and do what is asked of me in order to improve my game and my position on the team.
- While sitting on the bench during a game, I will watch the game and support my teammates who are in the game. I will provide only positive comments to the players on the field.
- I understand that I am responsible for my uniform and my equipment.
- I understand that I must be on time and play my best at all practices and games.
- Once I am at the soccer field for practice, I will not utilize my cell phone to call or text anyone unless I receive approval from one of my coaches.
- I will personally tell one of my coaches in advance if I cannot attend training, games, or other team events.

- I will never use social media to damage my reputation or our soccer community. I understand that posting hurtful information can destroy a friendship, family relationships, and even a soccer team in a matter of minutes. I will treat these words for what they are: permanent records that can never be erased.
- I understand that drug use and other inappropriate behavior, including posting inappropriate information on any social media are grounds for dismissal from the team.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



## **Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary Action (PAD)**

Elk Grove Soccer shall hold a weekly or as needed Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary (PAD) meeting to review any red cards and send offs imposed by the referees during the week or any other disciplinary action required due to violations of game rules, bylaws, policies, or general violations of ethical duties. The purpose of the PAD is to ensure that all coaches, players, officials, and other members of the organization conduct themselves in an ethical and sportsmanlike manner.

Coaches, players, and other organization members may be administratively sanctioned for violating Elk Grove Soccer's rules and policies as they apply to games or the organization in general. A sanction is defined as a violation that results in a red card or other administrative penalty deemed appropriate by the PAD Committee and/or Elk Grove Soccer's Board of Directors.

All teams playing in the organization are under jurisdiction of the Elk Grove Soccer's PAD Committee.

All issues will be submitted to the PAD Committee in writing and considered at the hearing. Attendance at PAD meetings is by invitation only.

The PAD Committee shall meet weekly, if necessary, with the location, time, and day to be set by the PAD Chairperson: the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Referees directly involved in the incident may be called by the PAD Committee to clarify any questions that may arise.

A sent-off player or dismissed coach or spectator may be allowed by the PAD Committee to appear before the PAD to present any facts or make any comments concerning the incident in question.

Written notice of PAD decisions, which outline the penalty determined and the appeal process and timelines to be followed, will be sent to the head coach of the affected team within 24 hours of the PAD Committee meeting.

### **Referee Procedures**

In the event of a send-off of a player, coach, or spectator, the referee shall obtain the pass of the ejected player/coach and complete the game card and a Send-Off Report. Failure on the part of a referee to retain a pass is not relevant to the PAD proceedings or any ruling by the PAD committee. It is the responsibility of the referee to email these items or deliver them to the Elk Grove Soccer Referee Director within 48 hours of the incident. Referees shall contact the Referee Director to inform him/her that a Send-Off report, player pass, and game card are forthcoming.

Upon initial contact by referee, the Referee Director shall notify the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the incoming referee reports. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President shall notify the players and the spectators as well as any coach who has been dismissed of the date and time of the PAD Committee meeting.

A written report may be submitted to the PAD Chairman by the coaches or players involved, detailing the events leading up to the incident. The PAD Committee will base all decisions on the report filed by the referee and any other reports filed on behalf of the concerned parties.

Upon receipt of the completed Send-Off Report, the PAD Chairperson shall convene a PAD meeting to determine the appropriate penalty, if any, related to the send off(s). A minimum of two (2) Elk Grove Soccer Board members shall be appointed by the First Vice President to serve on the PAD Committee. The First Vice President may also appoint a staff coaching director to serve on the PAD Committee.

The Cal North Constitution will be used as a guideline to determine the penalty. Any deviation from the Cal North Constitution will be determined by the PAD Committee as deemed appropriate.

It will be the responsibility of the PAD Chairman to notify the coach of the penalty and to subsequently return the player(s) card(s) upon completion of the penalty.

