25/26 NMSC Discipline Policy

NORTH MANATEE SOCCER CLUB

RULES OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE CODE

A. Rules of Conduct

1. The North Manatee Mutiny Soccer Club (“Club”) shall, at a minimum, comply with all United States Soccer Federation (“USSF”), Florida Cup League (“FCL”), US Youth Soccer procedures and policies.
2. The North Manatee Mutiny Soccer Club (“NMSC”) has the authority to formulate conduct and discipline standards that are stricter than those of the above-named entities.
3. The following persons are subject to the policies and procedures outlined herein:
    a. Players on all NMS teams, including, without limitation, recreational teams, travel teams and tournament teams (“NMSC Teams”).
    b. All NMSC Teams.
    c. All Coaches including assistants and team managers.
    d. Spectators watching any NMSC Team in any practice, game, match, or event including all parents and all family members.
    e. Referees, including all assistants, assignors, instructors, and assessors.
    f. All NMSC officials, including the Board of Directors.
4. The NMSC Board of Directors has developed and approved this Rules of Conduct and Discipline Code to be effective as of the Spring 2024 Season.
5. The Code is applicable to the outdoor season, indoor season, practices, foot skill clinics, camps, tournaments, special events or any event at which NNMSC persons are participating or representing the NNMSC.
6. Any of these individuals or groups listed herein that are determined to have violated the letter or intent of this Code will be subject to disciplinary action by:
    a. (i) the NNMSC Board of Directors or (ii) a Disciplinary Committee established pursuant to this Code.
    b. Any other NMSC associated body, such as FCL.
7. Discipline by entity shall not preclude disciplinary action by any other entity (including the Manatee County or City of Palmetto. The NMSC Board of Directors reserves the right to refer any person to another entity for disciplinary or other appropriate action in advance of, following, simultaneously with or in lieu of disciplinary action by the NMSC Board of Directors or a Disciplinary Committee.

B. Definitions

1. Probation is defined as a period in which an offender's fitness for membership in NMSC, participation in NMSC events or active status on a team is in jeopardy based upon the existence or alleged existence of a violation of this Code.
2. Suspension is defined as no participation in the areas in which one is suspended whether as player, coach, assistant coach, team, parent, spectator, or association official. This is a formal process.
3. Suspension of a player is defined as suspension from any competition, for any team on which the player is rostered in the NMSC for the time specified.
4. Suspension of a coach/assistant coach is defined as suspension from coaching any NMSC Team by the offending coach/assistant coach for the time specified.
5. Suspension of a team is defined as suspension from any NMSC sanctioned competition for the time specified.
6. Dismissal is defined as loss of membership in the North Manatee Soccer Club and the right to participate in any NMSC activities for a period determined by the disciplinary body, without refund or payment of any credit for participation.
7. Banning is defined as no participation in any team activity for the length of the discipline. This is an informal, intra-team discipline measure.
8. Dissent shall be defined as anything that demonstrates continuous disagreement with game officials either by action or word.
9. Threats shall be defined as remarks, verbal statements, gestures or physical act not resulting in bodily contact that carry the implied threat of physical harm against an individual or their property.
10. Referee abuse shall be defined as the use of foul or abusive action or language toward a referee.
11. Assault is an intentional act of physical violence. Assault includes, but is not limited to, the following acts upon another individual: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing, poking, deliberate bodily running into, the act of kicking or throwing an object at, and damaging personal property.
12. Season is defined as any scheduled season of play (for example, fall season, spring season or an indoor soccer session or sessions) during the Club Year.
13. Club Year means August 1 of any calendar year continuing until July 31 of the following calendar year.

