



MAPL CODE OF CONDUCT & ETHICS POLICY

2026-2027 Season

Purpose

The Mid-Atlantic Premier League (MAPL) is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and professionally managed environment where players can develop both on and off the field. Every individual participating in MAPL shares responsibility for protecting the integrity of the game and promoting good sportsmanship.

Participation in MAPL is a privilege. All member clubs, players, coaches, administrators, parents, spectators, referees, and league staff are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the game and the league.

1. General Standards of Conduct

All participants shall:

- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and professionalism.
- Treat opponents, teammates, officials, and spectators with dignity and respect.
- Promote fair play and good sportsmanship.
- Comply with all MAPL, US Club Soccer, and U.S. Soccer rules and policies.
- Support an environment free from harassment, discrimination, intimidation, and abuse.
- Accept the decisions of match officials without abusive or inappropriate conduct.

2. Club Responsibilities

Member clubs are responsible for the conduct of:

- Club officials
- Directors
- Coaches
- Team managers
- Players
- Parents
- Spectators
- Volunteers

Clubs are expected to address inappropriate behavior promptly and cooperate fully with any MAPL investigation.

3. Player Code of Conduct

Players shall:

- Respect teammates, opponents, referees, and coaches.
- Play within both the Laws of the Game and the spirit of the game.
- Display good sportsmanship before, during, and after every match.
- Refrain from abusive language, threatening behavior, bullying, or unsporting conduct.
- Never engage in fighting, retaliation, or acts of violence.
- Respect league facilities and property.

4. Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct

Coaches and team officials are expected to serve as positive role models.

They shall:

- Place player development above winning.
- Promote respect for officials and opponents.
- Maintain control of their sideline.
- Demonstrate professionalism in all interactions.
- Refrain from public criticism of referees, league staff, or opposing clubs.
- Comply with all league policies and deadlines.
- Report misconduct honestly and accurately.

Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their team bench throughout the match.

5. Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct

Parents and spectators play an important role in creating a positive game-day environment.

They shall:

- Encourage all players.
- Respect coaches and referees.
- Refrain from coaching players from the sidelines.
- Avoid confrontations with players, coaches, referees, or spectators.
- Never enter the field of play without permission.
- Follow all facility rules.

Abusive language, threatening behavior, harassment, or attempts to intimidate officials or participants will not be tolerated.

6. Recruiting & Player Contact

MAPL supports ethical player recruitment.

Member clubs, coaches, and representatives shall not:

- Recruit players currently registered with another MAPL member club outside the league's established recruiting and transfer policies.
- Encourage players to leave another member club through improper inducement or promises.
- Contact players or families for recruitment during prohibited periods established by MAPL.

All recruiting shall be conducted honestly, professionally, and within established league rules.

7. Social Media & Public Conduct

Participants are expected to conduct themselves professionally on social media and in all public communications.

The following are prohibited:

- Personal attacks.
- False or misleading statements.
- Harassment.
- Discriminatory comments.
- Public accusations while an investigation is pending.
- Posts that damage the reputation of MAPL, its member clubs, or participants.

Constructive feedback should be directed through appropriate league channels.

8. Match Official Respect

MAPL maintains a zero-tolerance approach toward referee abuse.

Participants shall not:

- Use abusive or insulting language toward officials.
- Threaten or intimidate referees.
- Make physical contact with a referee.
- Continue misconduct after being warned or dismissed.

Incidents involving referee abuse will be handled in accordance with the U.S. Soccer Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP) Policy and may result in additional MAPL sanctions.

9. Ethics Violations

Examples of conduct that may result in disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:

- Falsifying documents or player information.
- Playing ineligible or unregistered players.
- Recruiting violations.
- Misrepresentation to the league.
- Failure to follow league rules.
- Failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.
- Harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.
- Conduct detrimental to the reputation or integrity of MAPL.
- Repeated violations of league policies.

10. Reporting Violations

Concerns regarding violations of this policy should be submitted in writing by a club's Executive Director, Director of Coaching, or authorized club representative.

Reports should include:

- Description of the incident.
- Date and location.
- Individuals involved.
- Supporting documentation, if available.

MAPL reserves the right to investigate any matter affecting league integrity regardless of whether a formal complaint has been submitted.

11. Disciplinary Action

Violations of this Code may result in one or more of the following:

- Written warning
- Educational requirement
- Fine
- Match suspension
- Suspension from league activities
- Probation
- Match forfeiture
- Loss of league privileges
- Removal from MAPL competition
- Referral to US Club Soccer or U.S. Soccer, when appropriate

The severity of any sanction will be based on the nature of the violation, prior conduct, cooperation during the investigation, and any aggravating or mitigating circumstances.

12. Commitment to the Game

MAPL believes that youth soccer should foster character, leadership, teamwork, and respect. Every participant shares responsibility for creating an environment where players can learn, compete, and enjoy the game.

By participating in MAPL, member clubs and their representatives acknowledge their commitment to uphold this Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy and to support the values and standards of the Mid-Atlantic Premier League.