Game suspensions shall be served in Elk Grove Soccer League games, CYSA, Norcal, or US Club approved tournaments. In all situations, an Elk Grove Soccer Non-Participation Form must be completed and signatures obtained from the appropriate referees by a representative of the person serving the suspension. The Non-Participation Form will be sent to the PAD Chairperson within a week of the completion of the penalty.

Any player or coach receiving two (2) red cards during the Elk Grove Soccer season may be placed on probation by Elk Grove Soccer.

During a game, a player receiving a caution may be substituted at the discretion of the coach and remain out of the match until the next substitution opportunity.

In all situations involving send-offs, it is the coach's responsibility to assure that the player's pass is obtained by the referee before the referee leaves the premises.

**Referee Rulings are not Grounds for a Hearing** – During a game, a referee's judgment call stands and shall not be the subject for an appeal or the basis for a hearing.



## ***Recognition and Awards Policy***

**Purpose** – Elk Grove Soccer believes that an environment rich in motivation and recognition will achieve positive results for the organization and more importantly for the children it serves. For volunteers who generously give of their time, energy, and creativity, recognition is critically important to ensure their continued commitment to the organization. For players, public recognition builds self-esteem, motivation, and pride in themselves, their abilities, and their community.

**1. Special Recognition** – Each year, Elk Grove Soccer may consider appropriate recognition and awards for the following:

**A. Coach/Referee of the Year Awards** - Individuals shall be identified through a nomination process as Elk Grove Soccer Coaches and Referees of the year. Winners shall be forwarded to Cal North and District VI for consideration.

**B. Other Awards & Recognition** – As deemed appropriate, the Elk Grove Board of Directors may award other community members, departing Board members for their service to Elk Grove Soccer.

**C. Annual Team and Player Recognition** - Elk Grove Soccer may provide participation trophies or medals for all age groups.



## ***Referee Training***

**Purpose:** Elk Grove Soccer is committed to providing quality referees for all soccer matches. Elk Grove Soccer shall maintain ongoing training for its referees to ensure that referee standards continue to improve and the laws of the game are applied consistently.

- 1. Laws of the Game & Licensing**– All referees must know and understand the “Laws of the Game.” They must be licensed for the current year and be in good standing with Elk Grove Soccer.
- 2. Risk Management and Disclosure Form (CYSA Form 1628)** – All Elk Grove Soccer referees shall complete a CYSA Form 1628 prior to their first game. The League Referee Director shall collect the completed forms from the referees and provide the forms to the Elk Grove staff in charge.
- 3. Fingerprinting** – All adult referees shall be fingerprinted.
- 4. Referees for Fall Games** – Elk Grove Soccer through the Referee Director will assign referees for U9 through U14 games. All referees assigned to these games shall maintain a Grade 9, Grade 8, or higher license as appropriate for the game.
- 5. Referees** – All center referees assigned to Games games must maintain a Grade 8, Grade 7, or higher license. Each referee must attend a refresher/in service course each year. While not mandatory, Elk Grove Soccer recommends that referees have a minimum of one year referee experience before officiating older age group games.



## **Registration Policy**

**Purpose** - The purpose of this policy is to ensure continuity and unity within the registration process.

### **1. Player Registration Windows :**

Player Assessments	Beginning Date set by Elk Grove Soccer Fill-ins = Any time after assessments
Community Playing League	Regular = April 1 to June 30 Late registration July 1 or as set by the Board
Fall League:	Regular = April 1 to June 30 Late registration July 1 or as set by the Board
TOPS Soccer	Open Registration year-round

**2. Player Registration** - Elk Grove Soccer shall establish a due date for teams to be submitted to Elk Grove Soccer staff in order to allow time to comply with park district and playing league requirements.

**3. Player Registration: New and returning** – New and returning players shall submit their registrations via the process adopted by the Elk Grove Board of Directors.

**4. Play Up Requests** - Upon request of a player, and approval of the applicable age group coordinator or Elk Grove soccer staff, players may play up one or two year age group categories. Players who are five years old are strongly discouraged from playing up one year. Players who are in kindergarten shall not be allowed to play up 2 years.