C. Classes of Misconduct

Actions and conduct considered inappropriate by the NMSC Board of Directors have been designated by class. The following classifications describe behavior at any NMSC- sponsored activity (e.g. games, practices, clinics, special events etc.):

1. Class 1
    a. use of profanity by word, sign or in written form

b. inciting or participating in disruptive behavior

c. making insulting or derogatory remarks or gestures about any individual or group at any time (excluding racist remarks or racially offensive gestures, which are subject to Section C (1)(3) below)

d. any coach or assistant coach receiving a verbal warning for conduct from the referee during a match

e. Referee Abuse and/or excessive dissent

f. a player receiving third yellow card during a Season, or a red card during a match

2. Class 2

a. making threats to any player, coach, NMSC team, spectator, referee, or NMSC official

b. making threatening gestures

c. a second Class 1 offense during a Season (other than a Red Card)

d. a coach, assistant coach, or spectator is expelled or removed from a match

3. Class 3

a. a player physically striking a player or fighting with another player before, during, or immediately after a game

b. a second Class 2 offense or three or more Class 1 offenses during a Club Year (other than a Red Card)

c. making a racist remark or racially offensive gesture

4. Class 4

a. assault of a coach, assistant coach, team manager, spectator, referee, or association official

b. willful or malicious destruction of property

c. second Class 3 offense or three or more Class 2 offenses during a Club Year

d. a coach, assistant coach, team manager, spectator, or referee assaulting, physically striking or making intentional harmful physical contact with a player at any time

5. Class 5 – As defined in USSF Rule 3042 (Misconduct of Game Officials)

6. If one action constitutes an offense under two classes of misconduct, the violator shall be subject to discipline for one or both offenses as determined by the WSC disciplinary body. The NMSC Board of Directors reserves the right to designate offenses to higher or lower classed offenses based upon reports and discussion of events following any offense.

D. Players

1. A player determined by the NMSC Board of Directors or a Disciplinary Committee to have committed a violation of this Code is subject to disciplinary action by the NMSC Board or Disciplinary Committee as follows:

a. Class 1 – up to 1 game suspension or letter of reprimand

b. Class 2 – up to 2 game suspension and letter of reprimand

c. Class 3 – up to 3 game suspension and letter of reprimand

d. Class 4 – up to indefinite suspension and letter of reprimand

2. A player ejected or expelled from a match is subject to disciplinary action as follows:

a. 1 ejection – suspension for the next game for all NMSC Teams on which the player is rostered

b. 2 ejections in any Season – suspension for the next two games for all NMSC Teams on which the player is rostered

c. 3 ejections in any Club Year – suspension for the next three games for all NMSC Teams on which the player is rostered

d. 4 ejections in any Club Year – suspended from all NMSC Teams on which the player is rostered for the remainder of the Club Year and the following Club Year

Suspensions under Section D2 are automatic and suspension must be served at the next scheduled game or games regardless of any appeal. Only suspensions under Sections D(2)(c) or D(2)(d) may be appealed. Players disciplined under this Section D (2) may also be subject to discipline from such ejections or expulsions as Class 1 offenses under Section (D)(1).

E. Non-Players

1. A coach, assistant coach, spectator, referee, or other official found to have violated this Code by the NMSC Board of Directors, or a Disciplinary Committee is subject to minimum disciplinary action as follows:

a. Class 1 – up to one game suspension and/or letter of reprimand

b. Class 2- up to two game suspension, letters of reprimand

c. Class 3, 4, or 5 – up to indefinite suspension or dismissal

F. Coaches and Teams; Coach Imposed Ban.

1. Each team and its coach are responsible for the actions and personal conduct of all persons involved with the team including players, coach, assistant coach, parents, family members and spectators.

2. Each team and its coach are responsible to ensure actions of the team and all persons involved with the team both on and off the field do not bring discredit upon the team or the NMSC.

3. Each team and all persons involved with the team are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner under all circumstances and to exhibit appropriate behavior before, during and after games, and on any other occasions when the group could be identified as a team.

4. For NMSC Teams whose general conduct is determined by a disciplinary review by the NMSC Board of Directors to be unsatisfactory the following disciplinary actions may be applied

according to the principle of progressive discipline, severity, and frequency of incidents of misconduct.

a. Letter of reprimand to the coach and/or team

b. Team suspension for a period with all games scheduled for that time to be forfeited

c. Removal or suspension of the team coach

d. Team disbandment without refund.

