

ARLINGTON SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Rules & Disciplinary Process

Arlington Soccer encourages and expects players, parents, coaches, staff, volunteers and spectators to embrace our core values, treat others with respect, and abide by the codes of conduct. The Club thrives when players, coaches, parents, referees, volunteers, and staff all work together to ensure a safe, inclusive, nurturing and fun environment in which to play the game of soccer.

In an effort to reinforce our core values, the Board of Directors appointed an ad-hoc committee to review ethical conduct and sportsmanship. As we begin the spring 2021 season, the Board has adopted the ad-hoc committee's recommendations for an updated Rules & Disciplinary (R&D) process.

The Club has established codes of conduct for coaches, players, and parents. A unifying element of the codes is respect for players, coaches, staff, parents, the Club and community. These codes, in conjunction with our core values, form the foundation of the R&D process.

The R&D process is designed to address allegations of behavior that are contrary to the codes of conduct, actions detrimental to the Club and infractions of administrative policies. Some highlights of the R&D process:

Reporting of Misconduct

Incidents of inappropriate conduct by players, coaches, parents, or spectators may be reported to Arlington Soccer.

1. Players and parents are encouraged to first discuss matters with their coach, age group director, rec club manager or program director.
2. If the matter is not resolved at the initial level or you believe the issue needs heightened attention, then you may file a report with the Club.

Staff Review

Staff shall conduct an initial review of reported misconduct and may render a decision and impose penalties, or refer the matter to the R&D Committee. In rendering a decision to impose penalties, the Staff has the limited authority to:

1. Provide remedial education.
2. Issue a warning or reprimand.
3. Forfeiture of internal Club matches.
4. Impose a one game/week suspension for misconduct associated with the recreation, ADP or auxiliary programs.

5. Impose a suspension of up to two weeks for misconduct associated with the travel program.
6. Staff decisions are final.

R&D Committee Review

When a matter is referred to the R&D Committee it has the authority to:

1. Provide remedial education.
2. Issue a warning or reprimand.
3. Forfeiture of internal Club matches.
4. Impose suspensions of multiple games/weeks.
5. Issue a seasonal dismissal.
6. Expulsion from the Club.
7. R&D Committee decisions are final, with the exception of cases that carry a suspension of three weeks or more, which may be appealed to the RDAC.

R&D Appeals Committee (RDAC)

When a case is before the RDAC it has the authority to:

1. May uphold, reduce or increase R&D Committee sanctions.
2. If the RDAC determines an appeal to be frivolous, it may include any of the following additional sanctions:
 - a. Monetary fine up to \$100 (which will support the junior referee program),
 - b. Increase the duration of any suspension, and
 - c. Requirement successful completion of a referee's certification course.
3. RDAC decisions are final.

Examples of Misconduct

The following, while not an exhaustive list, are examples of misconduct:

- Shouting dissent from the sidelines.
- Coaching from outside of the technical box.
- Criticizing game officials or disputing their calls.
- Confronting or debating with a game official at any time.
- Unauthorized entry on the field.
- Using abusive, offensive or vulgar language.
- Arguing with opposing teams, players, parents or coaches.
- Making physical threats.
- Engaging in physical violence.
- Using drugs, tobacco or alcohol at practices or games.
- Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at practices or games.
- Supporting or encouraging poor sporting behavior by players.
- Engaging in or encouraging any behavior or practice that would endanger the physical, emotional or mental well-being of any player.

- Game misconduct resulting in ejection or an accumulation of cautions.
- Failure to abide by the Club's Social Media Policy.
- Refusing to abide by the Club's policies and procedures.
- Actions that are detrimental to the Club.
- Other acts of unsporting behavior.

The R&D process encompasses both on and off-field behavior related to Arlington Soccer activities (e.g., games, practices, team functions, etc.) and administrative policies. While unsporting conduct during matches is initially addressed through the referee, league or sanctioning body, the Club reserves the authority to also address these issues (particularly those involving adults) through its R&D process.