**5. Requests to Play Down** - Play down requests for medical reasons will be handled via consultation with any assigned age group coordinator or Elk Grove soccer staff. No other play downs shall be allowed.

**6. Late Registration** - Late registrations will be accepted and players placed on teams if space is available.

**7. Coaching Registration** - Coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, and other adults who actively work on the field with the children must complete the appropriate playing league forms and on-line registrations and must pass the California Department of Justice fingerprint process, with subsequent arrest notification. A coach shall not be registered to a team without passing a background check. There must be coach registered to the team and present with the players during playing events. It is the coach's responsibility to complete the registration process and ensure he/she is approved and registered PRIOR to game day. Assistant coaches must complete the same registration process as

coaches. A properly registered assistant coach shall provide supervision to the players in the event of the coach's absence during playing events.

**8. Transfer Policy** - Player transfers are to be entered on the approved transfer form and processed per the appropriate playing league procedures.

On U14 and below, a player may move from one team to another team by completing the applicable transfer form. All applicable transfer fees shall be paid by the transferred player.

**9. Registration Fees** - Registration fees, multiple player fees, and late fees shall be established by the Elk Grove Soccer Board of Directors each year.

**10. Refund Policy** – Elk Grove Soccer registration fees are refundable on the following schedule:

Prior to June 1:	Full refund
June 1 to September 1:	50% refund
September 1 and beyond:	No refund

**11. Insurance Claims** - When a player, coach, or official is injured while practicing or playing with Elk Grove Soccer, a Youth Soccer Case Report shall be completed within 48 hours and forwarded to the Elk Grove Soccer Secretary/Treasurer. The Elk Grove Treasurer/Secretary shall process the form and forward it to the appropriate state playing league.



## Scholarship Policy

**Purpose:** Elk Grove Soccer is committed to provide players access to Elk Grove soccer, free of financial hardship.

**1. Scholarship Program** - Each year, Elk Grove Soccer shall identify and allocate a specific amount of funds for a Scholarship Program to assist players with their soccer development and participation. Any registered player of Elk Grove Soccer is eligible for a scholarship to assist in covering registration, an in-house team trainer, and tournament expenses. Scholarship amounts shall not be utilized or contributed to items that are considered personal in nature such as uniform, warm-ups, bag/backpacks, and the like.

**2. Participation Scholarship** – Elk Grove Soccer shall allocate funds to help players whose families lack the financial resources to pay registration fees. All applicable scholarship forms shall be completed and submitted to Elk Grove Soccer staff. An Elk Grove Soccer Scholarship Committee shall validate the financial need of the player’s family, ensure that the continued soccer development is in the best interest of the player, and validate that without the financial assistance, the player would be unable to continue participating at the appropriate level.

**3. Requests for Scholarships** - A registrant who requests a special scholarship accommodation by Elk Grove Soccer, shall be asked by Elk Grove Soccer to pay a minimum registration fee. If the registrant is unable to pay the entire amount at one time, he/she may pay the amount in installments. Any registrant unable to pay a minimum fee by July 15, shall receive a full scholarship in the amount equal to the Elk Grove Soccer’s registration fee. The parent or guardian of the registrant shall be asked to volunteer their time at Elk Grove Soccer events. A parent or guardian who receives a scholarship but who does not volunteer his or her time may be denied for a scholarship in the following year.



## Team Names & Uniforms

**Purpose:** Elk Grove Soccer understands the value that team names and uniforms provide for community identification and player camaraderie. At the same time, Elk Grove Soccer wants to ensure that team names are appropriate and chosen in the positive spirit of soccer. With that stated purpose, Elk Grove Soccer adopts this policy for team names and uniforms

1. No team shall adopt and utilize a team name that can be construed as offensive or obscene by the local community. No team shall adopt a name that interferes with the property rights of any corporation or affiliate of Elk Grove Soccer. The Elk Grove Soccer Executive board shall be responsible for enforcing this policy.
2. All uniforms shall be purchased through an Elk Grove Soccer's selected vendor. Except at authorized by the Elk Grove Soccer Board of Directors, no motivational patches or other identifying sponsors shall be included on the uniforms.