5. As in any adult-child instructional relationship (school, scouting, etc.) each coach has the authority to maintain the minimum amount of discipline necessary for a conducive and constructive team atmosphere. If other informal avenues of instilling discipline have failed, the coach may ban a player, assistant coach, or spectator from a team activity (either a practice and/or game). This is informal team discipline only and does not carry the sanction of an official NMSC suspension. When this happens, the coach will notify the banned party (and, if a player, the parent) and a member of the NMSC Board of Directors within 24 hours of the incident. If, in the opinion of the coach, the incident(s) in question warrants a more serious sanction, or there are repeated discipline problems with the same individual, the coach will notify the NMSC Board of Directors formally via the process described in para. J. In any case, a coach will not ban any person for more than one practice/game per Season.

G. Property Damage

1. A player or team responsible for willful property damage is required to pay all lawful claims within 45 days of receiving said claim. Failure to comply with the foregoing may be determined to be a Class 4 Violation by the NMSC Board of Directors.
2. If claims are not paid within the prescribed time, the player or team will be placed on probation. Any person on probation will be dismissed from the NMSC if they have not taken the actions required to have such probation lifted within ninety (90) days
3. Reinstatement of membership in good standing from probation will not be considered until proof of payment is made to the NMSC Board of Directors.

H. Unethical Behavior

1. Individuals or groups found to have committed the following acts are subject to disciplinary action as determined by the NMSC Board of Directors:

   a. Falsification of documents including but not limited to registration data, birth certificates, rosters, insurance claims or proxies

   b. Allowing unregistered or ineligible players to participate in games

   c. Misappropriation or mishandling of association funds.

2. The disciplinary actions listed below shall be applied by the NMSC Board of Directors in their discretion according to the severity and frequency of the offense(s):

a. Letter of reprimand with a copy to the following at the discretion of the NMSC Board of Directors: FCL, any other organizations/ individuals or governmental authorities as required by affiliates of the NMSC or applicable law

b. Suspension for a specific period

c. Suspension from specific competitions

d. Dismissal from the NMSC

I. Forms and Reports

1. A Player/Parent Acknowledgment Form will be signed by both Parents/Guardians and the player before being rostered on a NMSC team, it being acknowledged that such Acknowledgment Form may be presented for review during electronic registration and electronic acknowledgement shall be considered sufficient for the purpose of this Section I (1). The player is considered ineligible until the Registrar has received the original signed form or electronic acknowledgement. Coaches shall distribute copies of this policy to all parents at the beginning of the Fall season.
2. Coaches/assistant coaches and referees are obligated to report all incidents (including those described in Section C, they witness in writing (if necessary). Reports will be as factual and detailed as possible and will be made to the NMSC Board of Directors or the club President as necessary.
3. Referees will fill out the USSF Match Report for any match incident which, in the referee's opinion, would warrant corrective or disciplinary action.

J. Formal Proceedings

1. All reports to the NMSC Board of Directors requiring formal disciplinary action will be sent as soon as practicable.
2. If the NMSC Board of Directors will be taking action, a majority of the Directors present shall be necessary to take action.
3. The NMSC Board of Directors have the authority to impose any penalty up to and including suspension for up to 30 days or until the next meeting of the NMSC Board of Directors, whichever occurs first, when it is impractical or untimely to call a full NMSC Board of Directors meeting.
4. If formal disciplinary action is required with respect to the actions of a coach or assistant coach, no coach in the same division shall be a part of such Disciplinary Committee.
5. In the event the party disciplined wishes to appeal the decision of the Board of Directors or a suspension of a player under Sections D(2)(c) or D2(d) the party should contact the President of the NMSC or the designated FCL official (see FCL Discipline, Appeals and Referee Assault and Abuse Policy).

All decisions of the NMSC Board of Directors are final.

Approved by the North Manatee Soccer Club on April 10, 2024

Revisions:

4/10/2024 – Original document submission

11/25/2024 – Edits for grammar, outline layout.