## Zero Tolerance Policy Player and Sideline Conduct

**Purpose** - Elk Grove Soccer referees are a valuable part of the organization's soccer program. The Elk Grove Soccer program cannot operate effectively without them. Each coach, player, and spectator shall, at all times, support the Referee and assistant Referees. Negative or critical comments directed to any member of the Referee crew will not be tolerated by Elk Grove Soccer. Elk Grove Soccer will move to sanction coaches, players, and spectators for their violation of this Policy.

**1. Support of Referees** - No one is to address a Referee in a negative manner immediately before, during, or after the game. It is the responsibility of **ALL** coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all matches. Abusive and obscene language, violent play, violent conduct, fighting, and other behavior detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. A coach's responsibility for Referee support and spectator control includes the times prior to, during, and after the game at the field and surrounding areas.

**2. Coaches' Communications with the Referee and Assistant Referees** – Coaches, players, and sideline spectators may NOT address any member of the Referee crew during play except for:

- Responding to a Referee-initiated communication.
- Making a request for substitutions.
- Pointing out emergencies or safety issues, such as an injured player on the field.
- To request clarification of any call, provided the request is courteous and non-argumentative.

A Referee may stop the game and remind coaches of Elk Grove Soccer's Zero Tolerance Policy.

A Referee may show a yellow card as a caution to any coach for his/her failure to abide by this Zero-Tolerance Policy.

Any coach who continues to violate this Policy after being first shown a yellow card or warned by a Referee, may thereafter be shown a red card or sent off by the Referee. The Referee shall simultaneously instruct the coach to leave the field.

A Referee may show a red card to a coach for any egregious action, including, but not limited to, abusive language or any implied or actual threat of physical abuse. A prior yellow card is not required. The Referee shall simultaneously instruct the coach to leave the field.

Thereafter, the ejected person must depart to a distance where he or she can no longer see or hear anything to do with the match. If the ejected person fails to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit the Referee's discretion as granted by Elk Grove Soccer, the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA), Nor Cal, or FIFA Rules of the Game.

**3. Spectator Communications with the Referee and Assistant Referees** - Negative or critical comments by spectators directed to any member of the Referee crew will not be tolerated.

A Referee may stop the game and request the assistance of all coaches to remind the spectators of Elk Grove Soccer's Zero Tolerance Policy.

A Referee may thereafter stop the game and show a yellow card to the coach as a warning that the Policy continues to be violated.

Thereafter, the Referee may instruct a coach to direct the spectators to leave the field, or the Referee may show a red card to the coach, and direct the coach to leave the field along with the offending spectators. If the ejected person and spectators fail to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

A Referee may show a red card directly to a spectator for any egregious action, including, but not limited to, abusive language or any implied or actual threat of physical abuse. A prior yellow card is not required. The referee shall simultaneously instruct the spectator to leave the field.

Thereafter, the ejected person must depart to a distance where he or she can no longer see or hear anything to do with the match. If the ejected person fails to leave the field, the Referee may abandon the game.

**4. Team Captain** – This policy is not intended to restrict respectful communication between a team captain and a Referee. A Referee may direct his/her comments to a coach through a team captain.

**5. Referee Notification and Send-Off Report** - Should a referee eject any player, coach, or sideline spectator, and/or abandon a game, he/she shall notify the Elk Grove Soccer's Referee Director by telephone, email, or text within 24 hours of conclusion of the game.

Notwithstanding the authority granted by Elk Grove Soccer to a referee to issue a yellow or red card to a spectator or coach, a referee is not required to show a card prior to instructing the spectator or coach to leave the field of play.

If a game is abandoned prior to completion, the referee shall make no determination as to the outcome of the match.

A written Referee Send-Off Report, outlining the pertinent facts of the send off and/or the abandonment of game shall be sent by email by the Referee to the Referee Director within 24 hours. Within 24 hours thereafter, the Referee Director shall provide the Send-Off Report to the Chairman of Elk Grove Soccer's Protests, Appeals, and Disciplinary (PAD) Committee within 24 hours of receipt for further action.



## Zero Tolerance Policy Against Abuse

**Purpose:** Elk Grove Soccer is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and participants and to preventing abusive conduct in any form. Every member of this organization is responsible for protecting Elk Grove Soccer participants and ensuring their safety and wellbeing while involved in sponsored activities.

Elk Grove Soccer promotes good sportsmanship throughout the organization and encourages qualities of mutual respect, courtesy, and tolerance in all participants, coaches, officials, and volunteers. We advocate building strong self-images among the youth participants. Children with strong self-images may be less likely targets for abuse. Similarly, they may be less likely to abuse or bully others around them.

To this end, Elk Grove Soccer establishes the following guidelines of behavior and procedures for our staff, volunteers, and participants. All members of this organization, as well as parents, spectators, and other invitees are expected to observe and adhere to these guidelines.

1. Abuse of any kind is not permitted within our organization. This means we do not tolerate physical, sexual, emotional, or verbal abuse or misconduct from our players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, or spectators.
2. Physical and sexual abuse, including, but not limited to, striking, hitting, kicking, indecent or wanton gesturing, lewd remarks, indecent exposure, unwanted physical contact, any form of sexual contact or inappropriate touching, are strictly prohibited within Elk Grove Soccer.
3. Emotional abuse or verbal abuse is prohibited. These include, but are not limited to, such forms of abuse such as yelling, insulting, threatening, mocking, demeaning behavior, or making abusive statements about a person's race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sex, or age.
4. Elk Grove Soccer is committed to providing a safe environment for our players, participants, and staff. We do so by appointing all coaches, officials, and volunteers – and anyone affiliated with our organization – as protection advocates. Every member of this organization is responsible for reporting any cases of questionable conduct or alleged mistreatment toward our members by any coach, official, volunteer, player, parent, sibling, or spectator.
5. We recommend that every activity sponsored by Elk Grove Soccer put a "buddy system" in place. Each youth participant should be assigned a buddy during sponsored activities. No child should go anywhere – to the bathrooms, locker rooms, or other location – without his or her buddy.
6. To further protect our youth participants, as well as coaches, officials, and volunteers, we strongly advise that no adult person allow him or herself to be alone with an unrelated child or with any group of children during sponsored activities. In particular, we recommend that coaches and other adult members of this organization:

- Do not drive alone with an unrelated child participant in the car;
- Do not take an unrelated child alone to the locker room, bathrooms, or any other private room;
- Only provide training or individual coaching with the assistance of another adult or the child's buddy;
- If you must have a private conversation with a youth participant, do it within view of others on the field, instead of in a private office;
- Coaches and other adult members of this organization should not socialize individually with unrelated children outside of sponsored events.

**7.** We encourage parents to become as active as possible in sponsored activities, games, practices, and other events. The more parents are involved, the less likely it is for abusive situations to develop.

**8.** When traveling overnight with youth players, children should be paired up with other children of the same gender and similar age. No coach, parent, or other adult should be alone in a hotel room with an unrelated child. Children should be supervised by adults while in hotels at all times.

**9.** Elk Grove Soccer will respond quickly to any and all allegations of abuse within this organization. This information will be communicated to the authorities for investigation and will be reviewed by the organization's Board of Directors. The alleged offender will be notified of such allegations promptly.

**10.** Any person accused of sexual or physical abuse may be asked to resign voluntarily or may be suspended by the Board of Directors until the matter is resolved. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt in the alleged abuse, the continued presence of the person could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to the participants. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated within the organization. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made by Elk Grove Soccer that he or she will be reinstated to his or her former position.